

# News from West Winds in Buckden at the heart of the Yorkshire Dales

24 July 2009

## Celebrate Yorkshire Day at West Winds with a menu written in full Yorkshire dialect!



West Winds is celebrating this year's Yorkshire Day by translating its menu into full Yorkshire dialect. For a period of one week from Saturday 1 August – **Yorkshire Day** – customers will be able to choose items from descriptions written in West Riding, North Riding and East Riding dialect (Standard English is provided too!).

On the menu during **Yorkshire Dialect Week** at the tearooms will be *reet gurt Yorksher puddin's wiv shives ov yam-coddled Wharfill kye-meyt* (very large Yorkshire puddings with slices of home-roasted Wharfedale beef, expressed in North Riding dialect), *goosegog pie med wi' goosegogs fra Gerston* (gooseberry pie made with gooseberries from Grassington, expressed in West Riding dialect), *Yorksher moggy* (ginger parkin), *weyky brandy spiced cake wi' shive o' Yoredill cheese* (sticky brandy fruitcake with a slice of Wensleydale cheese, in West Riding dialect), *fresh cutten butties i' carse cake* (freshly cut sandwiches in brown bread), a pot of tea that's *despert real an' strang* (a pot of tea that's really good and strong, in East Riding dialect), and much more besides.

The menu has been translated by Stephen Hounsham and Lynn Thornborrow, who run West Winds Yorkshire Tearooms, with the help of books, internet resources and Lynn's own recollections from her upbringing at Buckden. In particular, the monumental effort has drawn on the work of dialect expert Dr Arnold Kellett, the former Mayor of Knaresborough and Head of Languages at King James's School in the town, who sadly died in June this year. A factsheet on Yorkshire dialect has also been produced by West Winds to accompany the menu. Stephen and Lynn stress, however, that they are complete amateurs in dialect and hope dialect experts will not be too hard on their efforts, which have relied more on enthusiasm than skill.

Stephen Hounsham said: "Yorkshire dialect is fascinating and a real signpost to our history, yet it is slipping gently out of use. It would be a tremendous loss to our rich culture in Yorkshire if it became something simply of the past. People who are lucky enough to have a grasp of their local dialect should speak it with pride. How boring it would be if we all spoke in Home Counties English."

Yorkshire dialect developed when the Angles, settlers from northern Germany, came to England after the Romans departed. Three distinctive versions of Yorkshire dialect took shape – West Riding, North Riding and East Riding. In the ninth century Viking invaders added their influence to the language, as did the Normans later, although to a lesser extent. Yorkshire dialect reflects its Germanic and Scandinavian origins with words often similar to their counterparts in those languages. Other words are simply Old English versions of what appears in Modern English. Today the number of fluent dialect speakers is falling, despite the work of enthusiasts like the Yorkshire Dialect Society ([www.ydsociety.org.uk](http://www.ydsociety.org.uk))

The special menu underlines the depth of Yorkshire culture and tradition celebrated on Yorkshire Day each year. The first day of August marks Lammas, an old custom once held in the Yorkshire countryside when the first loaf of bread was made from the new harvest. It is also the anniversary of the Battle of Minden in

1759, in which an Anglo-German army defeated the French at Minden in Germany. Yorkshire soldiers in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry made an important contribution to the victory. Yorkshire Day was instigated in 1975 by the Yorkshire Ridings Society ([www.yorkshireridings.org](http://www.yorkshireridings.org)) as part of a campaign seeking the return of the three Yorkshire Ridings, which were abolished the previous year as part of local government reorganisation.

**Yorkshire Dialect Week** at West Winds runs from Saturday 1 August to Sunday 9 August, 12.30pm-6pm, except Monday and Tuesday.

### **Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival looms**



The **Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival** just seems to keep on growing. This year it runs from Saturday 8 to Sunday 16 August and is expected to feature over 100 life-size creations individually made in the traditional way by local villagers and then sited around the village to form a trail. It really is a delightful day out for all ages. West Winds will be open during the week (except Monday and Tuesday) and you're much more likely to get a table for something to eat in Buckden than in Kettlewell. We also still have vacancies for bed and breakfast that week.

Further information about the Scarecrow Festival can be found at [www.kettlewell.info/scarecrow.cfm](http://www.kettlewell.info/scarecrow.cfm)

### **Pictures of summer flowers of Buckden feature in online photolibrary**



Summer seems to have arrived in Buckden and we've been out with our camera to capture some of the lovely wild flowers that grow in the fields and on the fellsides around the village. The picture here shows rock rose, a dainty flower of short-cropped, rocky limestone grassland.

To access the photolibrary, go to [www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk) and click on the link on the home page.

### **Seasonal summer fruit comes on the menu**



Summer also means we can introduce exciting seasonal soft fruit on the menu. We've been picking gooseberries in Grassington over the past week or two and you can enjoy them in our gooseberry pie and home-made gooseberry jam. We are also in the middle of picking blackcurrants, again in Grassington, and plan to make jam with those too. Meanwhile, our second crop of rhubarb in the garden is almost ready for cutting and will be on the menu shortly as rhubarb pie. If we get time, we'll also go over to Birstwith near Harrogate for some raspberries, which last year we made into raspberry tart, which proved very popular.

## Swallows prepare to fledge from West Winds coal shed



The swallows that have been nesting in our coal shed – which has put it out of bounds to Sebastian and Toffee, our cats – will probably send their youngsters on their first flying lesson very shortly. A week ago a family of four swallows fledged opposite West Winds after nesting above the main door of the village hall over the summer, defying a string of noisy events in the hall, including the Buckden Gala Dance and the demolition of old fireplaces by local builders. (Picture doesn't show these particular birds – we pinched it off the Internet...)

If you've never had birds nesting in your garden, you'll not have experienced the pleasure, and the certain amount of pride, that comes with knowing you've helped, in a small way, to put some more birds up in the sky.

You can get bird boxes from normal garden centres or from Vine House Farm, which works in partnership with the Wildlife Trusts ([www.vinehousefarm.co.uk](http://www.vinehousefarm.co.uk)) You can get swallow ones, housemartin ones, robin ones, blue tit ones, sparrow/great tit ones and so on.



## West Winds Yorkshire Tearooms

*Up the lane beside the Buck Inn...*

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