

SETTLE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 178

December 2023



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Welcome

I am finding this part of the magazine unusually difficult as I know it is the last one I shall ever write. And there is also disappointment because this issue is smaller than usual.

For a little while now we have been producing a 64 page magazine, although occasionally we have had to scrape around for a few "Internet sourced" scraps to fill up the holes - not a lot - but enough to dilute the pure 'Settle and District' ethos we have always tried to follow.

But this issue is smaller than that. Perhaps the difficulties caused by the rising cost of living and the widespread discontent has dampened enthusiasm for literary endeavour. I hope not as the new team taking over will need your enthusiastic participation and support. It is no easy task meeting deadlines even if you think you have plenty of time - it is amazing how quickly it passes.

My personal apologies for the lateness of this one. It is entirely my fault but it should be out in time for Christmas! It is clearly long past time I retired - I no longer feel enthusiasm at the start of each production cycle - more dread that I must stir from my habitual sloth

So, with my usual December finale, may you have a happy and joyful Christmas and peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Alastair Cook

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A Fond Farewell

When sitting down to write this - with a blank piece of paper - unfortunately accompanied by a blank mind - I was at an immediate loss. How do I say goodbye to an audience (both of you!) such as yourselves.

The simple answer is to say thank you for your tolerance and support over the last 16½ years. Most of all to the poor benighted folk who had the dubious privilege of doing all the jobs I didn't want to do/like - most recently Barry and Ian. To the advertisers, almost all local businesses, whose willingness to provide the money to support this project over the last 30 odd years has never failed. We may have sailed a bit close to the wind on occasion but their support has kept us solvent. No executive lunches or frills and Covid put an end to our annual gatherings to say thank you to the hardy souls who deliver the magazine. Their willingness and determination is of course normal in the Settle district but to do it without complaint in all weathers for no reward remains salutary - an example for all. My job, sitting in an office taking a break when I felt like it was a relative sinecure.

Last, but by no means least, thank you citizens of Settle and District for not taking "affirmative action" to make me shut up!

It has been a great privilege to try and provide news and entertainment

over the last 93 issues. I have looked back over those issues (well some of them!) and the very first editorial I wrote asked for readers to support our advertisers. That advice/request is still appropriate. Those advertisers are almost exclusively your fellow citizens and this has been a community venture from its inception - we ARE all in this together,

Long may that continue.

Valete

(about the last Latin word I know...)

Alastair


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FRIENDS OF THE DALES - ONLINE TALKS PROGRAMME

All digital talks can now be booked via the online ticketing platform, Eventbrite. The Zoom link for the talk will be sent out via email in the usual way a few days prior to the scheduled talk.

Both talks can be booked via our Events page: <https://friendsofthedales.org.uk/events>

Or via: www.eventbrite.com/cc/friends-of-the-dale-autumn-winter-talk-programme-2567229

Online Talks:

Funding for Sustainable Business & Community Projects in the Dales

Wednesday 6 December, - slightly later time of 5.00pm

This talk is pitched at businesses, community groups and individuals wanting to find out more about how the Yorkshire Dales National Park's Sustainable Development Fund can support projects that aim to promote a more sustainable way of living in, working in or visiting the National Park. Meet Andrea Burden, Sustain-

able Development Officer for the Park who will introduce the scheme, the funding available and how to apply. Edward Sexton of Clapham based Glencroft will then reveal how the fund helped kick-start his company's now successful 'farm to yarn' project - Clapdale Wool - buying fleeces from farms within a 5-mile radius and transforming them into Yorkshire-made hand-knit yarn.



Access the Dales

Wednesday 17 January, 4.30pm

Since becoming a wheelchair user in 2011, Debbie North has campaigned tirelessly to break down barriers and promote countryside accessibility for all. Founding the charity, Access the Dales, whose motto is 'making the inaccessible accessible', there are now nine 'free to borrow' all terrain wheelchairs available from designated sites across the Dales. Debbie was also appointed Cabinet Office Disability and Access ambassador for the Countryside in 2022. This talk offers a unique opportunity

to learn about the successes and improvements Debbie's campaigning has achieved, along with the challenges still to surmount.

<https://friendsofthedales.org.uk>

as well as shows, auction mart sales and sheepdog trials. Photos were taken on many different farms and at shows and sales, in the Yorkshire Dales, Cumbria and the North East.



Horton Gather

Settle photographer John Bentley has a new book, 'Hill Farming in the North of England', which has just been published by Amberley books. The book has over 200 photographs taken by John over the past decade, most of which were taken in the Yorkshire Dales, including the cover picture, which shows shepherds on the summit of Ingleborough at 6am in June, preparing to gather the sheep down from the fell and back to the farms for shearing. The book features some spectacular landscapes and covers the seasonal activities on upland farms, such as lambing, haymaking and tugging,



Lambing

'Hill Farming in the North of England' is available (£18.99) from the Folly Museum, Limestone Books



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and other local outlets. National book chains and online retailers can also supply copies or it can also be ordered directly from Amberley, the publishers - <http://www.amberley-books.com>



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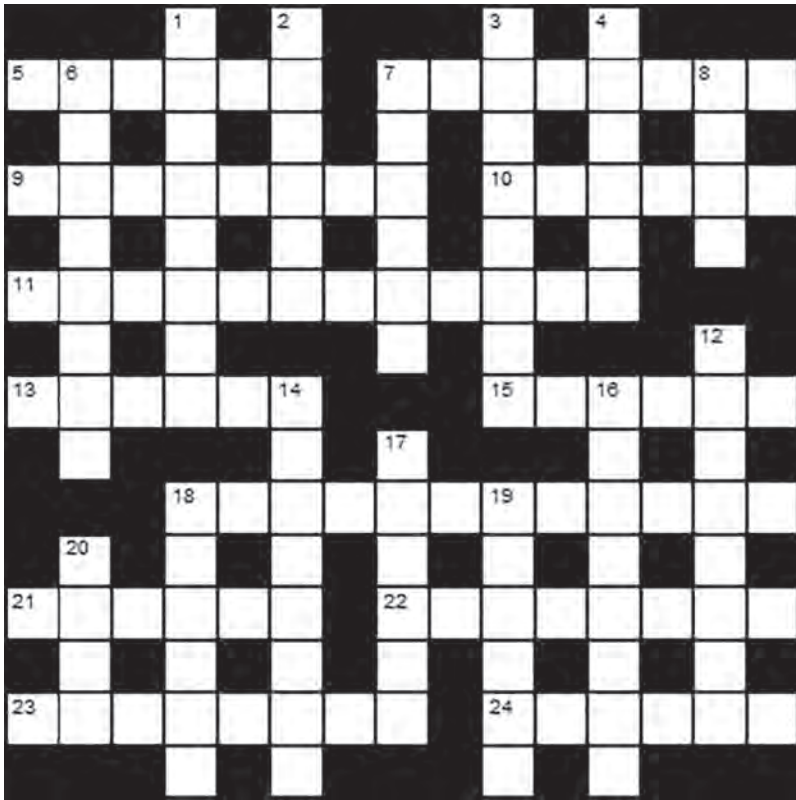
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Across

- 5 Branched horn on deer's head. (6)
- 7 Idler. (8)
- 9 Hinged screen to protect driver's eyes. (3,5)
- 10 Rubber seal in an engine. (6)
- 11 Seat mounted on springs. (7,5)
- 13 Climax. (6)
- 15 Induce to break the law. (6)
- 18 Sixteen years old. (3,2,7)
- 21 Poor soul. (6)
- 22 Demanding. (8)
- 23 ----- Bucket, played by Patricia Routledge. (8)
- 24 Child's word for a horse. (3-3)

Down

- 1 European country. (8)
- 2 Prayer (archaic). (6)
- 3 Monocle. (8)
- 4 One who speaks insultingly. (6)
- 6 Psychological disorder. (8)
- 7 Libretto. (6)
- 8 Compound excreted in urine. (4)
- 12 Weapons. (8)
- 14 Large mammal 'in the room'. (8)
- 16 Infatuated. (8)
- 17 Once again. (6)
- 18 Assault. (6)
- 19 Citrus fruit. (6)
- 20 Hee-haw. (4)

Set by Ian Gray, Answers page 24



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Craven CLT was set up in 2019 as a ‘not-for-profit’ Community Benefit Society (regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) with the object of providing more affordable housing in the Craven area for local people. Their Board is made up of local volunteers, including representation from Settle Town Council and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

**Craven Community Land Trust
UPDATE**

In the August issue of SCN, I talked about the difficulties faced by people in Settle/Giggleswick in getting hold of genuinely affordable housing. This is something that is true in most parts of the UK, but especially here where there is so much housing that is taken up by second homes or holiday homes. Housing available for rent in this area is always in short supply and comparatively very expensive.

