



# FRIENDS OF SWALEDALE MUSEUM

## Newsletter No.9 Summer 2010

**W**elcome to the latest edition of the Friends' Newsletter. Thank you to all the Friends who have supported the Museum throughout the year in so many ways, from pre-opening cleaning to giving talks, from attending the Knitting Café to introducing grandchildren to the delights of the Museum. My two youngest grandchildren are particularly fond of the typewriter, the proddy rug-making, and the caps in the cradle. Also, a big thank you to all the committee members for all your enthusiasm, creativity and work.

*Janet Bishop*



*Janet's granddaughter in one of the bonnets*

### Curator's Report

We hope the fruits of a very busy winter will be obvious to all who visit the Museum this year. We have a wonderful new floor thanks to Phillip Calvert, and a smart re-pointed exterior and new pathway thanks to John Baker. Both worked through ice and snow to get the jobs done in time for Easter re-opening. Thanks above all to the Friends who have helped finance these large and crucial projects. Without the help of a growing band of volunteers the Museum would not be in the ship-shape condition it is, due to their help with cleaning and preparing objects for re-display. As everything in the Museum had to be moved for the building work, it proved a timely opportunity for inspection and maintenance. So thank you Nicky, Christine, Marjorie, Janet, Rosemary, and Jocelyn for their hard work and good humour in chilly conditions! Nicky and Marjorie have been joined by Janet and Carole to help man the Museum on Wednesdays and Thursdays, bringing welcome new faces and ideas, and precious release of time to work on other aspects of the Collection. Fiona Wilkinson is beginning the huge task of creating a computer database of the Collection, while Christine has proved invaluable help working with five school parties from Leeds schools scheduled for this Spring.



*Members of Fearby & Healey WI enjoying an afternoon in the Museum*



*Marjorie Daniels' spinning demonstration*

New displays this year include panels on Chert Quarrying researched and written by Kay Jackson, and on Coal Mining by Mike Gill,

both assisted by Les Tyson. These and other panels on the Buxton Family Tree and a Map of the Dales highlighting key archaeological and mining sites have been made possible by funding from the Northern Mine Research Society. We are delighted that the NMRS are having their 50th Anniversary Conference in Reeth in early October, and that members will be able to see how important the support of the Society is to the Museum.

As well as assisting people research local, family and house histories the Museum provides research resources for all sorts of enquiries. This year we have helped a film company find a local location for a new version of *Wuthering Heights*, made the Collection available to a well known American Art Photographer Robert Osborn, made plans for a joint project with a University of Hawaii Anthropology student, helped a Leeds based amateur film maker with his 8 minute film on Swaledale for a charity fund raiser, made the collection available to Miss Raspin researching the connection between Islamic design and patchwork quilting, and are working with Ian Spensley to try and find out more about a silver coin struck for the London Lead Company. Life in the Museum is never boring, predictable or routine!

So thank you to all the Friends for helping us keep open and accessible in rather challenging times, who knows what we will be up to next?

*Helen Bainbridge*



*The vintage underwear collection is always popular!*

## C onversations in Craft

Last years quartet of informal conversations with key localcraftspeople continues this year, beginning with the stained glass artist Josie Kyme on 5th June. Roy and Josie Kyme established Kyme Studios in 1983 providing specialist skills in the conservation and restoration of stained and plain leaded glazing, as well as creating exciting modern and traditional ecclesiastical and secular commissions. On 19th June Philip Bastow has invited us to his workshop and studio to find out more about his furniture, while Heather Ritchie—Reeth's very own internationally famous rag rug maker - will tell us about her conversion to the craft on 10 July. The series concludes on 24th July with Ray Davies, who will reveal how the Garden House Pottery developed and plans for the future. As places are strictly limited do contact Helen Bainbridge early to book a place (01748 884118 [museum.swaledale@btinternet.com](mailto:museum.swaledale@btinternet.com))



*Mocha Girl design by Roy & Josie Kyme*



*Photo courtesy of Scenic View*

## A Stitch in Time - Samplers from the Dales Old and New

Building on last years successful partnership with the Richmond and Leyburn Embroiderers' Guild, the Museum is delighted to be hosting a second exhibition of their work, based on the theme of Samplers. Work of Guild members will be complemented by samplers from private collections up and down the Dale, so this will be a rare opportunity to see spectacular examples of the finest needlework, old and new, showing how continuity and innovation, creativity and utility work together. Some of the historic samplers have raised a whole new series of questions. One sampler (*left*) loaned by Tom Metcalfe, and made by his great great grandmother mentions Mrs Cope's Charity School in Angram. This in itself provides a challenge to find out more about this forgotten institution. The exhibition will be open daily over the Swaledale Festival, and will continue until 27th June.

## Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group

Since our launch in June 2009, SWAAG members have been learning to read and survey the landscape under the guidance of Tim Laurie, our area's leading prehistoric landscape expert. We are very grateful indeed to Tim for all the time and effort he has devoted to a group of dedicated, stubborn and opinionated beginners.

Our framework, The Fremington Project, involves surveying and recording in detail the geology, geomorphology, botany and prehistoric and historic human activity on the swathe of land below Fremington Edge from Fell End above Arkengarthdale to the Fremington-Marske road. This builds on 40 years of Tim Laurie's work on mapping prehistoric field systems, settlements and rock art over a much wider area.

Our first sub-project is now almost complete. Mary Clarke kindly gave us permission to survey in detail the fields around West Hagg where previous surveys had suggested quite intensive prehistoric activity.

We have walked over (many times), and recorded using GPS and IT technology, a complex of at least eight Iron Age/Romano-British settlement sites located within a co-axial field system of banks running broadly South-West to North-East from the Swale flood plain up towards the base of Fremington Edge and as far east as the road below Reels Head. Many of the ancient boundaries are respected by later walls. The map below details what we have found.

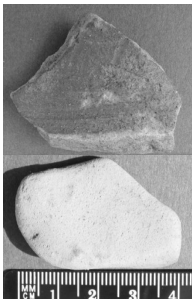
Our work so far has been on the surface. While most of us wish to DIG, Tim Laurie has rightly insisted that we learn to walk before we can run: to use our eyes, and to learn to survey (we have proved keener to use GPS and computers than the more time-consuming traditional physical methods of line-and-offset and intersecting arcs). So dating the sites is difficult at present. But we have a fine example of a beehive quern found some time ago in field walls at West Hagg, and thanks to unusually active moles (in the words of Perceval Turnbull, the leading field archaeologist, "never leave a molehill un-kicked") we have found four pottery sherds, provisionally dated as Romano-British, below the largest of our sites, exactly where the occupants would have dumped their rubbish.

Experts, of course, tell us to stick to the facts, but we are amateurs and therefore inclined to speculate. It is clear that Swaledale was densely populated in Romano-British times with people living in an organized landscape.

*(continued overleaf)*



*Aerial photo of West Hagg site with boundaries superimposed*



Romano-British  
pottery sherds

Perhaps these were tenant farmers tending well-organized sheep-runs and owing allegiance to a native elite based outside the valley or at high-status sites nearby. The Roman army, and towns such as Catterick, would have supplied demand for wool and woollen products, particularly the cloaks (*birrus britannicus*) and rugs (*tapetes*) which were famous throughout the Empire. Only excavation can tell us more about how the people lived and how integrated they were into the broader economy and society.

Our next objective is a trial excavation next year on one of the settlement sites, under expert archaeological supervision. In the meantime, we are surveying a fascinating prehistoric-to-medieval landscape at Daggerstones, by kind permission of Jeremy Morrogh-Ryan, which Andrew Fleming called "old Healaugh." We also hope to do a simple training excavation later in the summer of chopwood kilns associated with lead-mining near Arkle Beck.

Do come and join us. All new volunteers will be very welcome. Please look at our website, [www.swaag.org](http://www.swaag.org), to see what we have been doing and to contact us, and come and hear what we have been up to on 21st July at the Friends' talk in the Museum.

Peter Denison-Edson

## Swaledale Tournament of Song

When a barn near Thirsk was cleared out last year, a farmer unearthed a half forgotten piece of Swaledale history in the form of a prize shield (right) from the Swaledale Tournament of Song. The shield eventually found its way to the Museum, via the Rotary Club, the Richmond Choral Society and the Swaledale Festival and subsequent press coverage & local discussion has brought to light the fascinating story of the competition which was of far wider significance than its name might imply.

