

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

2 February 2011

Spring eagerly awaited as West Winds gets ready to reopen



It's the second of February today, which means it now won't be long to Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, the Spring Equinox and therefore... the start of spring!

This is hard to believe at the moment, since Buckden has now returned to its usual winter weather pattern of continuous rain, but it's time to start thinking ahead and looking forward to the tea and cake season!

This year the tearooms at West Winds will reopen on Friday 1 April. As usual, we'll then be open daily except Mondays and Tuesdays, from 12.30pm to 6pm, until the end of October. There'll be some new surprises on the menu, but more about that in the next newsletter...

In the meantime, bed and breakfast will be available at West Winds from Tuesday 1 March onwards. We'll have one double room and two single rooms to offer, all of which will now have televisions. You can look forward to tea and cake on arrival, bedroom chocolates and organic fruit and a wide range of breakfast options. And our prices remain attractive – usually £29 per person for the first night, falling to £24 for subsequent nights.

There will be four special offers to tempt you. If you want to stay in true culinary comfort, opt for a **Best of Yorkshire Special Break**, which includes a Luxury Yorkshire Afternoon Tea for two and other extras, all for £118 for two people for two nights.

If you travel all the way from your home town to Buckden by public transport, you can qualify for a **Green Reward Special Break**. For £88 for two people or £48 for one person, you can stay two nights and have a tree planted in your name in the Dales by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

New for 2011 is our **Full Board** option. For a total of £44 per person, you can enjoy tea and cake on arrival, dinner in the tearooms (last orders 6pm), a full breakfast and a packed lunch.

And if you are coming as part of a family or group and want to make a **Group Booking**, you can take all three rooms (accommodating a total of four people) for the bargain rate of £100 for the first night, falling to £80 for subsequent nights.

For more details of bed and breakfast at West Winds, visit www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk/bedbreakfast.asp and for special offers, go to www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk/specialoffers.asp

Special events lined up throughout 2011 at tearooms



The coming year will see many more special events at the tearooms. As the basket of herbs hints, we will be holding a week-long celebration of herbs at West Winds in June with some very tasty dishes, herb tastings and tours of the West Winds herb garden, which is home to around 25 different varieties.

Here's a list of what we've got in our diaries so far...

Sunday 29 May 2011 **Demonstration of Traditional Woodcraft**

A display of skill and ingenuity as Richard Humpidge from Cray shows how he makes chairs, tables and traditional toys from locally gathered green-wood

Saturday 18 to Sunday 26 June 2011 **Celebration of Herbs Week**

A journey into the fascinating and tasty world of garden herbs at the tearooms with special dishes, herb tastings and tours of the West Winds kitchen garden, which features around 25 different varieties of herb

Saturday 16 to Sunday 17 July 2011 **Art Demonstration**

*Renowned Yorkshire watercolourist Les Packham will be painting scenes in the tea-garden and displaying a selection of his work, as well as his book **Yorkshire in Watercolour***

Saturday 30 July to Sunday 14 August 2011 **Yorkshire Dialect Fortnight**

Two weeks of true Yorkshire tradition at the tearooms with Yorkshire cuisine, a menu written in Yorkshire dialect (with translations!), a 'crash course' in dialect, Yorkshire flags and special guests

Sunday 7 August 2011 **A Chance to Meet Celebrated Yorkshire Author Bill Mitchell**

*Bill Mitchell will be signing copies of some of his many books on Yorkshire life and tradition, including his recent titles **Herriot – A Vet's Life** and **Hannah Hauxwell – 80 Years in the Dales***

Sunday 28 August 2011 **Demonstration of Traditional Woodcraft**

A display of skill and ingenuity as Richard Humpidge from Cray shows how he makes chairs, tables and traditional toys from locally gathered green-wood

Saturday 22 October to Sunday 30 October 2011 **Apple Festival**

At least 20 tasty apple varieties to try free, plus an apple-licious menu of savouries, desserts and cakes, plus apples to take home...

And that's not all. We hope that Liz Hird from Yockenthwaite Farm in Langstrothdale will be joining us at points during the summer to offer tastings of her delicious Yorkshire Dales Granola, made with all-natural ingredients right here in the Dales. Visit <http://yorkshiredalesgranola.co.uk> to whet your appetite...

Tread in the footsteps of Wainwright as he took a long walk on the eve of war



The first book that famous fell walker Alfred Wainwright (left) wrote was not about his beloved Lake District at all. It described a long, lonely walk he undertook in 1938 from Settle up to Hadrian's Wall and back again. He wrote up his adventures afterwards but then put the manuscript in a drawer and forgot about it. It was only finally published in 1986.

Many people who have read **A Pennine Journey** hold it to be Wainwright's finest work. The narrative is rich and warm, describing life in 1930s Yorkshire and the North Country as people reluctantly fell into preparation for war. It's compelling reading.

And now you can walk the route more easily because an organisation has been set up to promote the walk and provide information for those undertaking it.

Naturally we wouldn't be writing this if Buckden were not part of the picture. Buckden was Wainwright's first night stop (yes, he walked all the way from Settle to Buckden) and he stayed at what was then Prospect Farm, next door to West Winds. When he arrived in the village, he was helped to find accommodation during "the blackest night I can remember" by a young lady, whose face he never saw in the dark but whose voice he fell in love with. The following morning he delivered a box of chocolates to her front door but still never saw her face.

For more information about **A Pennine Journey**, visit www.penninejourney.org.uk

Local school campaigners defeat county council education butchers



Last autumn the people of Kettlewell, Starbotton, Buckden and Langstrothdale received the shock news that the council was planning to close the iconic Kettlewell Primary School. Although the school had been rated as Outstanding by school inspectors, education officials argued that there were too few children to justify a school in Upper Wharfedale anymore.

Yesterday, after a four-month fierce battle involving almost the entire community, the council dropped closure plans and voted to keep the school open.

To say that children, parents, school governors and local villagers are pleased is an understatement. We feel the school is the heart of the community, indeed the very future of the community, so it's an enormous relief.

The picture shows two young students of Kettlewell School giving their reactions yesterday to a film crew from Yorkshire Television's Calendar programme.

Unfortunately, Arncliffe Primary School in neighbouring Littondale didn't survive the council's review of education in the Dales. With just four pupils on its books, its closure was expected and there was even a certain amount of understanding and acceptance in the community but it is still a very sad time for a school that has been part of Littondale life for over 150 years.

For more information about the remarkable campaign that saved Kettlewell School, visit www.savekettlewellschool.org.uk or Save Kettlewell School on Facebook.

Plan your year with our list of what's on in the Dales



Did you know that this year's Dales Festival of Food and Drink at Leyburn runs from Saturday 30 April to Monday 2 May? Or that Kilnsey Show – the premier agricultural show in the Dales – is on Tuesday 30 August? Or that Sunday 11 September marks this year's Hardraw Brass Band Contest near Hawes (see picture)?

If not, visit our events list on the West Winds website and find out about anything and everything happening in the Dales in 2011. We've used a number of different sources to compile the list, so it's probably the most comprehensive set of diary dates around.

Visit www.westwindsinyorkshire.co.uk/daleseventsdiary.asp



West Winds Yorkshire Tearooms

Up the lane beside the Buck Inn...

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