

# FRIENDS OF SWALEDALE MUSEUM



## W elcome to our latest Newsletter.

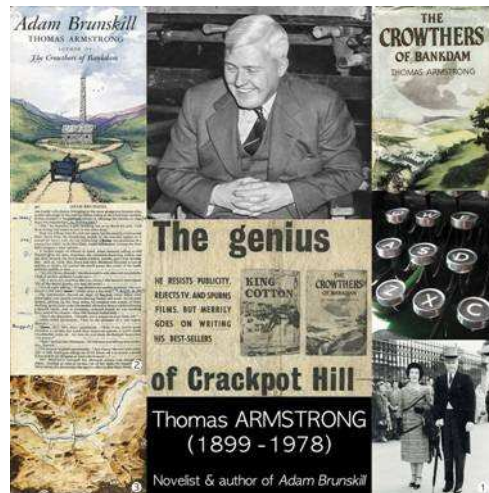
Spring is here at last, the Museum is coming out of its Winter hibernation and we look forward to seeing many of the Friends coming through the doors over the next few months. There are lots of exciting talks and activities coming up, a new gallery of 'People of the Dale' to peruse and, of course, the Grand Tea Party in the Orchard at Hudson House. Thank you all once again for your support over the year.

*Janet Bishop, Chair of the Friends of Swaledale*

**W e are delighted** to be open again for the 2014 season. The Upper Gallery where our new temporary exhibition space is located looks wonderful thanks to the new floor; panoramic views of Fremington Edge also add dramatic impact! We would like to thank the Community Opportunities Fund, Richmondshire District Council for supporting this work, plus the first exhibition, 'People of the Dale'. This collaborative venture with our local community features both famous and forgotten characters; and we would like to thank all those who contributed ideas, access to private archives and information. There has been such a terrific response that we are adding folders for all the extra material featuring a host of individuals. We are grateful to the Northern Mine Research Society for awarding us a grant towards this exhibition, specifically for panels on characters related to local lead mining, from Susan Peacock at Tan Hill to the last miners



*The map found in a desk drawer from Helena, Montana, USA*



*Detail from one of the new 'People of the Dale' panels. Thomas Armstrong was the author of Swaledale based novel Adam Brunskill*

of the dale. The panels have been designed and produced by our very own Scenic View Gallery in Reeth. Part of this new exhibition includes one of our new acquisitions, a map drawn as an *aide memoire* of the Swaledale

mines, post 1864, which was discovered inside a piece of furniture in Montana! We are thrilled that it has come 'home', and most grateful to the donors. Come and discover the full story!

We have a series of excellent talks and lots of other activities lined up. We are out and about giving talks to various groups including local Womens' Institutes, U3A and history groups, as well as working alongside Grinton Youth Hostel, Marrick Priory and SWAAG on their Big Dig Project. I am also delighted to be welcoming back Clara Balthesz who has offered to volunteer again over the summer. Her sterling service at the Tea Party is legendary, and her cataloguing has proved invaluable for facilitating research.

Marion Moverley one of our stalwart supporters asked me what project I might have up my sleeve this year. Well here it is ... ever since Tim Gates published the transcript of the 'Great Trial', the early 18<sup>th</sup> century mineral rights dispute that led to the 'first' surviving map of Swaledale c.1708, I have been fascinated by the fact that a hundred Swaledale people were sent to London to testify. Did they all come back, what were their thoughts, who did they meet, were their lives changed, how did they get there and back? I would like to invite you to submit short stories, poems and pictures around this theme. A copy of the book will be available for reference on the Museum desk. Selected results will form the closing event of the 2014 Museum season. I throw down the challenge to you all!

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting season. Do come and see us, encourage others to join the Friends, and tell everyone about our local gem, the Museum. We need you as never before! If you would like to help with our talks, distribute posters, keep our family history files in order, help clean, do let us know! Being a Friend of the Museum is much valued in its own right, and we thank you for your support!

*Helen Bainbridge, Curator*



## The Swaledale Big Dig

The Swaledale Big Dig is a two year project, managed by the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG) and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which aims to uncover the hidden history of medieval Fremington, Grinton and Reeth mainly through a programme of test pits in these three settlements. In addition to digging test pits, mainly in residents' gardens, we also offer a range of free courses, are carrying out documentary research and working with the local schools.

