

A white Christmas, then EK saw in 2010 in style

It was the first white Christmas of the century and it added a magical dimension to festivities in the village. It started -quite aptly - on Christmas Eve when overnight snow falls made the village inaccessible to all but four wheel drivers or those with steely determination. Metro buses bypassed the village but the main activity revolved around the butchers as people from East Keswick and neighbouring villages queued for turkey and pie orders. Christmas Eve afternoon saw traditional church services at the Methodist and Anglican churches though the candlelit one at Harewood had to be called off due to car parks deep in snow. Village children took to sledging on the banked fields of Rigton Grange farm. The traditional steeplechase meet at Wetherby on Boxing Day had to be called off due to the snow too. Christmas Day saw the Duke of Wellington providing Christmas Day lunches for the first time in recent years. On New Years Eve, there was a sell out ticket party in the Village Hall and festivities followed by fireworks at the village inns. The festive season was completed by the annual Tug of War on New Years Day. Captain Chunky arrived as a caped crusader on the roof of a van. Scores of delighted villagers watched teams representing both pubs battle out contests between men, women and children. The winners? Candlelighters Charity which benefitted by hundreds of pounds and the villagers who turned out who were treated to an excellent spectacle followed by good humoured revelry in both village inns. The audience was swelled by guests of villagers, many of whom remarked on the delightful community atmosphere of East Keswick, something we all wish to nurture even more in the year ahead.