This, in turn, means that many local people are having to look for cheaper housing further away. This, in turn, can lead to problems keeping in touch with family, accessing schools and travelling back for employment. It’s one reason why so many places

in town always seem to be looking for staff.

The article referred to the efforts being made by Craven Community Land Trust (Craven CLT*) – a local not-for-profit organisation - to try and do something about this, even asking whether anyone living in the area might be able to consider making available a piece of land, or a house, which could be used for renting out to people unable to afford market rents.

Happily, we had some positive responses: a couple of people pointed us towards sites that could be used for housing of this type; one family even offered a piece of their own land for nothing, if it was thought to be in a suitable location – sadly, it wasn’t, but such a kind thought. And another person came forward wanting to donate their own house for the

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CLT to use at a point in the future when they would no longer need it themselves – amazing!

So – recognising that there are people locally who share the CLT's ambitions, we have decided to take the next step and try to organise a Housing Needs Survey for the area. This is a survey that we are hoping will go to everyone living in Settle and Giggleswick asking them for their views on housing in this area, and whether they, or anyone in their own family, is, or will be looking for genuinely affordable housing in the near future. The information gained from the survey will be used to compile an independent report on the type and amount of such housing needed, and that report will in turn be used to support our future efforts to achieve tangible support for housing projects here.

We hope the Survey will be being delivered to all local addresses early in the New Year, and it would be great if you, and anyone you know, could complete and return it so that the information provided is as full as it can be – and the report can be as accurate as possible.

So – please watch out for it dropping through your door! And for a future article in SCN which will report the results and tell you what the CLT aims to do next.

Nick Abbey,

Board member, Craven CLT

There are other ways to help Craven CLT; anyone can apply to join as a member for £1 (one pound) by visiting our website at Cravenclt.co.uk or contacting the secretary, Jane Cotton, on cravenclt@gmail.com. The more members we have, the more we can show there is strong local support for what we are trying to do.

Any homes eventually developed by Craven CLT will be let to local people and have an “asset lock”, which means that they will always be owned by the community and cannot be sold.

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Coming...

Transport News in the Settle Area

I had only just started writing this article when the welcome news arrived that the government had made a U-turn on the proposed ticket office closures. Of course, this is excellent for Settle as the staffed ticket office is much appreciated by the many who regularly seek advice on their travel arrangements. Who would have thought it? Passengers actually prefer to deal with a real person rather than a machine! It has certainly been an emotive issue, resulting in some 750,000 objections and, had it gone through, would have disproportionately affected those with disabilities and mobility issues.

Having said all that, the direction of travel is inevitably towards fewer ticket offices and, for most of the stations on our line, the ticket office facilities disappeared 50-60 years ago. Indeed, many European coun-

tries have dispensed with most of their ticket offices, however, there is one major difference. Unlike our European counterparts we have the most outdated and complicated ticket system which has its origins in Victorian times – a sad irony for the country that invented railways. As the recent Transport Select Committee concluded, we urgently need reform of the ticket system before anything else. My own view, for what it's worth is that we will still need to retain 'hubs' where people can go for additional assistance and advice, much in the same way the stations at Settle and Appleby currently provide.

As we approach the winter months there is little optimism that the industrial action on the railway is nearing any sort of conclusion. It might be tempting fate but, at the time of writing, there are no new dates announced and the unions are required to give 14 days' notice to

the railway authorities. To say that the travelling public are getting a little weary is perhaps an understatement. For those attempting to reach employment or college it is a major problem when services are cancelled for whatever reason. However, there are those who have simply not been able to make long term plans to travel for fear that these might ultimately be thwarted. Similarly, any disruption undoubtedly has an effect on the local tourist industry.

Whilst somewhat distant from Settle, most will be aware of the recent decision to truncate the HS2 line at Birmingham. The argument for construction in the first place can now be viewed as deeply flawed. Study of the railway map will show that there are already two main lines between Birmingham and London and shortly there will be a third. Surely any extra capacity was required further north. Indeed, why didn't they start construction from the north as that would have made much more sense? The second major flaw is the necessity for 'high speed' in a country as small as ours. For most folks, the issue of saving a few minutes travel time would be of little consequence and, I suspect that ticket costs and reliability are much greater issues. The additional cost of achieving high speed is considerable with much straighter tracks and tunnelling required.

However, there may be some dividend to reach the area if the mon-

ies saved are used to support improved local bus services and also the much-needed improvements in east-west rail connectivity across the Pennines. Perhaps somebody should be reminded that we already have a well-constructed and under-used resource in the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle line? Whilst this has loading gauge restrictions and cannot accept container traffic it would make an ideal fast passenger alternative to the north. Also, not forgetting the Morecambe line as a potential east-west route. We do not make best use of the lines that already exist.

We continue to monitor the services on the S&C on a daily basis, a sometimes tedious task. Performance overall can perhaps be characterised as 'much of the same'. Whilst occasionally we see a glimmer of improvement, during October, trains ran late by 10 minutes or more on 19% of occasions whilst 3.5% of services were lost to strike or cancellation. In addition, 20% of trains were short-formed, that is, below their promised allocation with resulting crowding on some services. Whilst the number of cancellations appeared to have decreased on previous months, in other respects the service performance has deteriorated. This is bad news particularly for those trying to commute.

Of course, the anticipated autumn leaf-fall is now upon us and creates mayhem on the railways forming a Teflon-like coating on the wheels and

causing low adhesion. The residue is removed with high pressure water. However, things do not always go to plan as the so-called 'rail head treatment train' recently broke down in Settle station. Passenger trains were suspended whilst the train was removed. We also suffered two days of severe disruption due to storm Babette, this time causing flooding in the Aire valley. Trains were necessarily terminated at Skipton.

We have recently been advised that the stock allocation for the S&C will be reduced over the winter period which is not good news with the anticipated increase in passengers over the holiday period. Naturally, we have cautioned against this. Briefly, the 3 -car services will remain the same whilst most of the 4-car services will reduce to 2-car. However, the good news (there has to be some) is that there will be the usual winter offer for Dales Railcard holders. At the time of writing the precise details

are awaited but likely to be 50% off the price of a standard day ticket to anywhere on the line. Sadly, the pre 0815 exclusion remains in force for weekday use.

The Friends also maintain an interest in local bus services with several members actively involved in the volunteer management of DalesBus. We have also provided financial support to a number of local services over the years, this year including the 563 from Kirkby Stephen to Penrith and 855 from Garsdale to Hawes. It has indeed been a good year for DalesBus services with passenger figures on the Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday services expected to be well in excess of 52,000. The government fare cap has, no doubt, been a factor in the recent numbers. Incidentally, as some will have seen in the local press, DalesBus recently reached another major milestone in carrying 500,000 passengers since inception in 2005! A creditable achievement. Planning has already commenced



... and going

for the 2024 season, and it hoped to reinstate several of the Sunday services in the Settle area which have not materialised this year. However, there are major challenges to over-

come in funding and also seeking adjustments to the rail timetable to enable buses to connect.

Recently we were advised that the government supported £2 fare cap will now continue until the end of October 2024 which is good news. Indeed, there is no better time get out and use the local bus services, perhaps in conjunction with the train. The 580/581/582 still provides the regular Monday-Saturday connection to Skipton, Kirkby Lonsdale and Lancaster whilst the No. 11 provides a useful Monday-Saturday service to Horton and Tosside. These services all call at the Market Place, Settle.

Further up the S&C the Western Dales Bus provides the Saturday S1 connection from Dent Station to Sedbergh and Kendal. From Garsdale Station, the Little White Bus provides a Monday-Saturday connection to Hawes. From Kirkby Stephen station, the Stagecoach 563 to Penrith connects with the north-bound train from Settle at 0940 on Saturdays and an ideal way of reaching Ullswater with a quick change at Penrith. For details of all these ser-

vices please see www.dalesbus.org

Please do get out and use the bus and rail services (including the Morecambe line) and for assistance on any local transport matter please feel free to contact john.carey@settle-carlisle.com and I would be pleased to help.

John Carey

Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line



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GIGGLESWICK & SETTLE BRASS BAND REVITALIZES IT'S BEGINNER BRASS BAND

Local Brass Band, Giggleswick & Settle has restarted its junior band in an effort to encourage young players to start up and join; as well as to welcome back older brass players who maybe gave up, are a little rusty or just want to have a go.

Amelia, 19, was thrilled to be back involved with it, "The junior brass band helped me improve so much when I started out and helped my transition up to the regular band; so, I am glad to see it restart and now I can help encourage the next set of players"

Any ability is welcome and there are some instruments available if you don't have your own. With the youngest member 7 and the oldest 95, you really can take up brass at any age.