Carenza Lewis of *Time Team* and Cambridge University launched the Swaledale Big Dig on Thursday 13 March along with Keith Sweetmore, representing the HLF, and Robert White of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. This was a great success with over 90 people attending and more than 110 at the follow-up Open Day.



*The Open Day - Carenza Lewis with school-children before the launch*



*SWAAG member Mike Walton leading the children geophysics*

In late April members of SWAAG visited Gunnerside School to involve children from Swaledale and Arkengarthdale in geophysical surveying, the digging of test pits and finds processing; a very enjoyable two days for us, the teachers and the children. This work will continue in June with a number of further activities for the schoolchildren in Reeth including another two test pits, this time on Reeth Green.

Our free courses began in April with Landscape Interpretation led by Tim Laurie, involving 35 people, and was followed by the initial five-week long course on British Archaeology with tutor Roger Martlew, also with more than 30 people attending. It may be possible to offer repeats of these if there is demand. Further free courses will be on offer including Interpreting Aerial Photographs & LiDAR images in September.

The first of this year's three Big Dig weekends took place in Reeth over the weekend of 17/18 May. More than 70 people, including 22 children, took part in glorious weather, digging 8 test pits in all. We made some interesting finds including a number of pieces of medieval pottery (13th/14th century) and a medieval barrel lock. We will arrange further analysis of the finds probably coinciding with our next dig weekend on 21/22 June. The third dig weekend is 19/20 July. The focus of the Big Dig will then move to Fremington and Grinton in 2015.



*Some typical finds*

Everyone is welcome to join in on all of activities; free courses, research activities, test pitting etc. For more information see the SWAAG website [www.swaag.org](http://www.swaag.org), email [bigdig@swaag.org](mailto:bigdig@swaag.org) or ring Alan Mills 01748 884938. You can also follow progress of the project on Twitter - Swaledale Big Dig@SwaledaleDig  
Alan Mills - SWAAG



*Previous excavations at Hagg Farm*

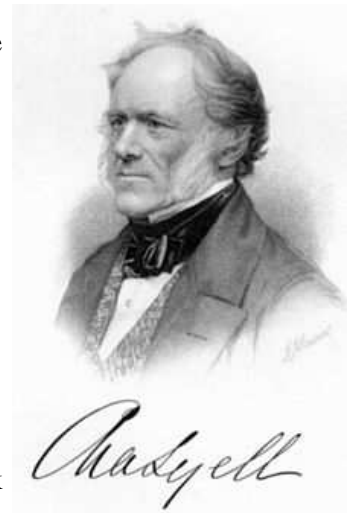
SWAAG is organising an excavation at Hagg Farm, Fremington from 24 June to 4 July 2014. If you would like to join the SWAAG members at excavating this Romano-British site then please see [swaag.org/digs](http://swaag.org/digs) for further details. No experience is necessary as training will be given and tools provided. Under 16s must be accompanied by a parent. Contact [stephen@swaag.org](mailto:stephen@swaag.org)

This collection of minerals (both local & global) in a little glass topped wooden drawer (right) belonged to the Rev Belcher. Does anyone know any more about this gentleman?



## The Lyell and Horner families: Scots in Swaledale in centuries gone by

Go a few miles up Swaledale from Reeth and you come to the village of Low Row, with the The Low Row and Feetham Literary Institute in the premises built for it in 1909. Several large stones in this building are inscribed with the names of the founders. One inscription reads: Captain Lyell, Lord of the Manor. He was Francis Horner Lyell (1852-1934); and this conjunction of names traces to a conjoining of two families prominent in the literary and scientific life of Scotland in the early eighteen hundreds. The lord of the manor was named after his mother's uncle, Francis Horner (1778-1806), who had been one of the founders in 1802 of the celebrated *Edinburgh Review*, a quarterly periodical much respected for many decades in cosmopolitan intellectual circles around the world; while his father's older brother, Charles Lyell (1797-1875), eventually knighted for services to science, had published in the 1830s the most influential book ever written on geology, and the greatest influence on Charles Darwin of any book he ever read.