Marion Moverley has pored over microfilmed copies of the *Darlington & Stockton Times* from 1900 & 1901 to discover a wealth of information about the first two years of the tournament which were reported in minute, and frequently scathing, detail. One comment on the children's violin class is a typical example: "...the general standard of performance was not so high, and some of the results were distressing. However, this will have its uses if it convinces some, not a few of these players, of their immaturity." Fortunately some other publications were a little gentler on the young contestants.

The first Tournament was held in Richmond in 1900 at a time of tremendous enthusiasm for encouraging public interest in music. In fact, one of the judges in 1900 was Mary Augusta Wakefield from Kendal, one of the country's foremost sopranos at the time. She was a great supporter of similar tournaments and the writer of a pamphlet on "The aims and objects of Musical Competitive Festivals and how to form them". Competitors came, not just from Swaledale, but from all over North Yorkshire, with classes for all ages and styles, from polished church choirs to infants from village schools.

The rediscovery of the trophy has sparked interest from an equally wide area. Peter Lugg of BBC Look North came to Reeth to film the shield, interviewing Marion Moverley, Janet Hall of the Richmondshire Choral Society and Helen Bainbridge about the find, and also speaking to Barbara Buckingham who has a certificate awarded to her father in one of the tournaments. As a result of Marion's investigations, another trophy has since come to light in the form of a magnificent silver rose bowl (far right). This is the *Yeoman Rose Bowl*, presented by Miss M Yeoman for the best Ladies' Choir.



It seems that when the Tournament came to an end, possibly in the 1930s, the trophies were kept by the last class winners, so many more could be sitting on Yorkshire sideboards awaiting discovery.

Information is still coming in. Within the last few days a letter arrived from Mrs Val Nelson, who is researching a book about the Wensleydale Tournament of Song of which she is a trustee. As well as programmes for some of the early 'Grand Concerts' which took place during the Tournaments she has provided a list of venues in the early 1900s gleaned from the minutes of the Richmondshire Choral Society. The competition at one stage seems to have alternated between Richmond and Northallerton, even venturing as far as Thirsk in 1910.

A lovely personal touch is added by a note on the front of the 1904 programme: "A Special Train will leave Richmond after the Concert at 10.20pm for Northallerton and Thirsk, via Eryholme, stopping at intermediate Stations and run in connection with the 11.22pm train from Northallerton to Middlesbro". These were not makeshift amateur performances; although many of the musicians were obviously local, the principal singers included well known professionals from as far away as London and audiences were obviously prepared to travel quite a distance, including a change of trains, to hear them.



Amongst Mrs Nelson's findings is the following intriguing snippet from the minutes of the Wensleydale Tournament of Song 30<sup>th</sup> May 1953: "...that all classes – excluding elocution – be open to the Swaledale area...this to last only until the Swaledale Festival is revived." So maybe the Swaledale Tournament had carried on in some form into the early 1950s rather than petering out during the War? Investigations continue! In the meantime the shield is on display in the Museum. If anyone has any further information about the Tournament or knows how the shield found its way to a barn at Topcliffe, Helen would be delighted to hear from you.

Tracy Little

### Swaledale Museum 'Best in the World' say Leeds pupils!

Pupils from five Leeds primary schools have been visiting Swaledale as part of the University of Leeds 'Metal Madness' project. The day trips, for many children their first visit to the countryside, include a walk around the Grinton Smelt Mill site, guided by staff from Marrick Priory, and a trip to Swaledale Museum.

'Metal Madness' is an innovative project, building on work previously done by the University of Leeds, to connect with local children who might not traditionally engage with their heritage. The project uses the lead mining history of the Yorkshire Dales to work with children from areas of Leeds characterised by social and economic deprivation. Through engagement with this heritage, we hope to raise children's aspirations for future attainment, perhaps even inspiring them to attend University one day.

'Metal Madness' makes use of connected heritage resources at the University of Leeds, including the Marrick Priory & the Leeds Archive of Vernacular Culture collections. Pupils find out more about

Swaledale using these unique objects, whilst spending a day at the University and experiencing life as a student. Children have the opportunity to investigate some of the chemical qualities of the metal, as well as the side effects of lead production, in particular lead pollution, lead poisoning and its symptoms (hence the project name).