It got Kathy back into brass, "I hadn't played since I was 18 and to restart, 20 years later, was such a joy - the brass band are a great group of fun people and have been great in encouraging me and helping me to get back into music."

Bandleader, Kevin stressed the importance of inspiring the next generation, "The average age of our brass band is well over 40 - If we want to continue long-term, we need to get everyone - young and old playing and creating the next generation of Giggleswick & Settle Brass Band".

So if you know of any budding brass players or any youngsters wanting to get involved just bring them along to a rehearsal: every Wednesday 6.45 - 7.15pm at Settle Conservative Club.

For more details contact Kathy Swinscoe (07531440100), kathy.swinscoe@gmail.com or just turn up!



Picture is of Arthur, 95 and Walter, 7.



Settle Energy Local Club

Thank you to everyone who came along to our information session on 19th October. It was great that so many people were there to hear our plans and to ask questions. We are still taking expressions of interest in joining the club – as a consumer member, a generator member or both, so do get in touch if you wish to know more. We are aiming to launch the club early in the New Year, after registering it as a co-op with the financial conduct authority.

Is your home losing heat?

Adding or increasing insulation to your home is one way of reducing your energy bills, at relatively low cost. We have a thermal imaging camera available to use in assessing if and where your home might be losing heat and where insulation might help. To borrow the camera please contact us on the email below. North Yorkshire Council have Home Upgrade Grants available to help homes that are not on mains gas and have poor quality insulation and inefficient heating systems. Grants can be used for improvements such as insulation and solar

panels to air source heat pumps and smart heating controls.

New Co-ordinator for ACE

We are looking for a new co-ordinator as I will be stepping down from the role next February. This is a great opportunity for someone wishing to make a difference to how we can respond to the climate emergency. We will be discussing our 2024 activities at December's Green Cafe (see below) do join us then to find out more or arrange to have an initial chat with us – by contacting us on the email below.

ACE's Winter Activities

Saturday 9th December (10.30-12.30pm) Green Cafe at St John's Methodist Church Hall. Join us to help shape our activities for 2024 and how you can be involved. We are particularly looking for people to help us run our events and with promoting what we do. We will also have fair-trade goods to buy for Christmas.

Free. All Welcome. Cafe fair-trade teas, coffees and mince pies (10.30am-12 Noon).

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Sarah Wiltshire.

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VOTER ID CONCERNS RAISED BY OFFICIAL REPORTS

Just after the deadline for the October edition of Settle and District Community News the Electoral Commission released its full report on Voter ID at the May 2023 local elections. Previous issues of Community News had covered the introduction of Voter ID and had highlighted a number of concerns.

The Commission's report at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/our-reports-and-data-past-elections-and-referendums/report-may-2023-local-elections-england> found that the new arrangements had a disproportionate effect on disabled and unemployed voters, who were more likely not to vote due to not having ID. It also found a greater proportion of 18-25-year-olds as well as people from ethnic minority backgrounds said they had turned up to polls without ID. There also tended to be a higher proportion of people turned away for lacking ID in more deprived areas than in more prosperous places.

The disenfranchising effect of the new voting measures was very likely to be proportionately greater in a general election. In the May elections, 4% of people who did not vote said it was because of voter ID. In a general election that could mean nearly 1 million people staying away from the polls.

There has also been significant criticism over the limited number of acceptable forms of ID, which include a series of documents issued to older people but almost none issued to younger ones, such as travel passes and student documents.

As a result the report recommended a number of changes to the ID rules including reviewing the types of acceptable ID, allowing for vouching (where one voter attests for another), giving people without an accepted form of ID more time to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, and to improve the data collected on who is affected by voter ID. The report concluded: "It is crucial that improvements are made at the earliest opportunity, particularly given there are important elections that are due to be held during the next 18 months, to improve accessibility and **support those people who do not have an accepted form of ID**" Meanwhile a report by the Local Government Information Unit: "The Impact of Voter ID: The Views of Administrators" <https://lgju.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/The-impact-of-voter-ID-the-views-of-administrators.pdf> warned that it "is still not clear that voter ID brings any benefits to the process" of elections and that electoral administrators did not see personation fraud "as a major issue" prior to the 2023 elections. It warned that voter ID had put additional pressures on electoral and polling station staff and warned that

action was needed to “stop these invisible pressures from developing into unignorable election failures.”

Most would agree that we should strengthen our democracy by increasing turnout and improving access to voting, not imposing unnecessary barriers to voters.

With just one conviction and one caution for personation fraud recorded at the 2019 election, voter ID was always a solution in search of a problem. Now these two reports show that it has caused problems with our elections that were not there before.

But leave the last words to the politicians. Responding to the Electoral Commission’s report, MP for Vaux-

hall, London, Florence Eshalomi, the shadow minister (Cabinet Office), called for a review of the policy. She said: “This extremely concerning report brings into sharp focus the consequences of the Tories’ failed photo ID regulations. It’s wrong that the Conservatives have snatched the ability of legitimate voters to have a say in their services and society.”

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s official spokesperson said the government would consider the findings of the report, adding: “We have said that we would learn any lessons from this initial rollout.”

Barry White

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Anne Galloway is North Yorkshire volunteer of the year

Settle Pool trustee Anne Galloway has been named North Yorkshire volunteer of the year.



Anne received her award from North Yorkshire council chair Coun. David Ireton, at a ceremony in Harrogate, organised by the council, to recognise the contribution that the community organisations and volunteers make to life across the county.

Alongside the award the pool will receive a £1,000 cash donation.

A video made by the council's communications team highlighted Anne's role as the inspiration behind the pool charity shop. The shop has played a crucial role in the transfor-

mation of Settle pool at a time when many other public swimming pools across the country have been forced to close as a result of soaring costs and reduced public funding.

It was seven years ago on a visit to Kirkcudbright in Scotland that Anne saw how the local community swimming pool was able to finance itself by running a charity shop. She persuaded Settle pool supporters to follow this example and after a great deal of work behind the scenes the pool shop opened in May 2017.

Since then it has generated a steady flow of income for the pool. This has made possible the major redevelopment work completed just over a year ago and has gone some way towards off-setting soaring energy bills. Recently a second pop up shop (next to the Royal Oak in the centre of Settle) has opened to sell the larger and more expensive items that have been given by generous local supporters.

Anne has been a pool trustee since 2013. In addition to her role in developing the charity shop and now the new pop up shop, she leads the trustee's group on staff development. Over the past year she has devoted a great deal of time to helping see through the staff changes result-

ing from the expansion of the pool to include the new dry space area, known as fitSpace, and the creation of enhanced catering facilities.

Anne said: "Whilst I am delighted to receive this award, all the work that I have put in would have meant nothing without the efforts of our other trustees, volunteers and the pool staff. The continuing success of Settle pool is based around the commitment shown by the whole community and not least those who donate and buy from our charity shops. The award really belongs to all of them."

Colin Coleman chair of the pool trustees said: "Anne is 100 per cent committed to the pool. I am sure she spends more time here and at the charity shop than she does at home. She richly deserves the accolade of North Yorkshire volunteer of the year."

The mood of celebration at Anne's success was however dampened when news came through that Sport England had failed to allocate the pool any of the £20m of government money promised to help public swimming pools and leisure centres across England cope with rising running costs.

Settle pool had bid for £20,000. But whilst 196 pools in 103 local authorities were given funding; in the case of the Leisure Centre Keighley more than £300,000, no money was allocated to Settle or any of the other pools in North Yorkshire, including

Craven Leisure in Skipton, that had been included in the county's bid.

Sport England said the pools receiving funding were chosen on the basis of "their risk of closure, the proximity to other swimming pools providing public swimming, and the level of demand for the facility."

A further £40m of public funding is due to be allocated at a later date, with the specific aim of helping improve energy efficiency. Settle pool will be making an application under this heading.

On a more positive note the pool has now been connected to the B4RN internet service provider, meaning that pool staff and customers using the pool café will enjoy some of the fastest and most reliable internet connections in the area. A trench bringing the cable from Stackhouse to the pool was dug in early November and the final work done later that month.



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Across: 5 Antler, 7 Layabout, 9 Sun
visor, 10 Gasket, 11 Rocking chair,
13 Finale, 15 Suborn, 18 Age of
consent, 21 Wretch, 22 Extracting,
23 Hyacinth, 24 Gee-gee.
Down: 1 Slovakia, 2 Orison, 3
Eyeglass, 4 Abuser, 6 Neurosis, 7
Lyrics, 8 Urea, 12 Ordinance, 14
Elephant, 16 Besotted, 17 Afresh,
18 Attack, 19 Orange, 20 Bray.