The Horner and Lyell families had become twice joined, for Francis Horner's brother Leonard (1785-1864) had five daughters, one of whom married the geologist and another his brother Henry (1804-75), father of Captain Lyell. The linking of the Lyells with Swaledale went back to the previous generation when, in 1794, the two brothers' father, also Charles Lyell (1769-1849) married Frances Smith. She was the sole child and heir of Thomas Smith of Muker Hall. This Thomas Smith was the owner of a large acreage in the dale, apparently inherited from an earlier Thomas Smith who may have sired him out of wedlock. In due course Henry Lyell inherited this land and at his death it passed to his son, the Institute founder, who may eventually have owned more of the dale than anyone else; but who may also have been the last Lyell to possess landed Yorkshire property.

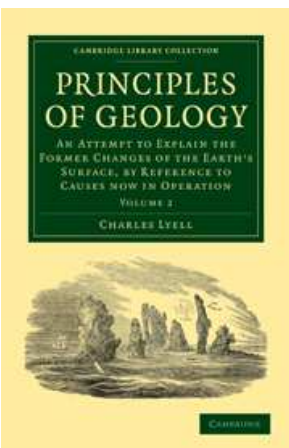
As so often with family and local histories, the details that can be settled reasonably securely raise questions that are much harder to answer. It seems uncertain especially whether the Smiths, father and daughter, and her Lyell husband, son and grandson ever resided permanently in Swaledale, and if so just when and where they did. These uncertainties are multiplied when one follows some of the Lyells' many migrations over four generations, migrations typical of privileged Scottish people at a time when the British empire was spreading ever further around the globe.

The story of these migrations starts not with the geologist's father but with his grandfather, yet another Charles Lyell (1734-96), known to historians as Charles the first. After growing up on a farm in Angus county in South-east Scotland and then learning merchandising and bookkeeping, he joined the navy as an able-bodied seaman. After twenty three years mostly at sea in the Caribbean and off the North American Atlantic coast he returned and bought, for several million pounds in today's money, a large estate in the county of his birth; his wealth having been acquired by being promoted to ship's purser and doing what ship's pursers often did: going into business for himself as a supplier of goods to the navy. He had married, during his naval years, a wife from Cornwall. Their first child, Charles Lyell the second (1769-1849) was born in London. The boy's father may have come to know the landed proprietor, Thomas Smith, when both were residing in London and perhaps through common involvement with naval affairs. So the Lyell son, Charles the second, and the Smith daughter,

Frances, probably met there, a long way from Yorkshire or Scotland. In 1796, they were married even further away, in Sidmouth in Devon, where the two fathers may have had naval matters to pursue.

Upon marrying, when some of the Smith family's Swaledale property could well have become theirs, the couple settled at the Scottish estate, but only for a few years. They then leased a spacious country residence in Hampshire in order that their own sons could eventually be schooled near Oxford University, where Charles would indeed get his degree before qualifying in London as a barrister, a profession he practised only briefly before committing himself solely to geology.

The Scottish estate remained in the Lyell family as it has to this day; but the geologist always pursued his avocational devotion to science from a residence in the nation's capital. His brother Henry, the inheritor of the Swaledale land, was often on military service in India and was followed in his choice of an army career by his son Francis Horner Lyell.



Leonard Horner, himself a geologist, was the first head of what became London University and a prime mover in founding and directing the new factory inspectorate. He was the son of a mother born into the family of an Edinburgh lawyer turned farmer, and of a father prominent in that city's linen trade; but he spent much of his life in London, and it was there that he met his future wife whose family had landed estates near York. His daughter, Mary Elizabeth, and Charles Lyell were married in Bonn when Leonard took the family to live in Germany for two years. Wherever they went, the Lyells and the Horners were always very mindful that they were Britons from north of the border. Swaledale was for more than a century only one of several sites in a Scottish family saga of migrational and social mobilities.

Jon Hodge, May 2014.

With thanks to David Bulman, Ian Calvert, Helen Clifford, John Hall, Tracy Little, Greg Radick and Leonard Wilson



## Hard Times in 19<sup>th</sup> century Swaledale

The 19<sup>th</sup> century was a time of great turmoil in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. After an initial surge of activity at the beginning of the century, lead mining declined in the face of foreign competition, especially from Spain. Mining was a major source of employment and miners found themselves laid off, or paid only every few months, which resulted in debt and poverty.

At the same time there were a series of bad harvests and food prices rose, especially corn. Epidemics occurred, there was high infant mortality and many overcrowded houses, and the knitting trade, which had been an important occupation for men, women and children, gradually disappeared.