Feedback from the project participants has been fantastic. Several children described Swaledale Museum as 'the best museum I've ever been to'. Detailed feedback has included the following:

*'Helen's museum was very educational and interesting. We saw all different kinds of rocks, then we learned how girls worked and how boys worked hard day and night'*, Wahid

*'...we went upstairs and saw clothes, bonnets, bloomers, girdles and stockings. Me and Brendan tried them all on. The best part of the day was dressing up. I really enjoyed it.'* Martha

*'I will always remember this because when I saw the things they took me back in time and I felt like a miner's child'*, Cameron.

'Metal Madness' is delivered by the Department of Access & Community Engagement at the University of Leeds, and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. For more information, please contact Sarah Prescott, Metal Madness Project Worker, Access and Community Engagement, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT. s.l.prescott@adm.leeds.ac.uk

Sarah Prescott



Getting to grips with knitting



The corset gets another airing!

**Several members** of the Friends also belong to other local groups & send us details of their own events in the area which we circulate with the email updates. We've asked some of them to introduce themselves & tell us about what they do:

The Upper Dales Family History Group is a branch of the Cleveland Family History Society, covering Swaledale & Wensleydale and their smaller 'side dales'. We hold meetings on the fourth Wednesday of most months, alternating between the Key Centre, Middleham & Fremington Sunday School, with an annual evening meeting in June at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. Meetings are open to everyone and the talks cover a wide range of topics from individual family stories, to research hints and local history.

Because many members who live locally have no family connections with the dales & many descendants of dalesfolk are scattered around the world, we run a thriving email discussion group to keep everyone in touch & hold occasional drop-in Computer Clubs to help people get started or get further with research on the internet. The email group can help with everything from research into individual families to general tips and hints and information on where to start tracking down records. Don't be put off if you're not an internet user; we have a cup of tea after the talks and there's plenty of opportunities to chat to other members who can help you. Entry to talks is free to members of the Cleveland FHS; non-members are very welcome at all meetings, admission £2.

In October we mark the group's 10th Anniversary with a 2 week exhibition at Tennants Auction House in Leyburn called 'Those Who Left The Dales', covering people who left mainly Swaledale and Wensleydale and their tributary valleys but there are also some histories from Wharfedale. Some may have gone over the border to Lancashire or Durham, but others went to Australia and America and many other far flung places. The exhibition also includes some 'living history' records.

Over the last year our members have been collecting and transcribing letters and wills that record those journeys and the lives of the migrants and they will be on show from Saturday 2 until Saturday 16 October [excluding Sundays] There will also be various workshops throughout the two weeks.

As a result of the enormous response we are publishing a book containing the summary of over 100 families, which will be published in time for the exhibition. You can flag up pre-publication interest in this book by contacting Glenys direct & copies booked in advance will cost £10. We also welcome artefacts and other stories for the exhibition and look forward to seeing you during the two weeks.

To find out more contact Glenys Marriott 01969 663738, e-mail: glenys@bishopdale.demon.co.uk or see the website at [www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk](http://www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk)

Glenys Marriott & Tracy Little

**A**s I write, Christian Aid week is coming around again. Charity appeals pour through our letter boxes and it is hard to choose which to support among the dozens of worthy causes. Things were simpler in the past; with no Welfare State, charity began at home, one helped to ease the lot of those in one's own community.

My grandfather, T P Cooper, had access to the Grinton Parish registers a hundred years ago, thanks to the vicar. He listed some of the gifts given through the Church at Grinton:

Mrs Ann Coville(Colville) gave £1 for the poor of Fremington & £1 to the poor of Grinton, chargeable on lands at Riddings near Reeth.

£10 was given by Thomas Falconbridge, the interest of which was to be given to the poor of Grinton, Reeth & Fremington. A memo which appears in an 'old register book' says 'the £10 left by Thomas Falconbridge was for some years in the hands of Ambrose Garth of Blades who regularly paid the interest to the Minister and Church wardens. After his death his son Ralph Garth paid the Principal, & a public acknowledgement of its receipt is entered, dated 22 June 1708.... but there are no documents to shew what became of the money'. Oh dear!