LONDON RESTAURATEURS LAUNCH
RIND - A CHEESE THEMED
PIZZA RESTAURANT IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE
COURTYARD DAIRY

I am thrilled to announce the re-opening of The Courtyard Dairy's Cheese Museum and, alongside, a brand new venture as part of the unveiling of our new extension: RIND.

RIND is the brainchild of Mathew Carver, who runs three successful cheese-orientated restaurants in London (including a sushi-belt style conveyor belt of cheese!)

Last year he agreed to cooperate with The Courtyard Dairy to develop a new concept up here in the Yorkshire Dales. The 27th October saw it formally open, and Kathy and I are thrilled to have somebody of this calibre offer fabulous food to go right alongside our award winning cheese shop and museum.

RIND focuses on sourdough pizzas cooked in their 600 degree wood-fired oven! Linking with The Courtyard Dairy's emphasis and ethos, each pizza focuses and uses quality British farmhouse cheese throughout their menu. Fabulous pizza, topped with outstanding cheeses.

I hope Mathew and his team come to love Settle as much as I have over the last 11 years; and that he will be as well supported as we have been; which has enabled us to attract a business of this quality up here to



join us.

The Courtyard Dairy cheese shop is open 9.30-5.30 everyday, the RIND Restaurant opens 12-7.30pm Thursday to Monday.

Missing no opportunity to showcase the best of Farmhouse Cheeses, the entrance is via the Cheese Shop! (Ed)

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***The Churches of Settle and District wish you all
a Peaceful Christmas and New Year
and invite you to their Services and events***

Holy Ascension Parish Church Settle

- 10 Dec 2.00pm Community Carol Concert
17 Dec 11.00am Morning Worship
24 Dec 3.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Communion Service

St Alkelda's Giggleswick

- 3 Dec 6.00pm Evensong - Advent Carols
17 Dec 9.30am Holy Communion
17 Dec 6.00pm Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols
24 Dec 10.00am Morning Worship
24 Dec 6.00pm Nativity Service
25 Dec 10.00am **3 Parishes** Christmas Worship

Holy Trinity Rathmell

- 10 Dec 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
24 Dec 9.30pm 'Midnight in Bethlehem' Communion Service

St John's Langcliffe

- 17 Dec 4.00pm Village Carol Service
24 Dec 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion
31 Dec 10.30am Holy Communion for **our 3 Parishes**

St Peter's Stainforth

- 24 Dec 6.30pm Village Carol Service
25 Dec 10.30am The Eucharist of Christmas Day

St Oswald's Horton in Ribblesdale

- 17 Dec 6.30pm Village Carol Service
22 Dec . pm Walking Nativity [evening]
24 Dec 10.00pm Midnight in Bethlehem, Holy Communion

St Mary's and St Michael's Catholic Church Settle

- 23 Dec 4.45 - 5.15 Confessions
5.30pm Mass
24 Dec 11.15am Mass
5.30pm First Mass of Christmas
25 Dec 11.15am Christmas Day Mass
26 & 27 Dec No Masses



Settle Christian Fellowship

- 24 Dec 10.45am Christmas Eve Service followed by mince pies
25 Dec 10.30am Christmas Celebration with Communion

Settle Society of Friends

- 24 Dec 10.30am Meeting for Worship
25 Dec 10.30am All age Meeting for Worship

St John's Methodist Church Settle

- 11 Dec 7.00pm Soup-a-Carol
24 Dec 10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
25 Dec 10.00am Christmas Morning Worship
31 Dec 10.30am Songs of Praise



Hellifield: Methodist [M] & St Aidan's [StA]

- 10 Dec 10.30pm Christmas Lego Church [M]
17 Dec 2.00pm Carol Service [M]
17 Dec 6.00pm Traditional Service of Nine Lessons & Carols [StA]
24 Dec 9.30am Holy Communion [StA]
4.00pm Family Carols & Crib Service [StA]
11.30pm Midnight Mass (Holy Communion) [StA]
25 Dec 9.30am Holy Communion [StA]

St Mary's Long Preston

- 10 Dec 4.00pm Christingle: an informal service, especially suitable for children
24 Dec 11.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Traditional Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
25 Dec 11.00am Holy Communion

Austwick [A], Clapham [C], Eldroth [E], Keasden [K]

- 10 Dec 7.00pm Joint Clapham and Newby Carol Service [Newby Chapel]
17 Dec 4.00pm Carol Service [A]
17 Dec 7.00pm Nativity and Carol Service [E]
21 Dec 7.00pm Carols around the crib [K]
24 Dec 3.00pm Crib Service [A]
24 Dec 5.00pm Crib Service followed by short Holy Communion [C]
24 Dec 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion [A]
25 Dec 9.30am Family Communion [E]
25 Dec 11.00am Family Communion [K]
31 Dec 10.30am Benefice New Year Holy Communion [K]

Community Carol Singing: Tuesdays 12 & 19 Dec

**Please remember that these notifications are primarily for
COMMUNITY GROUPS (ie non-commercial) and so are,
alas, often out of date**

**THERE ARE ALSO A LIMITED NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL (=CHARGED
FOR PER SESSION) ACTIVITIES** PRINTED IN GREEN

**Please check with the contact before trying to attend a new
challenge!**

Every Month

EVERY TUESDAY

Settle Town Council meetings are on the first Monday in the month (excl
Bank Holidays) 7 p.m. at Settle Town Hall BD24 9EJ.

Agendas and Minutes will be posted in the Market Place Notice Board
and on the website www.settletownncouncil.gov.uk

Contact the clerk, Rebecca for further details, [clerk@settletowncouncil.
gov.uk](mailto:clerk@settletowncouncil.gov.uk) 01729 823617

Settle Market, Market Place. Indoor Market at the Royal Oak – very early
until late afternoon.

Community activities

Giggleswick Gardening Group: First Monday in the month. Litterpicking
section. 10.00 am. Church Porch, St Alkelda's, Contact Tony Carroll

Rotary Club: 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at 6.30pm in the Maypole,
Long Preston. All welcome. Secretary David Blackburne 01729 822445

Music

Settle Voices Choir: Every Monday (term time only). Catholic Church
Hall, Tillman Close, Craven Terrace. 1- 3pm All welcome. For information
contact Liz Eastman (01729) 823777

Langcliffe Singers: Every Tuesday Rehearsals at St John's Hall Settle, 7.30
– 9.30pm (term time only). Contact (01729) 825806

Settle Orchestra: Rehearsals every Friday evening during term time, St
John's Methodist Hall, 7.40 – 9.40pm . Strings especially welcome! Con-
tact (01729) 825806

St Alkelda's Church Choir: first Sunday in the month Sung Evensong,
(Book of Common Prayer) 5.00pm Giggleswick Parish Church

Black Horse Jazzmen at The Talbot Tuesdays Dec 12th & 19th, Jan 23rd, Feb 13th & 27th 8.30 - 10.15. Sitters in welcome.
Further info: www.talbot.co.uk

Recreational

Settle Photographic Group: Every third Monday, St. Johns Methodist Church Hall and on Zoom, 7.30 – 9.30pm and on the 1st Monday of the month, October – April. Visitors welcome. £4.00

Settle Rifle Club: Every Monday 7pm Giggleswick School cadet range (behind St Alkelda's Church)

Settle Bridge Club: Every Tuesday 7.00 – 9.30pm. online bridge using the RealBridge platform and every Thursday 1.30 - 4.30pm in person bridge at St John's Church Hall. For more information see <https://www.bridgewebs.com/settle/> or contact Rosie Sanderson 01729 825944 rosiesanderson19@gmail.com

Settle Chess Club: Every Monday evening 6pm to 8ish at Settle Social Club, 10 Duke Street. All standards welcome. <http://settlechessclub.uk>

Monthly Whist Drives: Every second Tuesday Golden Lion Hotel, Horton-in-Ribblesdale 7.30pm. Tel. (01729) 860206

Action on Climate Emergency (ACE) Settle and Area: monthly Green Cafe second Saturday of each month 10.30 - 12.30 at Settle Methodist Church. Details about individual Cafes on the ACE website www.acesettleandarea.org

Settle & District Gardening Club: Fourth Wednesday of the month January - May & September - November at the Quaker Meeting House 2 pm to 4 pm. Visitors welcome £5

Ingleborough Archaeology Group Third Monday of the month from October to April. Talks 7:30pm at Ingleton Community Centre. May to September monthly local guided walks/visits, For details, please see: ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk or email: ingleborougharchaeologygroup@gmail.com

Sport and physical activities

Austwick Piccalillis Pickleball Every Tuesday morning at Eldroth Village Hall 10-1 Every Saturday morning at Giggleswick School 9.45-11.45 Come & give it a try! Contact: austwickpickleball@gmail.com

Table Tennis: Every Monday Hellifield Village Hall 7.15 – 9.15pm Contact Andy Crabtree (01729) 851806

Langcliffe Table Tennis Club: Every Tuesday evening 7.00-9.00pm at Langcliffe Institute. All standards welcome. £2 per session. 3 tables available. Bats and balls provided. Contact: Shelley Woolley 01729 824189

Line dancing: Every Monday 7.00pm - 9.30pm. and Friday 2.00-4.00pm St John's Church Hall All welcome. Proceeds to charity

Settle Badminton Club: Every Tuesday (Sept - April). Giggleswick School Sports Hall. 7.30 – 10.30pm Contact Ian Reid 07854 211114

Badminton: Every Tuesday Hellifield Village Institute 7.00 – 9pm. Contact Bob Moore (01729) 851660

North Craven Strollers: Every Wednesday meets at Millennium Garden, nr Booths Car Park, 1.30pm

Settle Harriers: Seniors Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm, Juniors Tuesdays 6pm. Contact Chris Beesley (07713247923)

Tennis: Regular social and competitive tennis for all standards including beginners at Austwick Tennis Club. See <https://www.austwicktennisclub.co.uk/> for details of regular sessions.