By 1819 Select Vestries were formed to be responsible for the relief of the poor, replacing the centuries old system whereby the parish had dispensed help to the paupers. The Select Vestries were required to cut back on the amount spent for relief, money which was taxed from householders; this, just at a time when the need was greatest. There were said to be 77 paupers in Muker alone, and the members of the Vestry gave help to those who they thought were the 'deserving poor'. Others were thought to be lazy scroungers, who brought their plight on themselves. Even the respected Captain Harland called the poor 'scoundrels'.

Many parishes had small poor houses, which were occupied by the old who had no means at all of support. To end in the poor house was seen as a great disgrace and shame. In 1834 the new Whig government decided that something had to be done about the universal increase in pauperism in the country. They closed the small poor houses and built large workhouses covering several parishes. These were the responsibility of a group of

With the population in steep decline, large families were approved of...but not if they were a burden on the local rate payers! The Museum has a framed poster advertising Reeth Cattle Show, which begins:

### **The Annual Fair for Cattle, Sheep & Horses will be holden as usual on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1840**

1. A Premium of four Pounds will be given to the working Miner of good character, who has brought up the greatest number of Children to the age of ten years without Parochial Assistance.
2. A Premium of two Pounds will be given to the working Miner of good character, who has brought up the next greatest number of Children to the age of ten years without Parochial Assistance.
3. A Premium of one Pound will be given to the working Miner of good character, who has brought up the next greatest number of Children to the age of ten years without Parochial Assistance.

The name and certificates of character and ages of Children signed by the Parish Officers to be sent to Mr Harland of Marrick on or before the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October.



*The entrance to Reeth Workhouse - the small building on the right was the porter's lodge*

Guardians who were answerable to the Poor Law Commissioners in London. The workhouses were to be the only option for help to the poor, and outside relief was to be stopped. The Reeth Union guardians argued, and sometimes won, that it could be less expensive to give a poor family a pair of clogs or a blanket, than to move them into the cost of the workhouse.

In 1884 there were 58 paupers in Reeth workhouse. Conditions were harsh. Husbands and wives were separated and children as young as five were sent as apprentices to the mill towns, where they worked long hours as cheap labour. The whole aim was to cut the escalating cost of poor relief and to make the workhouses a place of shame and personal defeat. There were always women with illegitimate children and it was thought that putting them in the workhouse would deter others from immoral behavior.

For the near starving unemployed there seemed no alternative but to leave the dales. The Industrial Revolution was underway in many areas of the north and work could be found in the coalmines, farms outside the area and in the developing mill towns. With no work opportunities in the dale, half the population had left by the end of the century. In 1800 there were over five and a half thousand people in Swaledale. It is hard to imagine that Hurst once had 61 occupied households and Booze had 41.

In the 1880s my grandfather stayed at the old Queens in Muker. He wrote 'Muker is dead and practically buried. The lead mines are no longer worked, hence the decay. Formerly a market town it only just deserves the name now of hamlet'.

There were those who ventured abroad. Some went to the colonies but a large number left our dales for the lead mines on the Mississippi in America.

In 1876 James Broderick from Spring End went to America to visit the dales families there and to report back to those still uncertain about undertaking the hazardous trip over the Atlantic to join them. He kept a diary (which my father found and had printed in Iowa with the permission of the Broderick family in 1976). He wrote about those he met, all eager for news from home. There were Calverts, Milners, Raws, Sunters, Harkers, Coates, Guys, Metcalfes, Clarksons, Woodwards, and Aldersons as well as others. The list was a veritable dales census. They kept closely together, speaking their local dialect, eager for news from home. Many prospered.

Broderick reported on the leadmines, the farms, mostly rearing pigs, prices, the condition of the roads, the climate, geology and schools. He writes about the abundance of turkey and pork, and how the Americans piled their plates with food three times a day. It must have made difficult reading for the dalesfolk nearing starvation.

Back in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale the Industrial Revolution passed them by. Some of those who left did well. They became well known businessmen, doctors, civic leaders, even members of Parliament. But many never forgot their

roots and still today their descendants return to reconnect with their family histories. It was only with the coming of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that their hard lives changed. Secondary education for all, pensions for the elderly and health care transformed life. The coming of electricity in the 1950s was a huge benefit to the housewives and even the farmers could centralise their milking sheds instead of trekking from byre to byre with milk cans strapped to their backs. Mechanisation in the farms made them much less labour intensive and with greater opportunities open to the young with higher education, many took employment further afield.

