

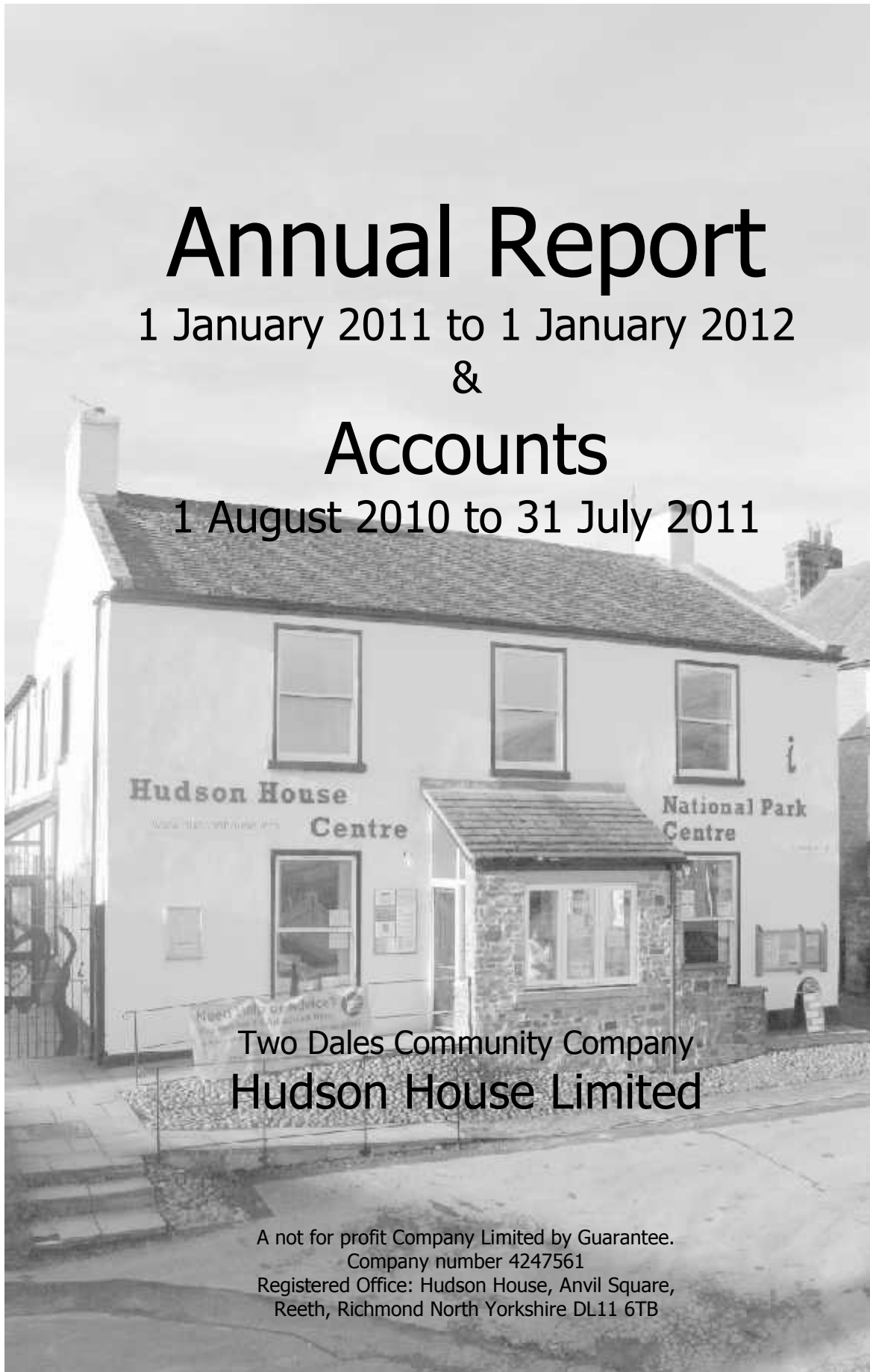
Annual Report

1 January 2011 to 1 January 2012

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Accounts

1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011



Two Dales Community Company
Hudson House Limited

A not for profit Company Limited by Guarantee.
Company number 4247561
Registered Office: Hudson House, Anvil Square,
Reeth, Richmond North Yorkshire DL11 6TB