Settle Area Swimming Pool: a wide variety of sessions for adults and children – including lane swimming; fun sessions and water based exercises. Dry space activities including static cycle 'spinning', high intensity training and more gentle exercise see <https://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk/> for timetable.

Chair-based exercise classes for Older Adults: **Mondays 12noon** Langcliffe Institute, **Wednesdays 11am** Limestone View, **Thursdays 10.15am** Horton-in-Ribblesdale Village Hall, **Balance & Leg Strength Class for Falls Awareness - Settle Swimming Pool.** Call Jo Wulf for further details.07966 981985

Scottish Country Dancing: Every Thursday St John's Hall 7.30pm with a fully qualified Scottish Country Dance teacher

Nordic walking: **Yordic Walkers Mondays/Tuesdays 9am & Fridays 10.30am - Moderate to vigorous 1 hour walks, Racing Snails Fridays 2pm - slow & steady Nordic walks, 30 mins £5.** Please book in advance: jowulf@wolftracks.co.uk / 07966 981985

Support Groups

Amnesty International letter writing group. No longer meeting in person but continue their work on-line. A letter could help free a prisoner, stop an execution or help a bereaved family obtain justice. Enquiries Heather Chappell (01729) 268912

Age UK North Craven Trips for the over 60s. For destinations and prices etc. contact Sandra on (01729) 823066

Women's Groups

Settle Women's Institute Every first Wednesday St.John's Church Hall, 2 p.m. New members always welcome

Giggleswick with Settle Mothers' Union Every second Wednesday St Alkeldas Church, Giggleswick, 2pm Contact: Branch Leader, Catie Jones, (01729) 822676 for more details

Giggleswick Women's Institute Every first Thursday in the month we meet at 7.00pm at Settle swimming pool, Kendal Road, Giggleswick. New members & Visitors are always welcome. Follow us on our Facebook page.



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COVERING SETTLE
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EVENING TEMPERANCE BARS AT SETTLE QUAKERS



We have run a few evening Temperance Bar events at the Settle Quaker Meeting House in the evenings over the summer. Picture above is Harry and Dave being Temperance bar men!

We have a small amount of funding for room hire and buying fancy cordials, teas and snacks from Yorkshire Housing.

The idea is to offer an early evening social venue where people of all ages (and well behaved dogs) can come and socialise without the presence of alcohol. In Settle after 5pm the only venues open are pubs which are not always appropriate for families with children or for people wishing to avoid drinking.

Saturdays: 9th and 30th December
13th and 27th January
4-8pm Quaker Meeting House in the small meeting room

All these will be alcohol free events, offering simple food like soup or a curry, snacks, cake and hot drinks and cordials. If you want to bring your own board games that is fine too.

At some of these we will do simple

craft activities like soap making and maybe make chocolate.

Any questions or suggestions or offers of help please contact Jo on

hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk or call her on 07977 040329.



SETTLE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS HUB ACTIVITIES OVER THE HOLIDAYS

We know that time between Christmas and New Year is an odd one for people when many groups and services shut down for 2 or 3 weeks. Most hub activities carry on as normal except Christmas Day and New Year's Day and we will have a Temperance Bar on Saturday 30th December.

Public Living Rooms at Settle Quakers every Monday and Thursday 10.30-1.30

Knit and Natter every Wednesday all year round in hub office in Commercial Courtyard 10-12

Community Fridge

Monday and Thursday 2.30-4.15
Wed 10-12

EXCEPT Christmas Day and New Years Day (both Mondays this season)

Reconnecting The River Ribble

A major phase of work to improve the Long Preston floodplain is due to be completed by Ribble Rivers Trust this month.

Located close to Settle and Long Preston, the Long Preston Deeps is one of the few Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Trust's catchment, providing an important habitat for birds and breeding waders and supporting many rare plants. The floodplain also holds a huge amount of water so plays a vital role in controlling and containing flood waters. The Wigglesworth Hall Flood Plain Reconnection Project reconnects the river with the floodplain at Wigglesworth Hall Farm. The work has involved moving 1,200m of em-



bankment, more than 10,000 cubic metres of material, from its existing position and setting it back. Material from the old embankment has then been used to construct the new one. A shallow decline to the river's edge

has been created from the original embankment so local angling clubs can still use it to fish.

Among several challenges facing the project was the weather. "We got hit by two weeks of downpours and as much as the contractors (Dinsdale Moorland Services) had some excellent low ground pressure vehicles, we had to suspend works so as not to damage the land," said RRT project manager, Guy Mason. "Our carefully constructed temporary works became inundated, and appeared very moat like, however after a break in the rain the contractors redoubled their efforts and have managed to keep the project on track and on time".



Once completed, the project should reduce the natural flood risk, improve land for breeding waders including lapwing, curlew and redshank, restore degrading peat, reduce agricultural diffuse water pollution and encourage natural river processes. The project has been made possible thanks to a DEFRA supported Higher Tier Countryside

Stewardship Scheme. This has also enabled a local farmer to upgrade the infrastructure of his farmyard which will help to improve the wider environment. The Environment Agency, Natural England and fishing communities have been stakeholders in the project too.

For further information about Ribble Rivers Trust, visit www.ribbletrust.org.uk or contact Ribble Rivers Trust on 01200 444452 or via admin@ribbletrust.com

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Christmas Menu available from 20th Nov

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Family Fun! Take our **NEW Cheese Trail Quiz**
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Christmas greetings from Settle Town Council

This year's successful Christmas Lights display and Switch On held on Saturday 25 November featured an array of stalls selling seasonal delights alongside local charity and community groups entertaining visitors young and not so young alike. Once again Santa was present in his grotto, thanks to Settle Rotary.

Live music and performances from local school children and groups entertained the crowds during the day, which was followed by the big countdown to the Christmas lights switch on and firework display.

Special thanks to the following sponsors: Arla for sponsoring the event and Tarmac Dry Rigg Quarry for funding the firework display. Rosa & Matteo's, Settle District Chamber of Trade, Marshall Taylor and Conserve for all contributed towards this year's event and the lighting display. Special thanks must also go to Treetops forestry team, the Anley estate and the team at Knights Stainforth for such a beautiful Christmas tree on the marketplace.

Finally thanks to the many local businesses and organisations who donated prizes to the well supported raffle; and the volunteers who help

make the event run smoothly and provide a great day.

2024/25 budget and precept

Work is progressing on drawing up the Council's budget for the next financial year and setting the precept which is collected as part of your North Yorkshire Council tax. The details will be finalised at the Council meeting on Monday 8 January 2024 and details will be published on the Council's web site (and in the next issue of the Community News).

Voice your concerns

North Yorkshire Police will be holding 'drop in' sessions at the Town Hall from 10.00am – 2.00pm on various Tuesdays throughout the year, please consult the Council's website or social media for confirmation of the dates.

The Police also provide the Council with a monthly report on incidents reported to them in Settle, which is discussed at our monthly council meetings.

Come and join us

We still have one vacancy for a councillor on the Town Council. To qualify you must be at least 18 years old, be on the register of electors in the Settle Parish or have lived within 4.8km of Settle for the last year.

Further details please contact the Clerk at Settle Town Hall, Settle, BD24 9EJ or email clerk@settletown-council.gov.uk.

The Council also welcome the involvement of the local community. Have you thought about volunteering with the Council? There are lots of opportunities to be involved, whether you can spare a few hours a week or want to be involved in an annual event. Bench maintenance, DIY, gardening, remembrance Sunday and the Christmas lights switch on event all provide an opportunity to be involved with your local community.

Seasonal Greetings and the best for 2024

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all Parishioners a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please keep safe and warm during the festive period and we look forward to a happy and prosperous 2024 in Settle.