10/- per annum by Ralph Wensley for the poor of Reeth chargeable on lands at Riddings.

£10 by Dorothy Hutchinson of Reeth by Will, dated September 26 1727. The interest for Reeth poor given annually as directed by the Vicar and Schoolmaster of Fremington, 'for the time being'.

2/6 per year was given by Christopher Rain for the poor of Reeth, chargeable on a field called Chapel Close, tythe plan number 408. Also 2/6 from Thomas Garthouse chargeable on a field , number 307.

George Robinson of Fremington gave £20 to be applied to putting to trade poor boys belonging to Fremington, at the direction of the Vicar and School Master.

10/- per annum went to poor widows of Healaugh, chargeable on a field called Bon Fire Hill, number on the tythe plan 209

13/4 per annum went for the poor of Grinton, chargeable on land at Cogden belonging to Matthew Whitelock.

Also, of course, 60 Bibles per year from Philip, Lord Wharton, for children of poor people in the manor of Healaugh and Muker.

£50 from David Simpson, Presbyterian minister at Low Row Chapel, to the school at Feetham for the education of children of poor parents attending chapel. NB a subscription was raised by the trustees which, with the bequest, exceeded £100 with which they purchased a house at Feetham for a school.

Lastly, £100 in 5% consols was given by Rev.Thomas Joy, Vicar of Grinton, the dividends of which to be laid out in bread for the poor of the said parish every year at Christmas for ever. 6 August 1799.

In the long term what became of all these legacies? Does anyone in Grinton receive bread at Christmas today?

*Jocelyn Campbell*

## **T**he Status of Women in the late 17th & early 18th centuries.

I have just finished transcribing the Healaugh & Muker Manor Court Books A, B & C from 1686 to 1734. What surprised me, and perhaps it shouldn't have, particularly if I knew more about Women's Lib in the 17th Century, is the number of women who bought and inherited land and houses at that time in Swaledale. About 15% of the admissions to the Manor Court Book B were women. Individual men had on average many more admissions than the women - only a few women had more than two properties, whereas some men had up to 12 transactions.

Where a man and his wife jointly owned a property and they wished to sell it, the Steward of the Court tried to ensure that the wife was not being browbeaten by her husband into selling against her will. The following is an example of what is often recorded: "Thos Carter upon the Surrender, of Michael Turner and his wife, she the sd Mary being Solely & Secretly Examined by the Steward of the Court, apart from the said Husband & freely consenting to and joyning in the said Surrender, is admitted Tent(Tenant). of one Dwelling house ... etc "

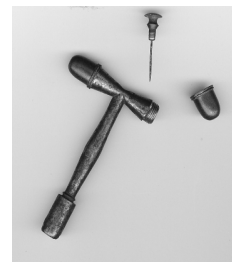
So one cannot assume that early 18th century Swaledale was a hotbed of male chauvinism !

*Timothy Bagenal.*

### **Mystery Object**

This mystery object is a *real* mystery - no-one has the faintest idea what it is, including the Curator! Made from metal, the object is just under 4 inches long. The finials on both arms will unscrew & a sharp pin screws out of the top but the pipe is not hollow.

The bottom has a socket as though it should fit on some sort of tap. There is no patent mark and no part number so it may well be someone's home made solution to a domestic crisis. Do you recognise it? If so, please let Helen know what it is & put us all out of our misery!



**A**lthough the Museum was closed for the winter, work on the Collections continued, so we are delighted to announce several exciting new acquisitions. Mrs Bellerby has donated a splendid 30-hour long case clock, a fine example of the workshop of the Reeth-based Boothroyd clockmakers, dating from about the mid-19th century. Margaret Woodward has presented a piece of the rare mineral crocotte (lead chromite) to the geology section. Mrs Min Jackman has donated a beautiful red and white quilt, which is in exceptionally good condition. Perhaps the object that has created the greatest stir is the donation of the Swaledale Tournament of Song shield, the history of which is covered in a separate article (*see page 3*).

