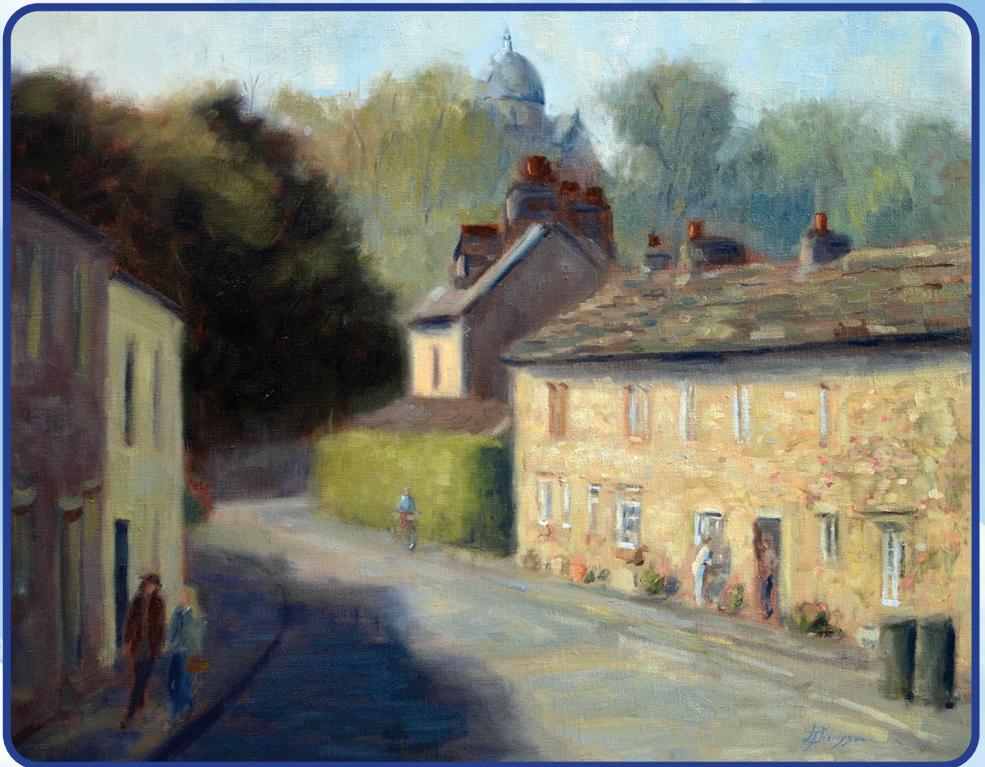


Settle & District Community News

Produced & Distributed Free by Volunteers

No. 192 April/May 2026



Happy Easter



NEW TO GIGGLESWICK!
JAPANESE HEAD SPA

A Japanese Head Spa is a holistic treatment designed to improve scalp health, promote hair growth, and provide deep relaxation. It combines cleansing, massage, steam, and nourishing treatments for both beauty and well-being.

WHAT IT INVOLVES:

Scalp Massage

Stimulates blood circulation, eases tension, and detoxifies with nourishing oils.

Steam Therapy

Opens pores for deeper absorption of nutrients and added relaxation.

Cleansing

Specialized shampoos remove impurities, buildup, and excess oil through a double cleanse.

Lymphatic Drainage

Reduces puffiness and supports a youthful, refreshed appearance.

Conditioning

Hydrating masks and conditioners restore softness, strength, and shine.

Relaxing Environment

A tranquil, spa-like setting to reset mind, body, and scalp.

KEY BENEFITS:

Scalp Health

Removes buildup, balances natural oils, and creates an optimal environment for hair growth.

Hair Growth & Strength

Improved circulation strengthens follicles and encourages growth.

Stress Relief

Massage techniques melt away tension, headaches, and mental fatigue.

Glow & Vitality

Healthier scalp = softer, shinier, stronger hair.

Holistic Care

Promotes overall well-being, clarity, and calmness.

Head Spa Deluxe (60 Min / £70)

Also includes neck and shoulder massage, arms and hands massage plus face mask and facial massage too!

Also available:

- Aromatherapy massage
- Hot Stones Massage
- Luxury Facials
- Hopi Ear Candles
- Indian Head Massage
- Gift vouchers

For more information visit
www.mallardsmassagetherapy.co.uk | Call/text 07866262947
relax@mallardsmassagetherapy.co.uk
The Mallards, Raines Road, Giggleswick, BD24 0AQ
f i @mallardsmassagetherapy



Editor's Welcome



As Easter approaches, there are dark clouds of conflict and economic uncertainty all over the news, but living in the Yorkshire Dales, sometimes just a glance out of the window as the days get longer and the sun shines brighter can lift the mood. As I write, I can see sheep munching grass in the fields, oblivious to the gloomy headlines that form our own daily diet. Life goes on all around us.