Ultimately outsiders rescued derelict houses and the whole character of the dale altered. Those of us whose ancestors left through no fault of their own and others who have come to live in the dales, are privileged to share life here with those survivors of the ancient dales families, they remain the backbone of the Dales.

Any one wishing to know what became of many dales families during those difficult times should read 'Those who left the Dales'\*, produced by the Upper Dales Family History Group.  
Jocelyn Campbell - based on her talk given for Muker Show 2013

\*On sale at the Museum or online from [www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk/publications.htm](http://www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk/publications.htm)

#### **And by coincidence....**

On Wednesday 23rd July at 7.30pm, William Van Vugt Professor of History at Calvin Collge, Grand Rapids, Michigan will give a talk on 'Dales Emigration to America in the English Context'. This paper is part of a new research project concentrating on how dales emigrants were similar or not in some of the most important and interesting features of 19th century migrant populations. By looking at comparisons with other migrants Professor Van Vugt hopes to reveal future research directions. Those who come to this lecture are encouraged to bring with them any letters, journals and diaries connected with 'those who left the dales' for America at this time.



*Milking before mechanisation - Helen with one of the back cans used to carry milk from field barns down to the dairy*

### **The Gravestones of Grinton**

The original gravestone survey at St Andrew's, Grinton, was very well done in 1988 by Mr & Mrs B. Nicholson. It took the form of a card index and a cross-referenced list together with a hand-drawn plan of the churchyard with the position of the memorial stones marked and numbered. The survey was repeated and updated in 2002 by members of the Cleveland Family History Society, following a different numbering system.

As part of the Grinton Conservation Project it was decided to bring the recording of the memorial stones up to date, including some recent additions, and to produce a new plan of their locations as visitors were having difficulties finding the gravestones of their relatives. This is to be done using modern aids and the other parts of the Project involving the care and maintenance of the churchyard greatly facilitate this.

The new plan of the churchyard has been drawn using the Google satellite view to obtain a reasonably accurate outline, the position of many of the trees which aid location and the position of many of the memorial stones in the open. Using the same software used by the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group the information is being entered into a drawing program on separate layers: the churchyard outline; the pathways; the national grid kindly provided by Stephen Eastmead the mapping expert of SWAAG; the memorials; the trees, etc. This vector art software allows the printing of any selection of layers at any magnification without blurring. The original numbering system from 1988 and the division into three areas is being kept. Being computer based, it will in future be easy to amend old and record new memorials.

A plan of the church itself has been made using the same software so the memorials & monuments inside may be similarly recorded.

Conservation Project volunteers are at present locating and recording the stones with dates from 1988 onwards onto prepared data sheets, one per gravestone, for transfer to the computer software. In due course it is intended to complete a data sheet for each stone which will be available online and in a file in the church. Some use is also being made of a GPS tracker to record approximate national grid references of the gravestones. I'm envious of the SWAAG gps machine accurate to a few centimetres, mine claims to record to 3 metres at best, using both American and Russian satellites! It's useful only as a rough guide. Consideration was given to QR coding and making data more mobile phone friendly, but, at present, Swaledale has no mobile phone internet data connection, only text and voice. Maybe it'll come later.

Tracy Little, with the help of other members of the Upper Dales Family History Group, is using her knowledge and expertise to cross-reference the monumental inscriptions with census and other data which will be included on each data sheet. I am most grateful to her for all the advice on how such data is recorded, especially as I have zero knowledge of how family history research is done.

Details about the whole Project can be found here <http://www.swaledalearkengarthdaleparish.org.uk/page14.html>

The group meets on the first Saturday morning of most months and volunteers to help with checking the gravestones are always very welcome. Contact [jond@grinton.org](mailto:jond@grinton.org) 01748-884574.

Jonathan Dawson

Feb 4th Telegram received from B.B.C. asking for arrangements to be made for children to sing Beautiful Swaledale on Saturday 13th Feb. at 3. pm.