## Friends' Programme of Talks 2010

**26 May, 7.30pm**

: Reuben Frankau: *The Bus up the Dale: Part 2*,  
Swaledale Museum

**23 June, 7.30pm**

Alan Mills: *John Hardy Memorial Lecture on Lead Mining*,  
Swaledale Museum

**21 July, 7.30pm**

Jill Curry Memorial Lecture:  
*Recent archaeological discoveries in the Dales*,  
Swaledale Museum

**11 August, 7.30pm**

Dave Weedon: *Pioneering photographers of the Yorkshire Dales 1840s-1914*,  
Swaledale Museum

**22 September, 7.30pm**

Fiona Savine and Peter Roe:  
*Highlights of New Research on Local Lead Mining*,  
Swaledale Museum

**20 October, 2pm**

Jane Hatcher: *Timothy Hutton of Clifton Castle*,  
followed by the AGM  
Reeth Methodist Chapel Schoolroom

**17 November, 2pm**

Kate Trusson: *Swaledale Quilts and Quiltmaking*,  
Reeth Methodist Chapel Schoolroom

COST: £3 for Friends and £4 for Visitors

More information : 01748 884118

[museum.swaledale@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

The full 2010 programme is available on the website  
[www.swaledalemuseum.org](http://www.swaledalemuseum.org)

## RUSSIAN EXPERT IN REETH!

On Monday 28th June we look forward to welcoming Galina Khmeleva, a Russian expert on Orenburg shawls, to take our **Museum Knitting Day**. This will complement the day we had last year with Nancy Bush on lace knitting. The day (10.30-4.30) costs £25 and includes a talk, practical workshops and a home-made buffet lunch. If you would like to book a place or find out more about this contact Helen Bainbridge on 01748 884118 email:[museum.swaledale@btinternet.com](mailto:museum.swaledale@btinternet.com)

Galina will also be at *Woolfest* in Cockermouth, where our very own Knitting Cafe will be demonstrating on Friday 25th June, so do come and find us! However we are delighted that we can have Galina all to ourselves on the following Monday!

### Special Lectures/Book Launches

(Tickets £3 in advance £4 on the door)

Saturday, 12th June, 7.30 pm: Gillillian Hovell, 'A Muddy History of Britain: A Local View'.

Saturday, 11th September, 2pm: Geoff Coyle, 'Riches Beneath Our Feet'.

Reuben Frankau, who is researching the Percival's bus company, is looking for a copy of the **second** James Herriot film which starred John Alderton & was filmed around Reeth in the 1970s – usually known as *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet* but was also released as *All Things Bright & Beautiful*. He would also like to trace a copy of the 1960s musical remake of *Goodbye Mr Chips*, starring Peter O'Toole & Petula Clarke which, allegedly, features a Percival's bus. If you can help Reuben with either of the films, or have any of the *All Creatures Great & Small* TV series on tape (he's missing just 20 minutes from one episode) please contact him through the Museum or via the website [www.percivalbros.com](http://www.percivalbros.com)

## NOTICE BOARD

Alan Mills has produced a leaflet describing walks visiting the notable lead mining sites in the vicinity of Grinton Smelt Mill. The walks can be as short as half a mile or combined together to form a longer walk of about 3 miles. The leaflet, in glorious colour, is on sale at the Museum, price £1. If this is successful then Alan will produce others which are intended to complement the map in the Museum showing the main archaeological and lead mining sites.

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! Or is there something you would like to see an article about?

Please contact Helen on 01748 884118 or  
[museum.swaledale@btinternet.com](mailto:museum.swaledale@btinternet.com)

As part of Keith Sweetmore's talk on Maps for the Friends in April we now have a stock of beautiful maps for sale, copies of originals in the North Yorkshire Record Office. At £8.99 each these high quality reproductions are a bargain. There are six maps for sale, the 1708 earliest known map of Swaledale, and the 1898 version from Lawrence Barker's collection, 'A Survey of the Manor & Parish of Arklegarthdale', 'A Plan of Crackpot Hall & East Stonesdale' undated, 'A plan of the Manor of Healaugh 1770' and part of the nine foot long 1848 Clarkson Map of the Dale. Come & see them in the Museum.

Don't forget to look at the Museum website at  
[www.swaledalemuseum.org](http://www.swaledalemuseum.org)

The Newsletter is 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](mailto:jandt@cennick.fsnet.co.uk) and we will arrange it.