THE TWO DALES COMMUNITY COMPANY KNOWN AS HUDSON HOUSE Ltd

DIRECTORS AND COMPANY INFORMATION

1 January 2011 – 1 January 2012

Chairman:
Richard Good

Company Secretary/Finance Director:
Kathleen Raw

Directors:
Raymond Alderson
John Blackie
Harold Brown

Bob Gale
James Kendall
Lorna Kitchin (Vice Chair)
Kevin Lancaster

Judith Mills
Tony Oldershaw
Rita Lawson
Margaret Sparke

Registered Office:
Hudson House
Anvil Square
Reeth
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL11 6TB

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc
Richmond
North Yorkshire
Branch

Accountants:
Dawn Clarkson Associates
Thornborough Hall
Leyburn
North Yorkshire
DL8 5AB

Company Registered No:
4247561





CHAIRMAN'S AND FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The last year has been a challenging one for both Hudson House and our Partners; the general financial climate has affected us all. At the start of the year there were concerns that the Yorkshire Dales National Park would have to withdraw from Hudson House due to its own financial situation. Following consultations which resulted in a lot of support for the National Park continuing to serve Swaledale and Arkengarthdale from a base at Hudson House, the Authority has decided to stay in Reeth. They will understandably have to make some changes in the way they operate the National Park Centre in order to save money. The Board appreciated the support from residents, visitors, Parish Councils and other local organisations during those consultations.

The Board had to address a difficult financial situation and looked at the ways we worked and the way we managed Hudson House day to day. With great regret the Board made the post of Manager of Hudson redundant. We were very sorry to see Graham Wilkinson, who had been the Manager since opening Hudson House, leave after eight years. The Board places on record its thanks to Graham for all the work he put into Hudson House.

The accounts for the year ending 31 July 2011 are summarized in the next couple of pages. Full accounts can be viewed at Hudson House if required. Unfortunately, we have had to further deplete our reserves during the year. However, we expect that measures, including those outlined above and below, will result in us reaching a break-even position for the current financial year.

We have looked at a number of ways of increasing both footfall and revenue; due to demand we have added a second public access computer to the front of the building. We have also provided a small vending machine so people can have a drink whilst visiting or working in Hudson House. We hosted two successful arts and crafts exhibitions last year in the conservatory which gave local artists the opportunity to show their work. We hope there will be more of these events in the coming year.

We have been able to get some funding from **Leader** which is part of the Rural Development Programme for England, to help us make some changes to the building to improve access and service delivery. The conservatory will have blinds fitted and we intend to improve the ventilation. This will enable us to use the conservatory more. The Swaledale Festival Office will be returning to the main building in February. The Barn will be available to rent as a commercial office from February.

You will see from the following pages all the various activities and services that are available. I wish to record the Board's thanks to all our Partners and their staff for all their support, hard work and above all enthusiasm for the work they do.

The Community Garden continues to develop and to provide both residents and visitors great pleasure and a quiet corner in which to sit.

The Learning-Centre continues to offer a range of training opportunities; however lack of funding has meant a reduction in courses from the North Yorkshire County Council and other providers. We thank the small band of volunteers who continue to offer computer training courses etc. Our thanks to Lorna Kitchen and her team of volunteers who staff the front desk in winter to ensure the building is open.

Lastly, the Board wish to thank our part time administrator, Jill May, for all her hard work over the past year. My personal thanks go to Vice Chairman, Tony Oldershaw, Finance Director, Kathleen Raw, and all my fellow Directors for their help and work over the past year.

We will be working with our Partners and the local community over the coming year to continue to serve the residents of and visitors the two dales.

Richard Good
Chairman

Kathleen Raw
Finance Director

The Two Dales Community Company Known As Hudson House Ltd
Profit and Loss Account
for the year ended 31 July 2011

	Notes	2011 £	2010 £
Turnover		36,553	38,188
Cost of sales		(22,334)	(24,586)
Gross profit		14,219	<u>13,602</u>
Administrative expenses		(34,000)	(37,379)
Operating loss	2	<u>(19,781)</u>	<u>(23,777)</u>
Exceptional items:			
loss on the disposal of tangible fixed assets			(44,442)
		(19,781)	<u>(68,219)</u>
Interest receivable		7	12
Interest payable	3	(3)	-
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation		<u>(19,777)</u>	(68,207)
Tax on loss on ordinary activities		(4)	-
Loss for the financial year		<u>(19,781)</u>	<u>(68,207)</u>

The Two Dales Community Company Known As Hudson House Ltd
Balance Sheet
as at 31 July 2011