On 4 February 1943 the head teacher at Reeth school made this entry in the school log book – the BBC were coming to record the children singing *Beautiful Swaledale* for a live broadcast. Former pupils remember the rehearsals and the upheaval of a BBC Outside Broadcast unit arriving in the village, with a huge van parked outside the school, to say nothing of having to come to school on a Saturday afternoon! Those who took part understood that it was initially for broadcast to the troops but remember it also being repeated later on national radio. Astonishingly, given the wartime shortage of materials, the recording has survived in the archives of the BBC at the National Library.

The school has now obtained a digital copy and we would love to know more about the story behind the event; hopefully with a view to putting something on the Museum's Listening Post. Were you one of the singers? Do you know how the BBC even knew about the school and the song? We know that local group the Keld Singers used to go to Newcastle to broadcast during the war, so maybe they'd spread the word? An alternative possibility is a connection with George Budden whose grandparents lived in Reeth. George was a pioneer of BBC outside broadcasts but as an accredited war correspondent he probably had other things on his mind in 1943.

If you can fill in any of the background we'd like to hear from you. Contact me on [tracy@swaledale.org](mailto:tracy@swaledale.org) 01748-884759 or get in touch directly with the school on 01748-884308.

Tracy Little

### Friends' Programme of Talks 2014 All to be held in the Museum

#### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Shaun Richardson – *More Dream Than Reality?*  
*New Survey Work at the Octagon Mill,*  
*Arkengarthdale*

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

David M Copeland - *Willie Riley (1866-1961)*  
*Novelist and Champion of the Yorkshire Dales*

#### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Hazel Townesend - *The Richmond Sixteen*

#### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

William Van Vugt - *Dales Emigration to America*  
*in the English Context*

#### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August

Alan Mills, SWAAG - *Hillforts, stone circles and*  
*Welsh Dressers?*

#### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Paul Roger – *'What's this Dad?' How new*  
*materials change clinical practice in the veterinary*  
*world - a look at some of the contents of the*  
*veterinary's tool-kit'.*

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.

### Rare bit of Swaledale history turns up on eBay

Amongst the millions of eBay listings for unwanted rubbish, Gavin Brett of Carlton Hustwaite alerted me to a rare and possibly unique piece of Swaledale lead mining history; a drawing of the 'Victoria Engine' in Blakethwaite Level, which is described as being designed and built under the direction of the engineer James Close in 1837.

Mike Gill's *'Swaledale - Its Mines and Smelt Mills'* describes an underground waterwheel, 29 feet in diameter by three feet broad, that worked four-inch-square wooden rods connected to pumps in the shaft bottom.

The same wheel drove winding machinery which held 300 feet of galvanised flat iron rope, 2 inches wide by 5/8ths of an inch thick. This was located at the pump sump which was sunk to a depth of 204 feet near the intersection of the Red Sun and Blakethwaite Veins, working the main limestone at 50 feet and the underset limestone at 192 feet.

This would certainly seem to tie in with the drawing, however the date of 1837 appears to post date Mike's description of Thomas Chippendale's company working the pump sump and giving up their lease in April 1836.

1837 corresponds with the area being leased to the Strands Company, so perhaps there's more to the story to be unearthed and this is later re-fit by the new company?

Gavin and I alerted the NMRS and Swaledale Museum in the hope that something could be done to secure the document priced at £199.

Chris Twigg

Chris later informed us that Mike Gill was able to secure the document on behalf of the NMRS.

Don't forget the Fourth

### GRAND OLD-FASHIONED TEA PARTY

in the Community Orchard, Hudson House, Reeth

from 3 to 6pm, on Saturday, 23rd August

China cups, fine linen, cucumber sandwiches ...summer frocks, boaters and spats welcome!

Offers of baking, sandwich making & general assistance gratefully received

### 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 on Thursdays in a number of venues around Reeth throughout the year. For details of dates & venues please contact Christine Price [ewellprice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ewellprice@hotmail.co.uk) or 01748-884406.

### Last but definitely not least!

The Friends of Swaledale Museum are invited to a Private View of the new exhibition *People of the Dale* at 7.30pm on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, in the Museum

As for the Christmas Party, contributions of food and drink will be very much welcomed

Dress – smart as the event will be photographed for the Darlington & Stockton Times!

It would be helpful for our planning if you could let Helen know if you will be attending –

email: [museum.swaledale@btinternet.com](mailto:museum.swaledale@btinternet.com) phone 01748-884118 or just drop into the Museum

The Mystery Object has been held over to the next edition due to lack of space.