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COLD CREAM

FERDINAND MOUNT



Given the Editor's warning last time about the possible demise of the News (which I fervently hope does not happen) I am going to take what may be my last chance to review an autobiography – in fact an autobiography by a living author whom I happen to know.

The book is *Cold Cream – My Early Life and Other Mistakes* (2008) by Ferdinand Mount. Ferdy, as he is always known, is, in full, Sir William Robert Ferdinand Mount, Bt., though he chooses not to use the title. (He inherited it from his father, who, improbably, was a steeplechase jockey.) I first met Ferdy in July 1983, when he was Head of the 10 Downing Street Policy Unit, and we met because he and Margaret Thatcher, sitting together in her flat over No. 10, were interviewing me to join the said Unit (which I did). Mrs T. did more of the talking, not because she crowded him out, but because Ferdy, English gentleman to his boots, always let ladies go first. With his urbanity, his pale blue eyes, richly

modulated upper-crust voice and rubicund complexion, he was easily as memorable as she. The photo below nicely captures his Mona Lisa smile but it is too wan.



Ferdinand Mount

Why is *Cold Cream* so called? It comes from his recollection of “the hairbrushes and the jars of Pond’s cold cream” that stood on his mother’s dressing table when he was a boy. Not much of a hook to hang an autobiography on, but enough to get him away. Unconventionally, Ferdy starts not with his childhood but with a trip to Italy at the age of sixteen. In support of setting off in mid-stream he quotes Mark Twain: “start [your autobiography] at no particular time of your life; wander at your free will all over your life; talk only about the thing that interests you for the moment”. Ferdy was sixty-nine when the book was published, so he had plenty of ground, social and geographic, to wander over. His travels and his exquisite prose together beguile readers with their elegance and originality. Ferdy is to words

what Mozart was to music.

His has been a lifetime of words. At Eton one of his teachers was David Cornwell, better known later as John le Carré. At Oxford he rubbed shoulders with the eminent Professor Lord David Cecil, though if possible at a safe distance because Cecil's speech was laden with spit. Other literary characters who appear in *Cold Cream* include Kingsley Amis, Anthony Powell, Graham Greene, and the egregiously caustic Auberon Waugh (who described Neil Kinnock as having the face of an habituated bedwetter). Yet Ferdy fashioned his career mainly as a journalist: he has written for *The Sunday Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Spectator*, and *The London Review of Books*. From 1991 to 2002 he edited *The Times Literary Supplement*. He has published an impressive number of essays and articles – and thirteen novels too. His pen, again like Mozart's, has hardly ever been still.

For an autobiography *Cold Cream* is impressively free of the pronoun "I". Ferdy's eye, if you will pardon the pun, is turned ever outwards. We picture him less from what he says about himself than from his depictions of the people he met. These were mostly of a literary or political bent (there is almost no mention of scientists). Readers of my generation will find their memories jogged by tales of public figures who, for good or ill, hit the headlines during the 1970s and 1980s – Ted Heath,

Selwyn Lloyd, Keith Joseph, Cecil Parkinson and of course Margaret Thatcher. But his cast list is not all politicians: you will find the Test Match Special commentator Henry Blofeld; the violinist Jascha Heifetz, whom Ferdy beat at table tennis; and the convicted spy George Blake, who apparently led a life of luxury in *Wormwood Scrubs*. Ferdy's characters are engagingly portrayed. Here he is on Diana, the hunting-mad daughter of Lord Bath, owner of Longleat: "Diana the huntress looked unnervingly like her prey. She was a sparkling, foxy-faced beauty who made the room come alive before she opened her mouth. She was also a duchess, still, just, being separated from the Duke, who had decamped with the harbourmaster's wife in Kyrenia." Or, at the opposite end of the spectrum, Alfred Sherman, a loose-cannon policy advisor kept at a distance by Mrs Thatcher and not only by her: "Alfred's voice dripped malice and menace...the heavy tweed suit and bow tie that he tended to wear only added to the impression of suppressed violence." Spot on, as I found out when Alfred began badgering me too.

Cold Cream abounds in such vignettes, sometimes touching, often amusing, and invariably well-turned, but, sadly, the space constraints of the *News* compel me to cut them short.

In 1983, having helped Margaret Thatcher achieve a 140-seat ma-

majority, Ferdy decided he had done enough. Running the Policy Unit and writing her speeches had worn him down and, worse, cramped his liberty. Of course, he had first to persuade Herself that he was serious about leaving, but when he succeeded, “It was as good as being told that you don’t have cancer any more. In fact ten years later, when I was told precisely that after a disagreeable interlude, I remember thinking, This is as good as leaving Number Ten.”

Later, after a gap of over twenty-five years, I twice met Ferdy again at reunions. He was utterly and delightfully unchanged, and I remember hoping that, like his erstwhile boss, he would go on and on and on. I’m glad to say that at eighty-four he still is.

Bob Young



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The bells! The bells!

I suffer from insomnia. Many are the mornings when I wake to pitch blackness, fumble for my tranny and tangled ear-pieces, apologise profusely to my long-suffering wife for disturbing her slumber and tune in to the BBC World Service in the early hours of GMT, though the programme participants could be anywhere on the planet. Ah...fond memories of Radio Ham Hancock berating a distressed sailor for driving his boat in the dark.

Sunday morning listening tends towards the spiritual and I enjoy very much the dulcet tones of that very nice man, Mark Tully, musing on the finer things in life. So there I am lying back contemplating the thoughts of this most gentle of men, possibly drifting off into a pre-porridge trance, when I'm assailed by 'Bells on Sunday'. Now I'm no townie. I love it here in the boondocks—the bucolic peace, the cattle a-lowing, the sheep a-bleating, the helicopters a-whirring, the jets a-screaming, the steam trains a-hooting. Who could ask for anything more?

I ask for something less. I can do without this intrusive cacophony. In the introduction to 'Bells on Sunday' we're informed that the bells are tuned to the key of 'F' or some such. Tuned! They must be joking! It's just an impenetrable wall of sound, though even less melodic than Phil Spector, yet just as mur-

derous. Now I know how that Scarborough lad, Charles Laughton, felt when he played Quasimodo in the 1939 adaptation of Victor Hugo's 'Le Bossu de Notre-Dame'. What a load of bells!

Now I've nothing against campanologists per se. I married one, though lapsed, with no ropes attached. A good friend, Colin Ashwell, indulges in this noisy pursuit. He's basically quite sane, a pillar of society, a kindly chap of normally noble bent, not one consciously to inflict pain on his fellow man. He's a jolly good egg—a member of the u3a/Settle Cricket Club's Walking Cricket squad, no less. Need I say more? Yet he consorts with like-unminded folk to torment sensitive souls such as myself with their torturing ring-tinnabulations. I suspect his main aim is to strengthen his muscles and improve his co-ordination for the benefit of the WC team next season, when we seek revenge against the mighty Ilkley u3a. He may even have his sights on the Walking Cricketer of 2024 Cup. Give him enough rope....

Settle Parish Church's merry band of ringers invited me to a practice session and yes, they're a lovely, friendly, welcoming bunch. They were happy to show me the ropes and the bells themselves—8 of them, including the 14 cwt tenor. Those present were Gillian Parrington (Ringmaster, but without top-hat), Jen Darling, Mags Hawkesford, Christine Kelly, Ve Walker and Colin. So am



Cooper, freezing....But the highlight was the visit to the Tower, where I actually enjoyed listening to Reginald Dixon. But this was no stuffy church organ. He played tunes that I knew from the telly. And his organ came up and went back down into the bowels of the building with Reg still playing and smiling. He was enjoying himself and so were we.

I mistaken in my lack of appreciation? Could I be wrong? It has been known. 1973? I jest. Have I totally misunderstood the motives of campanologists? Are they not the malevolent spirits 'Bells on Sunday' had led me to believe?

As we hurtle towards the season of good-will, I should perhaps be more tolerant of what I'd thought to be aural assailants. Maybe a compromise solution could be reached. Allow the campanologists to go like the clappers from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day and, for the other part of the year, insist that they desist or, if they feel the urgent need to exercise their arms, at least wrap their clappers in rubber to drown the din. Silent Night, it ain't.

It's the same with organs. As a child, I was taken each year to see the Blackpool illuminations. We'd spend the hours of daylight ambling about, gambling pennies away in the Amusement Arcades, going to the zoo, building sand castles, avoiding donkey droppings, eating candy floss and ice cream, laughing at Tommy

But the only organs I hear now are of the huge booming tuneless variety in churches, cathedrals and the Albert Hall. Dupré, Copland, Khachaturian, Saint-Saëns and Franck are composers who have tried in vain to wring a tune out of this monstrous instrument but the organ symphony which is suffered most on dear, familiar Classic FM is Widor's Fifth Racket. He wrote ten. He just took ages to get it wrong enough. I believe I'm right in thinking his Fifth is the most ubiquitous. I deliberated, for a whole nano-second, listening to them all to make sure, but I'd soon have lost the will to live. Life's far too short for an organ symphony.

