

# Wood View News

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It is a rather alarming to realise that it's time to write another newsletter, as it only seems 10 minutes since I wrote the last one! We have had another busy season at Wood View and were delighted to receive a Certificate of Excellence once again from Trip Advisor. We took the decision this year to leave the Visit Britain star rating scheme, which in the past had rated us as a 4 Star (Silver) establishment. Although there was a cost consideration, we find that the vast majority of our guests consult Trip Advisor when looking for accommodation and very few are influenced by the star rating. We will, of course, maintain the standards of hygiene and hospitality that we have always had and hopefully visitors, both new and old, will continue to beat a path to our door. Only time will tell!

There has been a distinctly cosmopolitan flavour at Wood View this year as we seem to have had a higher than average number of international visitors. For some reason most of the population of Ballarat, Australia, have visited Austwick over the summer and it got to the stage where when we jokingly asked one couple from Ballarat if they knew some other guests from there, who had recently stayed with us – they did! On these long winter afternoons we have taken to watching the Doctor Blake Mysteries on the telly, which are based in, you've guessed it – Ballarat! We have also had a lovely family from Monza, a couple of very keen cyclists from Norway and the usual smattering of Germans, Dutch and Belgians.

Following the success of last year's Grand Depart of the Tour de France, which started in Yorkshire, 2015 saw the inaugural race of the Tour de Yorkshire, which was a great success and will be run again in 2016 over 3 days, with the first stage of 185kms (116 miles) on April 29<sup>th</sup> starting in Beverley and finishing in Settle. This will be a great boost to the local cycling scene, although Wood View is already full for that weekend!

As part of our drive to get more time off, Sue and I went to Majorca with the local cycling club in October and I got some rides on smooth tarmac in warm sunshine, which I can highly recommend. I am hoping to traverse the length of the Pyrenees from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean in September 2016 while Sue spends a week with our daughter in Cornwall, who is expecting our first *grandchildren* (yes, twins), in March.

As I write this newsletter, we are in the immediate aftermath of storm 'Desmond', which would perhaps not have been so bad if it hadn't been preceded by storms 'Abigail', 'Barney' and 'Clodagh'. The Dales have seen almost continuous, heavy rain since early November and the saturated ground was unable to cope with the several inches of rainfall that fell over the last weekend. The one positive aspect is that water tends to drain away from the area quickly, but of course that means that someone else further down the system is getting flooded out of their homes. The Lake District and Scottish Borders have had extensive flooding, several times, and a staggering 341.4mm (13.5 inches!) fell at Honister Pass in 24 hours – a new UK record. Fortunately, apart from a couple of leaking windows and damp corners, par for the course when living in a 300 year old house, we have escaped any damage and just have to wait for the waters to recede.

Please note our new room tariffs for 2016. We have maintained our prices for a number of years but are now making a small increase to keep pace with rising costs. All prices are per person per night.

Double Room £38      Twin Room £40      King Sized Room £42      Single Occupancy £50

These tariffs relate to minimum 2 night stay, add £2 for a 1 night stay.

It just remains for us to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2016. It has been a pleasure to see our regular visitors and to make new friends as well during the year and we hope to see you again over the coming season.

David & Sue  
Wood View  
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