	Notes	2011 £	2010 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	348,504	359,727
Current assets			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors	5	5,895	3,894
Cash at bank and in hand		8,968	17,511
		<u>12,863</u>	<u>21,405</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(3,120)</u>	<u>(3,104)</u>
Net current assets		9,743	18,301
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>358,247</u>	<u>378,028</u>
Net assets		<u>358,247</u>	<u>378,028</u>
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account	7	358,247	378,028
Shareholders' funds		<u>358,247</u>	<u>378,028</u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Mr R Good
 Director
 Approved by the board on 19 December 2011

RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



During the last year Richmondshire District Council have continued to offer members of the public easy and convenient access to Council Services through their Community Office at Hudson House.

Over 4,000 local people and visitors are dealt with by our staff as a first point of contact within the building during 2011. As well as providing a wide range of council services, we also offer help and advice for customers who wish to contact other agencies such as North Yorkshire County Council and North Yorkshire Police.

This year has seen the launch of joint services between Richmondshire and Hambleton District Council's Customer Services Teams. The new joint Contact Centre went live in December and allows Customer Services Officers to deal with calls for both Councils. The sharing of computer systems and knowledge of both Council's services means that the Customer Services team can deliver an efficient service to all our customers.

During the coming year we shall continue to support Hudson House and its partners to provide easy local access to many essential services.

Other Richmondshire District Council Community Offices are located at Richmond, Colburn, Leyburn and Hawes.

**Jill May
Customer Services Officer
01748 880011
Jill.May@Richmondshire.gov.uk**

Reeth & District Community Transport

Say hello, wave goodbye - 2011 saw the arrival of 'Buttercup' our yellow MPV, so that we can get to those hard to reach areas, that other buses can't reach – perhaps we should have called her Carlsberg!, this meant that we had to say goodbye to Kevin after years of loyal service, this was a touching moment for us all as we waved off, but he has not retired and gone to London to work. So between Primrose and Buttercup undertake many community journeys each week, which ranges from Dr's appointments, hospital appointments and visiting to shopping days and even weekends away. Not forgetting the lunch clubs.

This year's weekend away organised by Ray, was to the Borders, where the weather was



him
has
they

and everyone knows a lot more history than when they started out and everyone had a wonderful time as usual. We also hired the bus for a golfing weekend away for the golfers from the Black Bull Inn.

Our Christmas coffee morning raised over £500 this year, thanks has to go to the members who baked cakes, made jams, chutneys and biscuits, special thanks to those that manned the stalls, donated raffle and tombola prizes, made what seemed like hundreds of cups of tea and helped to clear the decks afterwards, this support is testament to our place in the community, each year when I write this report, I am very proud of this project and what it has achieved, this project has a wonderful board of directors behind the scenes, to which we said hello to Jeremy Hutchinson our new Finance Director and goodbye to Shirley Staveley who stood down at our AGM. We have a sterling crew of drivers so dedicated to the wellbeing of its members they stop at nothing to ensure they enjoy their day out and of course it would be nothing without the people that use it, with over 200 members, we must be doing something right.

2012 will be our 9th year of serving the community, not bad as it was only thought to last maybe 18 months.

kind

Gail Hall

Reeth and District Community Transport Limited

Area Ranger's Report

Another year of change for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and its Ranger Service, not least here in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale. Ian Broadwith decided not to carry on as Area Ranger due to changes in the job description (more on that later) so in July he returned to his role as Access Ranger for Swaledale with an extra patch of Wensleydale to look after too. This was because when I vacated my previous role in Upper Wensleydale I was not replaced and the area was divided between the remaining rangers.

My move from Wensleydale to Hudson House and Swaledale has been quite a transition. I have now worked in many areas of the National Park and I must say that I have had the warmest welcome here in Swaledale, Hudson House in particular. Swaledale certainly has its peculiarities and contrasts with the rest of the park but is none the worse for it!

Thanks to a sterling effort by Ian, often aided by the ever faithful Ragged Robins, he handed Swaledale over to me in pretty good condition – in terms of its rights of way anyway. This has let me settle in and get to know the area better than I did. The role of Area Ranger has many facets, rights of way being just one. I have been spending a lot of time consulting on planning applications where they might affect a right of way and also on Farm Environment Plans (where landowners are applying for payments to improve the environment of their land). One of the new elements of my job is a park-wide role of overseeing the National Park's Annual Events programme of Guided Walks. This is a new challenge for me and in theory this takes a third of my time so means I may not be around Hudson House as much as I might at certain times.