On our cover we have a view of Giggleswick by Settle-based landscape and still-life artist Luke Thompson. He is running a two-day painting workshop in Skipton on 18th-19th April. Check www.lukethompsonart.com for details.

We are always keen to hear what's happening across our community, so if you have a news story, event or update to share, please do get in touch. We are also looking for volunteers to help cover local sport, particularly our cricket and football clubs.

We are delighted to welcome some new advertisers this issue. Look out for them inside and support them if you can. If you are interested in advertising your own business, turn to page 63 for details.

However you plan to spend Easter, I hope you have an enjoyable and uplifting time. Buy your chocolate eggs locally if possible! Details of church events and services around the district are available on our website at www.settlenews.co.uk.

John Drake

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Issue 192: Apr/May 2026

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Published on a non-profit making basis.

Printed by
Stephens & George Ltd
Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 3TD

Distributed free of charge bi-monthly to homes across Settle and District, including Selside, Tosside, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Rathmell, Stainforth, Langcliffe, Austwick, Eldroth, Giggleswick, Long Preston and Hellifield.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication. Views expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or publishers.



Deliverer honoured

Gerry Card (94), seen here with his wife Margaret, was honoured at the annual gathering of the *Community News* production and distribution teams, as almost certainly our oldest deliverer. Gerry has been popping the magazine through letterboxes in Long Preston for many years and intends to keep doing so for a few more years to come.

Editor John Drake told those present at the event, held at Settle Social Club in January, that he was delighted with the range of contributions to the magazine, showing just how much is happening in our community. Phil Hinde, who acts as chair of the group responsible for the publication, reported that we remain in a reasonably strong financial position and attractive to advertisers as, thanks to the team of deliverers, we reach households not just in Settle and Giggleswick but across an area between Ribbleshead and Hellifield.

Community News will also be among the organisations with a presence at the annual meeting of Settle Town Council on Monday 27th April, so do come along and have a chat.

Solicitors move to new Settle premises

Walker Foster Solicitors has relocated its Settle office after six years at a prominent corner site in Market Place.

The firm has moved to larger premises at No. 1 High Street, near The Talbot, placing it alongside the town's estate agents and close to other legal practices in what could be seen as a developing legal and property hub.

The previous office, formerly Garnett's electrical shop, is now on the market, with hopes locally that the site will be quickly reoccupied.

Founded in 1919 in Skipton by brothers Arthur Henry Walker and Horace Walker, the firm has expanded across a number of Yorkshire market towns, including Barnoldswick, Silsden, Ilkley, Northallerton and Harrogate. Its Settle branch opened in 2020 during the pandemic and has grown steadily, prompting the move to larger premises.

The local team is led by Anna Robinson, supported by private client specialist Sarah Richardson. The firm says the expansion reflects its confidence in Settle as a thriving community and a good fit for its services.

Walker Foster adds that it remains committed to providing a personal and reliable service, with a focus on long-term client relationships and community engagement.

Pool prices held for a second year

There will be no increase in prices at Settle Area Swimming Pool this spring.

Admission charges are being held for the second year running following a significant improvement in the pool's finances, mainly due to the success of the pool's fundraising shops and, in particular, the unit at Sowarth Industrial Estate that opened last year. As with all public swimming pools, the admission charges do not cover running costs, and it is only thanks to the fundraising shops that the pool is able to balance its books and build up the funds needed to pay off the loans that helped finance the redevelopment work that took place a few years ago.



New headteacher for Austwick Primary School

Mrs Beth McHardy has been appointed headteacher of Austwick Primary School. She was previously interim headteacher. During the time she held the interim head post, the school has welcomed many new children. The school attributes this to the welcoming family atmosphere created by Mrs McHardy, as well as the support given to parents by offering breakfast and after school care.

Since joining the school, Mrs McHardy has introduced running, Spanish and chess clubs, as well as balance bike training sessions. She plans for the children to participate in the ‘Green Tree’ award for outdoor learning and ‘Young Voices’ children’s choir concerts.

During the spring term, the children have also enjoyed a World Book Day trip to Settle Library (dressed as their favourite book characters, of course!), forest school sessions and a swimming gala with other local schools. The Year 6 children have been busy focusing on SATs preparation at a weekly breakfast club.

Mrs McHardy said: “Our school is a very special place, and that is in no small part due to the strong partnership between staff, families and our wider community. I am excited to continue working together to ensure our children thrive, feel valued and enjoy every opportunity to learn, grow and

achieve their best.”

Chair of Governors, Lindsey Smith, said: “The governors, supported by the local authority and the diocese, are delighted to be able to appoint such an inspirational headteacher to lead our school forwards and retain Austwick’s distinctiveness as a small rural school.”

Wildlife crime petition

Despite more than 70 years of full legal protection, raptor persecution remains a serious and persistent wildlife crime. The Yorkshire Dales is one of the UK’s worst-affected areas, with 152 confirmed incidents of persecution or suspicious disappearances recorded between 2009 and 2023.

