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'THE BRIDGE' NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2025

The Bridge seems to be forever thanking someone for something – there are so many people who give generously of their time and skills to aid the library in so many ways. However this time we have to offer Extra Special Thanks to one person who has, by running the Library Big Fundraiser, delivered probably the most successful single event in the history of DVB, and raised in the region of £3,000 for library funds.

THANK YOU, LYNN!

While not wishing to embarrass Lynn, we still have to celebrate this unprecedented achievement, especially as, apart from a lot of help from many willing assistants on the day itself, it was done almost single-handed. So - amazing, terrific, splendid, extraordinary – all the superlatives for once are appropriate. Thank you, Lynn, very much indeed.

It hardly seems necessary to report on Big Fundraiser itself, as the entire population of the villages seemed to turn out to support it. Many of the helpers on the day report how touched they were by people saying how much they valued their library, and they certainly showed it by their generosity and by the interest they took in all that was going on. So thank you, all those from the villages and beyond who came along, and thank you, all the helpers, who put in a long and tiring day, but surely felt it had all been worth it.

Also, a big thank you to our sponsors – MKM Scarborough, Belinda's Hair Design, Hodgsons Car Sales (Snainton), Crofts Chocolates, Cooplands Bakery, Harbourside Fish & Chips, Gweny Allen Artist, Liberty Retreat, The Barber Shop (East Ayton), Family Tree Research, The Little Play Company, Walkers Fish Restaurant, Wilsons Food Hall, Cedar Barn, Scarborough Flooring, Irton Garden Centre, Alan Woods & Partners, Boyes, Harbour Bar, San Marco Ristorante & Pizzeria, La Gondola Ristorante & Pizzeria, Alpanare, Morrisons, East Ayton Fisheries, Hearts and Flowers, Proudfoots, The SPAR (East Ayton).

Thermometer



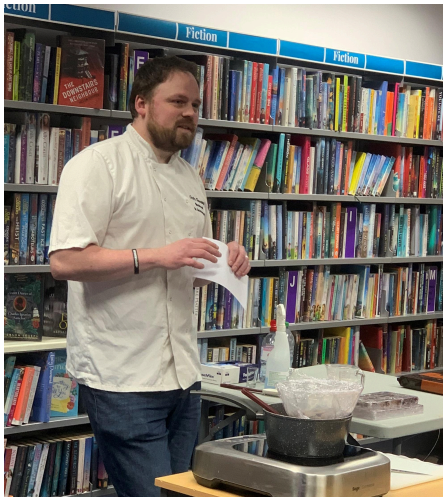
We've done it!! Thanks to the generosity of the library supporters and the hard work of the volunteers we have hit our £10,000 target for 2024/25. That is a tremendous achievement. But now at the start of the new financial year of course it's back to £Zero again. So please continue to support DVB activities, use the library and donate as and when you can. You can use the bar code by the thermometer, give directly via our Just Giving page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/derwentvalleybridge>

or call into the library with your donation

. . . . and that donation can now be made by card, using the new SumUp device. This can be used to take payment for anything which formerly would have had to be paid in cash, except for items appearing on a library account, ie fines, reservation fees etc, which continue to go through the RFID.

Library Talks



On Thursday 20 February Alex Grant from Grant's Chocolates in St Johns Road at Falsgrave came to the library to give a talk called **'An Introduction to Chocolate'**. He spoke about starting out as a chef but becoming increasingly interested in chocolate, to the point where he decided, with his mother and brother, to start his own business. He talked us through the process by which cocoa beans become the product we all – nearly all! – love, and passed round a cocoa pod, beans and cocoa butter for us to inspect. Next came small squares of chocolate, milk and plain, which we could appreciate with all five senses, as well as tasting, smelling and melting it on the tongue, admiring the glossy texture and hearing the sharp snap as it was broken which indicates good chocolate. He taught us how to tell good chocolate from bad, and how mass-produced chocolate contains cheaper vegetable fat instead of cocoa butter. Then – and this was probably the first library talk to feature a hotplate - he demonstrated how

to make a ganache with cream, chocolate, a bit of butter, and a slug of brandy. And very delicious it was. There were chocolate items for sale, which looked beautiful and no doubt tasted equally good. Let's hope all this didn't spoil people's appreciation of the more ordinary kinds of chocolate that we're mostly used to!

On 17 March a rather small but appreciative audience gathered to hear John Hazelwood, a retail jeweller all his working life, divulge some **'Secrets of Jewellery'**. He spoke of gemstones, where they come from, what gives them their colour, how they are graded in various ways for colour, clarity and flawlessness; how they are cut (emeralds have to be soaked in oil before they can be cut or they would shatter); famous named diamonds, their astonishing size, and some of their history; the various ways in which gemstones can be tested to verify their authenticity – or not! Then gold and silver - hallmarks, assay offices, number of carats and what that means. The big secret concerned how to look after your opals!; then how to avoid the gemstone falling out of your ring or the earring out of your ear, how to keep the stone in a ring facing outwards, and other useful tips. He spoke rather touchingly about how in the past jewellers were trained to look after their customers, advising on the exact shade of a pearl necklace to suit the complexion of the wearer; making a necklace to an exact length so that it would hide the scar of a goitre; encouraging gentlemen to pay attention to the shape of their wife's earlobes when buying a present of earrings. John has clearly never lost his passion for jewellery, which he managed to convey very feelingly.