As for real work, Ian and I have managed to notch up a few repairs to parts of the network over the last year including:

The Fremington to Hurst road, which is an Unclassified County Road, had some drainage improvements made by us, on behalf of the County Council. We employed a local contractor to carry out the works to install stone cross drains and improve the run-off routes. This route is legally used by recreational motor vehicles so the works were aimed at reducing the impact they have by maintaining a drier surface, less vulnerable to erosion. The route had also suffered a small landslip which was making it difficult for the farmers that use the route to pass.



Landslip before



And after

Ian and the Ragged Robins have made repairs on several sections of the Bridleway running from Fremington Low Common to Langthwaite and to a slipped section of the Bridleway at Birks End.



The wall had fallen from above and taken the BW with it. The RR's got to work to rebuild the wall and a retaining wall to carry the route.

The Ragged Robins and Ian have also been kept busy with strimming the local paths around Reeth and working on the back log of day to day repairs to gates, stiles and bridges etc.

Repairs to various sections of the river bank have been ongoing. With the recent floods it is likely that much of the work we do in the next 12 months will be similar. The repairs of such areas can be difficult as we have to consider the fish spawning season and Environment Agency consent as well as water levels, access and materials. There is a move to use more soft engineering, such as tree planting and reinforcing the banks using woven willow – spiling – as it is less expensive and environmentally sympathetic. Unfortunately it is not always likely to be effective, especially on a main river, so hard engineering may be used to repair recent flood damage upon assessment.

All in all I think we have got away lightly in the recent floods. Considering the local reports and discussion it seems that it was an exceptional flood, some would say unseen levels of water. The footpaths and bridleways have suffered damage but nothing we can't handle by working with the landowners to make repairs. I heard several rumours that Reeth Swing Bridge had been washed out but was relieved to see it had survived!

I would like to thank you all for making me feel at home in Hudson House and am looking forward to the next year.

Michael Briggs – Area Ranger

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority



It has been a year of huge changes for the National Park Authority. The Government reduced our grant over the next four years by nearly a third - £1.9m - and the impact of these cuts has been severe, with a number of our services scrapped and the reduction of many more. Eight work programmes, including education, events and public transport, have been deleted. While there is a commitment to continue some activity in these areas, no budget has been allocated.

There was a requirement for a major restructure and 37 members of staff have left the organisation. However, the Authority is keen to move forward and work with the resources that remain to the best of our ability.

There have also been changes in personnel at Hudson House. Michael Briggs has been appointed as the new Swaledale Area Ranger. Michael has been the Access Ranger for Upper Wensleydale since 2001, and, most recently, undertook a 2 year secondment as Area Ranger for Upper Wharfedale.

After many years working for the Authority, Geraldine Coates retired as Reeth National Park Centre Manager in the autumn. She will be very much missed, but will still be seen in Hudson House from time to time working as an Information Advisor where her knowledge of the area and of the work of the Authority will be extremely useful.

Cathy Bergs has replaced Geraldine as Centre Manager. As well as being an Information Advisor for many years, Cathy's other Authority roles include organising the Authority's events programme and working on a variety of outreach projects.

It has been a quieter year for Reeth National Park Centre. Visitor contacts are down on last year, as are bed bookings. In the 12 months from December 2010 to November 2011 there were 1,095 telephone calls and emails, and 33,890 visitors. Staff have commented that visitors and locals have been happy to see the centre still open.

The bed booking service contract with 'Destination Management System' provider New Vision came to an end in March 2011. Welcome to Yorkshire is considering options to ensure that businesses are still able to update their accommodation - and promote attractions and events - via their website www.yorkshire.com.

Cathy Bergs
Centre Manager, Reeth National Park Centre

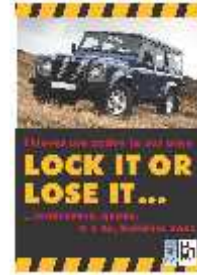
T: 01748 884059

F: 01748 880012

E: reeth@yorkshiredales.org.uk

W: www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Leyburn and Dales Policing Team.



In September there were 3 Land Rover Defenders thefts and 1 quad theft in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale. Daytime thieves targeted unlocked vehicles. In all cases the stolen vehicles were quickly recovered, and arrests were made in all but one. A stolen Mercedes from Acomb near York which was involved in one Defender theft was also recovered after a pursuit and extensive area search. Daleswatch members were again invaluable when they played a very key role in tracking a stolen quad as it headed towards Richmond, and a Police helicopter and an influx of officers descending on Richmondshire did the rest. A number of thieves are now serving custodial sentences.