Spiritually speaking, I prefer nice quiet Quaker meetings. Imagine trying to focus on crucial global issues, matters of life and death to the accompaniment of an organ! What beautiful thoughts could be engendered by that commotion? Having attended gatherings of Friends in Oxford in my youth, I'd assumed that all Quaker musings were highly philosophical. Much later, in Work-sop, a group-member piped up with

a description of local agriculture and the effects of climate on the crops. I listened attentively, waiting patiently for an earth-shattering, thought-provoking punch-line, which finally arrived with the words: 'So that's why your Digestives are sometimes crumbly'. Wonderful! No boom-boom and no bells either.



Historically, bells are some of the oldest 'musical' instruments in the world, dating back to 3500 BC China. Whose brilliant idea was it to fetch them over here? They are also the loudest, Bow Bells being audible six miles away in Hackney. Winston Churchill decreed that all church bells should be silenced so that their ringing could be reserved to warn of enemy invasion. Clever man, Mr Churchill. He knew that Hitler's Operation Sea Lion would never get off the ground. He was safe in his bunker—from Nazi attacks, but more importantly, from those bally bells!

However, to end on a positive note (Ho Ho!), I recant. My visit to the bellringers has re-educated me. Under the bed-sheets will always be too

intrusive an experience and I shall no longer inflict on myself the clamour of 'Bells on Sunday'. Instead I will enjoy the distant chimes wafting merrily across the valley and picture each practitioner at the end of a rope. If you wish to join the jolly crew in Settle Parish Church tower at 7.30 of a Friday evening, contact Parish Priest, Julie Clarkson on 01729 825451, or Stuart Heath.

Now would anyone care to put me right vis-à-vis the organ?

Ian Gray

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BAAAAA HUMBUGS!

It is clear from today's newspapers that we -i.e. humans - need some help. This week someone has even driven into Settle Booths and stolen the ATM; meanwhile the armoured buildings of former banks are abandoned. Christmas Eve is coming; all the other animals get the chance to speak around midnight and maybe we should seek their advice. With the permission of our local shepherd, I suggest we round up a good posse of ewes and rams and find out how the future looks from the fellside. We mustn't expect help with any tasks that need keyboard skills, (they may be ok with nose swiping.) But as usual they will probably repeat their demand to have a say about what colours are splashed on

their rumps. And then they will be requesting more choice in Himalayan salt licks, mixed herbs or cheese and onion. As for our problems it will be BAAAA Humbug.

There are a lot of humbugs about at the moment especially here in Yorkshire. Every week I read news bulletins about the latest sweet shop to be voted best in the country; it is always somewhere in Yorkshire. These are not places where you might get a box of chocolates or a tube of smarties; they are proper Sweet Shoppes where everything is artisan-made according to traditional recipes from a LOST army of grandmothers and aunts. It seems a strange craze given the national shortage of present and future dentists. I must admit to a personal aversion to hard sticky sugar flavoured with rhubarb and custard. I suspect it is due to a vivid memory, whether real or imagined, of sitting upright in a pram with a stick of barley sugar filled with chocolate flavoured something inserted in my mouth which our dog was attempting to devour from the other end! I admit that a packet of Fisherman's Friends is always next to my keyboard as I write this but at least they come in a paper packet.

I support anything that reduces the amount of packaging, especially the type that requires gym trained muscles to tear open. But I am sure everyone remembers the story of Billy Humbug and what can happen when you swallow something

without taking a magnifying glass to the list of additives. Billy's real name was William Hardaker; he had a street stall in Bradford in the 1850s. His humbugs were popular because they were twopence a pound cheaper than his rivals. Humbugs were a bestseller because at the time the city air was not particularly sweet smelling unless inhaled through a minty filter. Bradford Beck was known as the River Stink and there was no shortage of slaughterhouses amongst the crowded back-to-back dwellings.

Billy didn't make his own humbugs. He bought them from Joseph Neal, a wholesaler on Stone Street, near Forster Square station. At the time it was a common practice in poor urban areas to keep prices down by substituting a percentage of expensive ingredients with something cheaper. Sawdust in ground pepper, potatoes, ground bones, plaster of Paris in bread. In the 1850s sugar had become extremely expensive, partly due to demand outstripping supply and partly due to a punitive tax. Every pound of sugar cost the equivalent of £50 today. Sweet makers often bulked out their sugar with daft, also known as stuff, flash or molten, and usually consisting of plaster of Paris and powdered limestone.

Neal's head sweet maker, James Appleton, made humbugs to a recipe approved by Hardaker, 40 pounds of sugar, twelve pounds of daft, 4

pounds of gum and a drop or two of peppermint oil. Neal claimed that his daft was superior quality and came from Derbyshire's peaks. One day in October 1858 his daft was running low, Neal sent his lodger James Archer to fetch 12 pounds from pharmacist Charles Hodgson who had a shop in Shipley. Hodgson being sick, the shop was staffed by a new untrained assistant, William Goddard, who had no idea what daft was. He checked with Hodgson upstairs who was not fit enough to come down to the shop but told Goddard where to find a barrel of white sugar like substance. Goddard weighed out 12 pounds and Archer took it back to Neal.

When Appleton made his next batch of humbugs he used all the newly purchased daft. The resulting sweets looked slightly darker than usual. When Hardaker arrived to collect his order, he noticed the colour and demanded a discount. He was pleased when his stall was extra busy that day, a Saturday, until he felt unwell mid-afternoon and left an assistant to take charge.

That night two local boys aged 9 and 11 died suddenly, a common occurrence in the city and cholera was suspected. The next day more children and some adults died; many more were seriously unwell. The police interviewing the families quickly spotted a link to Billy's humbugs and went to fetch him. Billy was now bedridden with sickness but sent

them to Neal. Neal and the Chief Constable raced to Shipley but as it was Sunday it took several hours to track down Hodgson and his assistant who remembered selling the daft. He took them to the barrel he had used which Neal identified as arsenic trioxide. Arsenic was widely used in Victorian houses to deal with rats, pests and sprinkled on carpets to clean them.

On November 4th the Bradford Observer published a detailed account of that Sunday night, October 31st.. At 9.00 p.m. the town crier began touring the streets ringing his loudest bell and shouting warnings about the sweets; he continued until 6.00 am by which time the police had papered the town with dire warning notices. Residents described the fear and panic that spread that night with the bells, the shouting, the pain, vomiting and diarrhoea; some feared the plague had come.

There is no doubt that the police and the Town Crier saved many lives. Police seized another 1500 humbugs; each contained enough to kill two adults. Sadly, at least 18 people died, almost half under 10 years old. Over 200 were seriously ill, some with symptoms that lasted for years; 15 mill workers from Shipley were dangerously ill and no-one ever knew how many out-of-town visitors had succumbed to the mints. Humbug Billy himself was left paralysed but continued selling sweets until his death 3 years later. The pharma-

cist Hodgson was charged with manslaughter but acquitted; his “daft” assistant and Neal were also charged but these charges were dropped at the Assizes 2 months later.

The Food Adulteration Act of 1860 brought in much needed regulations; the Pharmacy Act of 1868 tightened up controls on pharmacists. Even so the practice of adding things to sweets was not completely stamped out. In 1955 a cough lozenge laced with sodium chlorate left in a coat pocket reacted with cleaning fumes and exploded in a Sunderland dry cleaners killing an assistant. So best be careful of what you swallow this Christmas; global sugar prices have increased by 41.9 %. If you need to clear your airways with a humbug suck a Fisherman’s Friend then wash it down with a class of crème de menthe. That works.

Barry Forster



Would you buy humbugs
from this man?



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COMMUNITY FRIDGE AT THE LITTLE HUB

The Community Fridge is currently open Mondays and Thursdays 2.30 - 4.15pm and Wednesday mornings 10 am - 12 noon at the Little Hub in Commercial Courtyard next to Craven Homelet.

Our Community Fridge is a great way of reducing fruit and veg waste from local supermarkets but also allows local gardeners, residents and businesses to pass on surplus food they will not use. If you end up buying too much over the festive season, get fewer visitors than expected or get given foods you don't like.. please think of us!

We are very grateful for all the interest in the Community Fridge and now increasingly swapping 'non-food' things like toiletries, small kitchen items like crockery and pans, small items of gardening equipment and will be doing a lot of seed and plant swaps when weather improves. Thanks to Co op and Booths for their support and donations of fruit, veg, baked goods and

also the growing number of individuals and local businesses like Whole-some Bee, Forage and Feast and Drake and Macefield who are passing surplus or short dated things on to us.