Children's Activities

National Storytelling Week

The beginning of February saw the arrival of National Storytelling Week, and over the course of 10 days, about 190 children from all seven classes at East Ayton Primary School visited the library, and there was also an outreach session for the nursery children. The children were entertained, engaged and sometimes even shocked (Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes) by the interactive storytelling. The children also had the chance to explore the library and choose a library book to take out on their library card. The teachers, meanwhile, commented on what a welcoming space the library is and Headteacher, Mrs Nellist, said, "It's been great to have the children accessing this range of books." We would like to



thank the staff, parents and volunteers at East Ayton Primary School for supporting this brilliant series of events. A big thank you also to the library volunteers who helped deliver these library takeovers.

Visit of Loretta Schauer

On Saturday 8th February, National Storytelling Week celebrations were rounded off with an extra special treat – a visit to our library by Loretta Schauer, real life children's illustrator, author and thoroughly entertaining person, who came to deliver two engaging workshops. 30 children from East Ayton, Wykeham, Seamer and Snainton primary schools attended the sessions and they all loved drawing along with Loretta, whilst learning tips and tricks for creating their own imaginative characters and stories. Pickering Book Tree provided a pop-up bookshop and Loretta signed copies of her books for the children to read at home.

This the first time we have had a children's author visit our library and, after such a thoroughly entertaining afternoon, we are hoping it won't be our last. Thank you to Councillor David Jeffels who arranged for us to receive NYC Locality Funding to support this session, and also to all the library volunteers who were on hand to help rearrange the library and put it back together at the end!



Breastfeeding support

Hannah, a Breast Feeding Councillor, is now offering a monthly support session in the library every second Wednesday in the month from 11am to 12 noon. If you know anyone who might find this kind of support useful, please make her aware that this service is available.

Jean Raine Seat

There is now a new seat in the library garden for everyone to enjoy. In 2017 a seat was dedicated to the memory of the late Jean Raine, who had been a local councillor and a very active supporter of community initiatives including the Community Library. Sadly the original seat became unsafe and had to be disposed of. Now, with the help of a very generous donation from the Ayton Jubilee Committee, the seat has been replaced, and a rededication ceremony took place on 4 February, involving Jean's family and library supporters. Cllr David Jeffels gave a tribute to Jean and all she achieved during her lifetime of community service.



Improvements

Maybe some library members will have noticed that there have been some improvements to the adult section. Some of the shelf headings have been replaced in a colour scheme echoing the children's section, the old black chairs have been replaced with matching ones, and there has been a general tidy-up and removal of redundant

items. Repainting of the inside of the library should be done before too long. The paint, which is being sourced from the Community Furniture Store, is recycled and mixed from surplus supplies which have been donated, and is to be bought soon using a most welcome grant from East Ayton Parish Council.

DVB Chair

Anita Cassedy has now stepped back as Chair of Trustees, with Clive Proctor taking over until October, when Anita will take up the reins again. She will still be involved with the running of the library while Clive is Chair.

A Date for your Diary

Anita has booked Nick Taylor for Friday 18 July for a **Cocktails and Mocktails** event which will be on similar lines to the successful wine tasting evening before Christmas. Watch out for posters nearer the time.

Local History Corner

It is maybe not generally known that there was a small wartime airfield out on the West Ayton carrs, just to the west of Darrells Low Farm at the far end of Garth End Road. The farm can be seen top right of this aerial view, with a copse to the left of it, and the area of the airfield extending to the south, now partly flooded by the gravel quarries. A Bessonneau canvas covered hangar stood where the copse now is, and housed DH6 aircraft. It seems that Steve Garbutt's grandfather remembered how the aircraft were secured by large corkscrews placed in the ground; and also described an aircraft with an intoxicated pilot crashing into a haystack, its propellor flailing hay everywhere. As well as the hangar there was a permanent hut with a telephone in it, while the aircrew and staff also sheltered in the old (now demolished) farm buildings. Apparently Frank Lawton who worked on the farm in the 1950s ploughed up a 4 lb incendiary bomb, and despite carrying it on his plough all day, lived to tell the tale.



Village Archive

Did you know that DVB holds an archive of material relating to the history of East and West Ayton? This is all sorted and indexed and available to be consulted on request, though items cannot be removed from the library. If you know of any suitable material that the owner might be willing to donate to the archive, or to have copied, please leave details at the desk.

And Finally . . .

How about this! Beautiful sea creatures,
most kindly crocheted for us by a library
supporter.