Under the "Lock It or Lose It!" campaign officers have been checking 4x4's and quads on their patrols and cold-calling at farms and so on to give crime prevention advice, to deter criminals through the resulting high visibility patrols, and reduce opportunities for criminals looking for easy pickings in the Dales. We have also had strong support from the CID Department, done coordinated Crossborder rural crime operations with County Durham Constabulary, and of course we are grateful for the continued and productive partnership work with the Daleswatch volunteers who give up so much of their time to assist with proactive patrols in the Dales. Daleswatch are supported through Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership funding.

We have also seen some difficult weather conditions over the last few weeks of 2011 in the Leyburn and Dales area. Along with the Fire and Rescue Service, officers have had a role in locating and rescuing stranded motorists and vehicles in floodwater, involving the use of a Search and Rescue helicopter in one incident.

Please also note the arrival of the national non-emergency number 101, which replaced our local 0845 6060247 number from 12th December 2011. Hopefully this number will be much easier to remember, and does not vary from force to force. Calls to 101 cost 15 pence from mobiles or landlines, regardless of the length of the call. In an emergency, crime in progress, always dial 999.

As always, thanks to the community for their support for myself and my team, and thanks to all those who ring in to report incidents and help keep an eye on their communities, and to members of all our Watch groups. The more sets of eyes out there, then the more difficult it is for thieves to operate in our area. Have a prosperous and happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Stuart Grainger
Sergeant 512
Leyburn and Dales policing team.



Swaledale Festival



The Swaledale Festival had a good year in 2011, with visitor numbers within a fraction of a percent of the record in 2010, when the Festival was a day longer. Given the weak economy, this was very encouraging.

We don't beat our own drum very much, but are delighted when others do it for us: the Festival is now, we are told, one of the "25 best opera and classical festivals of the season" (Daily Telegraph); "one of the best little festivals in the country" (Northern Echo); "the perfect marriage of local and international artists" (Yorkshire Post); and one of the top eight music festivals, ranking with the BBC Proms, the Edinburgh Festival and Glyndebourne (The Guardian). And the Editor of The Dalesman, which gave the Festival the magazine's Artistic and Cultural Achievement Award, wrote that the Festival's "tireless efforts attract visitors from all over the world,

boosting local businesses and accommodation providers. The Festival just seems to be getting better and better." Not bad for a little non-profit organisation which has just two part-time staff and is largely run by a team of unpaid local volunteers.

Residents of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale appear to share the enthusiasm of the journalists. Last year they turned up in their hundreds, not only to enjoy local bands and performers from Reeth, Leyburn, Muker, Hawes and Richmond, but also to hear internationally renowned artists such as the jazz guitarist Martin Taylor, London Concertante, New York-based violin prodigy Alexander Markov, Kathryn Tickell, and Loyd Grossman with the Reeth Lecture. And for residents who couldn't get to Festival events – such as schoolchildren, and elderly or disabled people – the Festival organised a series of in-school workshops, masterclasses, and private performances, including a wonderfully moving song recital by Patricia Hammond at the sheltered housing in Reeth.



Roughly a quarter of all Festival visitors now come from outside Yorkshire and the North East; the Festival team has been working hard to drive their business towards local hotels, inns, B&Bs and restaurants, and welcomes active collaboration in this initiative. The Festival has a 'Direct Economic Impact' (calculated using standard measures) of nearly £340,000 on its immediate area, and has every intention of increasing that figure.

Nicholas Reckert
Chairman



Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Business Forum

In January 2011 members of the Upper Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Business Association (USABA) and other businesses in the two Dales were invited to a meeting at the Punch Bowl to discuss the status of USABA which had been dormant since 2008/09. The meeting explored the possible interest in resurrecting a business association for Upper Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. It was agreed that a steering committee be formed to meet and report back.

20 local business people volunteered to assist in the venture and by April were in a position to make a recommendation to the officers and members of USABA.

At an EGM of USABA on 7th April 2011 it was proposed that the aims and ambitions set out in the proposal made to the meeting by the steering committee be accepted and that their existing funds and financial obligations be transferred to the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Business Forum (SABF). The proposal was formally accepted.

