

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

29 June 2010

Yorkshire artist agrees book-signing at West Winds

YORKSHIRE IN WATERCOLOUR



LES PACKHAM

Renowned artist Les Packham will come to West Winds in August to sign copies of his new exhibition book, **Yorkshire in Watercolour**. Containing over 60 stunning watercolours with a personal note on each one, this is a delightful journey through Yorkshire, a full portrayal of the landscape from the Pennines to the coast, over the North Yorkshire Moors and through the Wolds to the industrial south of the region.

Yorkshire in Watercolour is a large book (11 inches by 8 inches) and is available in both paperback (£14.99) and hardback (£19.99). Les Packham will be signing copies at West Winds Yorkshire Tearooms on Saturday 7 August and Sunday 8 August from 2pm to 4pm. It will be part of a fortnight-long celebration of 'Yorkshireness' at West Winds to mark Yorkshire Day on 1 August. During these two weeks the West Winds menu will be written in Yorkshire dialect (with translations!), personal Yorkshire flags will be on sale and additional special guests might well be dropping in.

If you would like to reserve a copy of **Yorkshire in Watercolour**, for collection on either the Saturday or Sunday, please send your name, address and phone number to lynn@westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk or call 01756 760883.

West Winds closes for early summer rest period



If you are thinking of visiting West Winds between Monday 5 July and Tuesday 13 July 2010, then please don't. The tearooms will be closed for our early summer rest period, designed to give us an extra spring in our step and an additional sparkle in our eyes.

The tearooms will be open as normal on Wednesday 14 July 2010 at 12.30pm.

Musical reasons to come to Buckden



Two musical events are coming up, providing an additional reason for making a trip to Buckden.

On Sunday 11 July 2010 the Yorkshire Dales Society is hosting an afternoon of traditional Dales music and dance, spiced up with some traditional South Asian music from West Yorkshire. It takes place in Buckden Village Hall from 1.30pm to 5.30pm. Tickets are available from the Yorkshire Dales Society on 01729 825600 or at info@yds.org.uk

Meanwhile the Buckden Singers (see picture) are preparing for their show, Songs for a Summer Evening. The full programme of well known music and song for choir and solo voices will be performed at Hubberholme Church

on Friday 16 July 2010 at 7.30pm and at St Margaret Clitherow Church at Threshfield on Saturday 17 July 2010, again at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Box Office on 01756 760399 or at tickets@buckden.org We still have some bed and breakfast vacancies for both Friday and Saturday.

Bath water plays its part as nature moves into tea-garden



If you haven't enjoyed a cup of tea and slice of curd tart in our tea-garden this summer, then please do before the lawn goes brown... Actually, we're jesting, because the grass is holding up very well considering we've had very little rain during June. This is partly because we recycle guest bath water and use it on the lawn and flower beds. You'll be relieved to hear, no doubt, that we use rain water or tap water on our salad vegetables!

It's actually quite simple to set up a rain or bath water capturing system. There are a number of online companies that can sell you the bits and pieces you need. Visit www.waterbuttsdirect.co.uk or www.greenfingers.com B&Q has a handy online guide to fitting a system at www.diy.com Once you've got a water butt set up, you can keep your lawn watered in a dry summer without the neighbours reporting you for wasting tap water!

As well as the lawn needing some water, our 'garden water meadow' needs all the fluids it can get. At the moment, buttercups, ragged robin and campion are in bloom and we're looking forward to the bell flowers and yellow flags.

Meanwhile, the blue tits in our nest box have fledged, as have the blackbirds in the leyland cyprus. But our ivy is now home to a pair of nesting spotted fly catchers (see picture) as well as, we believe, two sets of sparrows. Sparrows are among those 'common' birds that have actually been in decline over the past few years, so we're doing our best to get the ones at West Winds into good shape by continuing to stock our feeders with mixed seeds. It seems to be accepted wisdom now that it is okay to continue feeding birds in the early summer while they are raising young and in need of a good food supply. We will then let our feeders go empty from August onwards until winter sets in.

Another creature of nature that has been suffering quietly is the humble honey bee. Bees are vital in food production because they are the chief pollinators of many food plants, not least back-garden apple trees. A world without bees could be a world without all sorts of things. Numbers of bees have been falling in the UK, across Europe and especially in the US, where entire colonies have been wiped out. The reason is not fully clear and could be down to a combination of factors. Viral disease, infestation from mites, pesticide use, loss of genetic diversity among commercial bee populations, climate change and reduced biodiversity of plant life in the countryside leading to defective immune systems in bees have all been suggested as possible causes. All of which explains why we are more than happy to allow a colony of wild bees to live in an air-brick in the side wall of our house. The

air-brick is a dead end one – we don't have cavity walls – so there is no chance they will set up camp under the floorboards.

Whether it is connected or not, we don't know, but our apple trees are almost dripping with apples this year. There is only one problem. We can't get to the honey without dismantling the house...



West Winds Yorkshire Tearooms

Up the lane beside the Buck Inn...

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