

Layhead Farm Cottages
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Cottages

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The Layhead Team

Once again the Layhead team has been wonderful in keeping all the cottages immaculately clean and the grounds looking spick and span. Sue works tremendously hard with occasional help from Kim who has now semi-retired. Trevor mows the grass all through the summer and George is odd-job man extraordinaire!

In the office there's Pat who puts up with my mess and keeps me in line and of course Jean - the self-appointed dog walker.

As ever we have a good laugh as there is always something amusing and unlikely happening here. I know many of you have met up with members of the team whilst staying at Layhead.

Welcome to the Layhead Farm Cottages newsletter!

How time flies! We've had an eventful year and now Christmas is fast approaching so we are busy preparing the cottages for the festive season. This year we have welcomed guests from all over the UK and the world including Europe, New Zealand and America to name but a few, and we have hosted many special birthdays and family get togethers.

It's been lovely to see many of you again this year and to meet new guests.

With all good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Rosemary".

Animal Corner



"Spring chicks"



"Cake rules!"

We have had many escapees this year in the sheep and cattle populations. The sheep and lambs have perfected the art of running up the stone walls, standing on the top surveying the scene and when they see a tasty place to graze, jumping down. On many occasions I have had to ring for help to get them back to their respective fields. The cows managed to exit their field by striding over the barbed wire fence and when we found them they were enjoying the car park grass - the grass is always greener..!

The hens numbers are dwindling as are the eggs but in the next few weeks I am going to purchase some more 'girls' ready for the new season. Sometimes the egg situation improves when there are sheep in the hen field and they are being fed. The hens 'muscle in' and push the sheep out of the way so they can get all the food.

Pepper, now 12 years old, is fine however the latest trait she has developed is selective hearing. She does exactly what she wants to do when she wants to do it however much she is called. She still has a penchant for all food, particularly cake.

Sadly I don't have a cat living at Field House at the moment but one big advantage of that is that the bird population increases every year. I found a baby Spotted Flycatcher in Garden Cottage garden in the summer and it safely lived there until it was strong enough to fly away. During the last few weeks I have gained a few pheasants. At dusk they fly into the tall tree opposite my kitchen window and roost there for the night. The Tawny Owls are still around too, I often hear them in the evening, and one of my visitors reported seeing a Little Owl recently. We do also see a lot of Buzzards and Sparrowhawks.



2015 Competition winners

Lyn & Pete Couling
'Flowering Garden'

John Shaw
'Early Morning'

Harriet Kaczmarczuk
'Gateway to Summer'

Stella Tasker
'Sunset'

2016 Photography Competition

Win a voucher off your next holiday at Layhead

This year the competition is for photos taken at Layhead while on holiday during 2016 and therefore the closing date will be 31st October 2016. Please submit in jpeg format by email as an attachment - resolution at least 1 megabyte.

Don't forget to bring your camera when you come on holiday.



Photographs



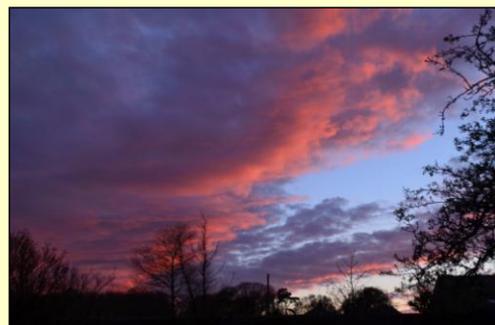
'Flowering Garden' by Lyn & Pete Couling



'Early Morning' by John Shaw



'Gateway to Summer' by Harriet Kaczmarczuk



'Sunset' by Stella Tasker

Thank you very much for all your lovely photos this year. The photos that the judges picked out have been included in the Layhead calendar, along with other photo competition participants'. I do really enjoy receiving all your lovely photos.

A £25 voucher for each of these four worthy winners!

News

I am not a true cycling fan, but I have become interested in supporting cycling when the events are close by. In September one of the stages of the Tour of Britain passed through Clitheroe and Bolton by Bowland, sadly Lancashire not Yorkshire (but we won't mention that!). In 2016, the second Tour de Yorkshire is being held on 29th April to 1st May. The route is yet to be announced, but we do know that one of the stages will either start or finish in Settle.

2015 certainly seems to have been the year for fruit mountains here at Layhead. A few friends and I spent most of July picking strawberries from my kitchen garden, the result was over 50lbs of jam! I have also made raspberry, plum and blackcurrant jam, and September was taken up with apple picking and preserving - chutneys and apple and mint jelly.

I was really proud of the Gladioli in my garden, which I grew from bulbs. There were lots of vibrant colours and they didn't even blow over in the wind. This year we have had a spectacular display of autumn leaves on the trees.

Office work isn't always my favourite occupation but it's very enjoyable writing the newsletter and selecting the photos to produce the calendar. After great demand for the 2015 Layhead calendar, we have now have a 2016 version on sale and available from me. Even some of my photos have been included this year. It's lovely to see your work in print, isn't it? Also thanks to Pat Gibson and Tim Mellin for theirs.

This time last year Farm Stay Yorkshire were hoping to reach a target of £10,000 for Yorkshire Air Ambulance from the sale of recipe books. Recently we presented a cheque to YAA for an amazing £12,000.



Autumn Colours

All the best for 2016, and I look forward to seeing you then.