A meeting of the steering committee of SABF took place at Hudson House on 9th April 2011 at which Michael Meacock was elected as secretary and it was agreed that a committee of a further four officers - Chair, two Vice Chair and Treasurer - plus 5 additional members be selected from the steering committee.

Monthly meetings of the steering committee have since been held at Hudson House and several projects have been worked on externally by focus groups. These include membership, website, leaflet, public relations and image, resulting in the Welcome to Swaledale logo and a joint cooperation with Richmond, Upper and Lower Wensleydale on a new website and interactive database project.

The First AGM of SABF was held at the Buck Hotel 8th September 2011 where the Officers and committee were formally elected for 2011/12. They are, Officers:- David Doorbar - Chair, Judith Dower - Vice Chair, Debbie Allen - Vice Chair, Michael Meacock – Secretary and Peter Freedman – Treasurer, Committee:- Sandra Kirk, Brenda Price, Richard Tarran, Charles Cody and John Hall.

Current projects include the new web presence which should go live at the start of 2012 and three practical elements to increase the awareness of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale that will be included in both leaflet form and on the new website.

Michael Meacock – Secretary SABF



Richmondshire CAB Rural Outreach

Our Big Lottery Reaching Communities Project continues into its fifth and final year, and still provides a service at Hudson House twice a month on a Friday morning. This is only one of the six outreach stations covered throughout Richmondshire by myself and volunteers, as well as providing home visits to those who cannot get to see us.

Because of the diverse nature of Richmondshire's communities it was felt that it was important to deliver additional free, confidential, impartial advice on issues such as employment, consumer, debt, welfare benefits and housing which is why the project now has an established email and telephone advice service run by the volunteers back at the Bureau. We would also like to thank the community for continuing to complete our surveys in order that we can adapt the project accordingly and all the positive feedback we have got, highlighting the need for the service.

I have been busy at Hudson House but with the Big Lottery funding due to finish in June 2012 it is vital that local people use the service to keep the service. So if you need advice, help or information please contact the Bureau on 01748 826532 to make an appointment with me or email me at rachel@richmondshirecab.org.uk, email advice enquiries@richmondshirecab.org.uk or call the advice line on 08444 111 444.

I'm looking forward to 2012 and to meet more of the people of Reeth and surrounding areas and hopefully give the essential advice people need in these hard times.

Rachel Hunter,
Rural Outreach Caseworker/Advice Session Supervisor, Richmondshire CAB
T: 01748 826532
W: www.richmondshirecab.org.uk

Angie House
Bureau Manager

North Yorkshire County Council – enabling customers to access services through Hudson House

Report January 2012

Residents of Reeth and the surrounding area have continued to visit Hudson House to obtain information about and access to North Yorkshire County Council services. The very low volume of enquiries mean that it would not be cost-effective for a member of County Council staff to be based at Hudson House and Richmondshire District Council customer service staff provide this service. Richmondshire staff have a good basic knowledge of County Services and can signpost enquirers appropriately.

Most citizens continue to access us by telephone with increasing contact online across the county. Increasing financial pressures have resulted in a review of, and cut-backs in, the provision of paper-based leaflets and information. However, making more information available online means it can be printed for customers where necessary, whilst enabling us to keep information as up-to-date as possible for use both by colleagues across the county as well as our customers.

We are hopeful that recently announced funding to support the provision of broadband in North Yorkshire will also allow more people to access services online.

For any further information please contact Sarah Whorlton on 01609 533823 or sarah.whorlton@northyorks.gov.uk



REETH COMMUNITY
ORCHARD GROUP

Reeth Community Orchard Group

As usual every month of 2011 has seen something happening in Reeth's busy and well-used Community Orchard.

In February there was a Winter Pruning Workshop, closely follow by a Perennial Splitting Workshop in March.

Hundreds of plants were sold at our Annual Plant Sale during the Spring Bank Holiday and we held a "Get Your Hands Dirty" day in early June, which included four Workshops, an Orchard tour and a superb lunch.

In July it was a Wine and Cheese Social with Maypole dancing and a Ceramics Exhibition during August. The Group used the Community Bus to visit Larch Cottage Nursery to buy new plants and fitted hedgehog and bat boxes in October.

Our Annual Apple Celebration was also held in October providing fun and funds. In November we pruned and cleared beds and in December began research on seating to be donated for use in the Conservatory in 2012 when no due we will begin the whole cycle again.

Gill Hayes
Chairman