If you would like to donate or pick up food but can't make it when the Community Fridge is open you can come to us at Settle Quakers on Monday or Thursdays where we hold our Public Living Rooms between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm. You can also leave food with Paul from Barclays when he is doing the pop-up banking on Tuesdays and Fridays from our office between 9.30am and 3.30pm. We also leave some food outside Victoria Hall by the 'free bookcase' on Mondays and Thursday mornings if we have a lot of surplus veg and bread. Steve the Co-op cleaner leaves surplus food there sometimes too.

Thanks to Ethel for being a regular visitor and being our poster girl!

For more information contact Jo on hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk or call her on 07977 040329.

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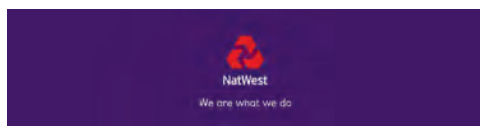


BARCLAYS

Lloyds bank have stopped doing their pop up banking service from the hub in Commercial Courtyard but the mobile bank still comes to Settle on Wednesdays every other week.

They will be in Whitefriars car park between 10.30am and 12.30pm on alternate Wednesdays. You can check dates on the Lloyds website.

<https://www.lloydsbank.com/banking-with-us/mobile-branch/yorkshire.html#Settle>



NatWest mobile van is also in Whitefriars car park every Monday (except Bank Holidays) between 12 noon and 12.30pm. If you miss it, they go on to Ingleton and are in the Wheatsheaf car park 2pm till 2.30pm.

Barclays at the hub Tuesdays and Fridays

As many of you will be aware, Barclays branch in Settle closed in February 2022 but they are still offering a pop-up banking service from the hub in Commercial Courtyard. Barclays have confirmed this will continue in 2024 with the existing hours so will be in Settle on Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30am - 3.30pm.

Paul who used to work in the branch is usually the one running these sessions. He will not be able to handle cash or pay cheques in but can help with a range of other banking queries and get people set up with phone or online banking or how to use the Barclays app or post office for transactions.

Please be aware that hub staff cannot take phone calls or messages for Barclays and if you want to talk to Paul you need to come in person.

Barclays will NOT be in on Tuesday 26th December as it is a Bank Holiday but will be here Friday 29th December as usual 9.30am till 3.30pm.

PUBLIC LIVING ROOM AT SETTLE QUAKERS

Our Public Living Room is open to anyone who wants to come along at Settle Quakers on Mondays and Thursdays every week from 10.30am to 1.30pm. All our groups and activities carry on all year round – we are only closed on the bank holiday Mondays this year for Christmas Day and New Years Day.



We offer hot drinks and meals (but please come before 1 if you want feeding), our visitors can play card games or Connect 4, there is always a jigsaw to do, craft activities or help with cooking, but no pressure to do anything if people just want a chat and some company.

All Public Living Rooms are run on similar lines and the first one started in Sheffield in 2016 but now there are many around the world. They were originally run by a charity Camerados and early ones were based in libraries or as pop-up events in shopping centres or hospitals. Public Living Rooms try to encourage visitors to stick to these six Camerados ideas: understand it's ok to be a bit

rubbish, don't try to fix people, have fun, mix with people unlike yourself, disagree respectfully, if someone is struggling ask them to help you.

In the run up to Christmas we are doing things at the Public Living Room like fused glass decorations, soap making and beeswax wraps to give visitors a chance to make festive gifts for themselves or other people. As the weather improves we will do more trips to the allotment and gardening for those that fancy it.

Hub staff are always on hand to have a chat with people who may need a bit more support in general or with things like understanding bills, advice about energy saving, filling in forms or directing them to other organisations for support if necessary.

Any questions email Jo hub@settle-communityandbusinesshub.org.uk or 07977 040329

INK RECYCLING AT THE HUB

Recycle Your Inkjet Cartridges For Charity



We are still collecting any sort of ink cartridge, big or small, used or unused, for recycling. We can send

them off and get a little bit of money back for them.

Small ink cartridges can be popped through the Settle Community and Business Hub letter box at Unit 1, Commercial Courtyard or left with us when someone is in the office. If we aren't in you can also leave them with Craven Homelet next door or with Paul from Barclays when he is in the Hub on Tuesdays and Fridays.

There are now collection boxes at the Quakers and St Johns.

If you have a large amount to drop off please contact Jo on hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk or phone 07977 040329. Thanks.

own. We sometimes do sessions on felting, making lampshades or beeswax wraps but usually people bring their own things to work on.

All are welcome - no sewing or knitting skills required.. you can always learn or just natter!

This group carries on all year round so we will be there over the Christmas holidays. These sessions are free to attend and funded by the Well Together team at Bradford District Care Trust.

Any questions contact Jo 07977 040329 or email hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk

KNIT (OR SEW) AND NATTER EVERY WEDNESDAY



This group meets at the Settle Hub office in Commercial Courtyard every Wednesday 10am – 12 noon. We have sewing machines, lots of fabric, knitting needles and wool at the hub so feel free to come and use our materials and equipment or bring your

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HISTORIC BUTCHERS MEAT DEMAND



Craven's longest serving independent family butcher, Drake & Macefield reflects on this year's significant milestone - 125th years in business spanning three centuries, operating three branches and delivering direct to customers.

Gaining numerous local and national awards along the way, including a 2023 Great Taste Award, the family butchers has grown considerably since it was established on Otley Street in Skipton in 1898 by Robert Drake who was soon joined by his young nephew Jack Macefield, initially after school and on Saturdays before finishing his education.

Jack' son, Ian Macefield, recalls his father telling how he was often late for school as he considered their customers to be his number one priority. He explained how his Uncle Bob taught him how to judge the best quality cattle and sheep so that young Jack soon utilised those skills at the local farms and auctions. Jack maintained the provision

of best quality and customer service throughout his working life and Ian believes he would be justly proud that Drake & Macefield continue this philosophy today.

Jack died in in the early 80s, and nearly a century after the butchers shop was founded, in 1985 Ian Thompson who had been trained by Jack took over the business and was joined by partner, Richard Teal in 1997. Following Ian's retirement in 2016, Richard Teal's sons Andrew and Steven joined the business restoring the original 'family business' ethos. In turn, they are joined by brothers Steven and Adam Proctor who manage the Skipton and Settle shops respectively.

Drake & Macefield has weathered many challenges over the years including two world wars, post war rationing. 'foot and mouth' which affected supply, along with recessions and vigorous competition from supermarkets which forced many butchers out of business. Far from closing, the firm has grown from strength to strength and now boasts branches in Settle, opened in 2000, and in Crosshills in 2018, along with a processing unit and a bakery producing their award-winning pies.

Drake & Macefield now employs 28 staff and as well as serving domestic customers, commercial contracts mean its pies are favoured by Leeds Utd supporters and many local hotels, pubs, restaurants and village stores.

COVID lockdown brought about a seismic shift in the way Drake & Macefield serves its customer base. Responding quickly to demand from its loyal customers, the team had to find a way to fulfil 250 deliveries a day. The firm soon had a fleet of five vans dashing round the dales and Aire Valley, ensuring their quality meat products kept people fed during those worrying times. An online shop had to be hastily constructed on the website to ease the administration of the new click-and-collect and home delivery service.

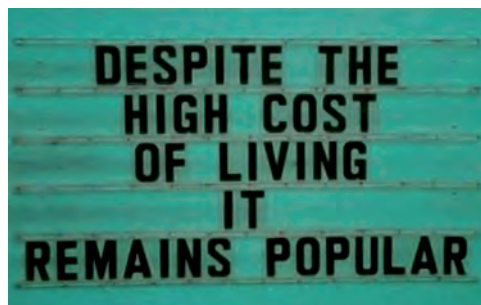
Although COVID restrictions are largely forgotten, the legacy of the online delivery service is still thriving. Director Steven Teal explains “Customer demand is paramount alongside the quality of produce we offer, so if the customer enjoys the convenience of farm fresh meat delivered to their own doorstep, then that’s what we’ll continue to provide. Offering our own pies, sausages, cured and smoked meats, alongside delicious ready-to-cook meals, we are much more than a traditional small town butchers!”




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NEW PRODUCTION TEAM

The new production team for Settle Community News comprises: **Paul Cochrane, John Drake, Annie Gammon, Phil Hinde, Mike Smith, and Barry White.** The team will introduce themselves in more detail in the next issue, due out in February 2024.

If you would like to get in touch with content submissions, letters, ideas and suggestions, advertising enquiries, distribution queries or anything else relating to the magazine, please use the following contact details:

e-mail: contact@settleneews.co.uk Phone: (01729) 823083

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