To tackle these wildlife crimes effectively, the charity Friends of the Dales is asking people and supporting organisations to add their name to its petition seeking better national recording of wildlife crime; the introduction of sentencing guidelines and the strengthening of penalties for offenders; and more effective regulation for those industries where the crimes often happen. The full terms of the petition are on the Friends of the Dales website at www.friendsofthedales.org

The charity is also organising the following events to support its ‘Eyes on the Skies’ campaign:

Birding for beginners: Saturday 9th May, 10am–4pm. Designed especially for 18–35 year olds, this event, offered in collaboration with the Upper Wharfedale Field Society, comprises an informal but informative morning session near Grassington on what to look (and listen) for. In the afternoon, participants will venture out on a 4–5 mile scenic walk, spotting birds and learning how different species use the landscape throughout the year. To book, email: victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Online talk – talking raptor persecution with Dr Ruth Tingay: Wednesday 20th May, 5.30pm–7pm. An opportunity to

hear from wildlife conservationist Dr Ruth Tingay, who has worked in the field of raptor research and conservation for more than 30 years. A former president of the international Raptor Research Foundation, Ruth now focuses on campaigning against the illegal killing of birds of prey in the UK through the blog *Raptor Persecution UK*. She is also a co-director of the wildlife conservation organisation Wild Justice, with Chris Packham.

Book at: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Conservation in North Craven

Many readers will already be familiar with the local Craven Conservation Group (CCG), based in Settle but covering the North Craven area, including Malham, Bentham, Gargrave and Ingletton. The group exists as a local forum for anyone interested in countryside conservation in its widest sense, especially in wildlife and botany.

The group has over 100 members, most of whom live in this area or just outside, and its activities include talks, botanical surveys, guided walks, children's events, butterfly recording, and events about birds, mosses, fungi, grasses and sedges, as well as physical conservation work. We have a website and periodic newsletter that lists forthcoming events: <http://www.craven-conservation-group.org.uk/>

This year CCG is celebrating its 43rd year in existence and would be delighted to welcome new members who have an interest in nature and wildlife conservation. By the time you read this edition of *Community News*, the winter talks programme (September to March) will be completed and attention will turn to outdoor activities during the spring and summer.

One example of a project we are currently supporting is the management of Edith's Wood near Westhouse (a Woodland Trust site), by undertaking baseline ecological surveys and updating

the Wood Management Plan, followed by the installation of an information board sponsored by CCG.

So, if you are...

- interested in collecting information about wildlife habitats and plant and animal species and sharing that information with others and relevant organisations
- wanting to identify sites of ecological value to local communities and assist in their long-term conservation
- keen to encourage public interest and concern for wildlife and landscape through a range of educational and social activities

why not come along to our next indoor meeting (in September), or get in touch about our summer events, and consider joining us as a member.

Ray Hill

The poster for Ground Nest Fest 2026 features a close-up of a curlew bird on the right side. On the left, there is a logo for 'GROUND NEST FEST' with a stylized bird and plants. To the right of the logo is the 'Yorkshire Wildlife Trust' logo, which includes a stylized bird head. The text on the poster reads: 'Join us for our annual Ground Nest Fest', 'Settle & Lawkland', 'Sat 18th & Sun 19th April', and 'Find out more at ywt.org.uk/ground-nest-fest'.

Ground Nest Fest 2026

Do you know your plovers from your peewits? Can you recognise the call of a curlew or the cry of an oystercatcher? Did you know that hen harriers and short-eared owls also nest on the ground in the Yorkshire Dales?

On Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust programmes Wild Ingleborough and Yorkshire Peat Partnership are joining forces to bring you

Ground Nest Fest – a celebration of the many ground-nesting birds who make our Yorkshire uplands their summer homes.

Although a common sight in our landscape, several ground-nesting species such as the lapwing and curlew face an uncertain future as their numbers are in steep decline. The Yorkshire Dales is a stronghold for many iconic ground-nesting birds, whose unique characters and distinctive calls are woven into the fabric of our landscape. At Ground Nest Fest we'll be celebrating these beautiful birds and discussing ways we can play our part in protecting them.

On the Saturday you'll find us at the Friends' Meeting House, Settle, where we're very excited to host talks from Keasden farmer Colin Price, celebrated nature writer Amy-Jane Beer and RSPB Curlew Ambassador Suzannah Rockett. There will also be stalls from local organisations working to protect our landscape, and the chance to make your own ground-nesting bird mask or kestrel kite. At the end of the day, we'll be taking our creations on a parade around Settle, joined by a flock of beautiful bird puppets made by local community groups.

On Sunday morning, join us a few miles outside Settle at Lawkland Hall Farm, within the beautiful Forest of Bowland National Landscape. The Websters have made their commercial dairy farm a haven for all kinds of wading birds, and there'll be a chance to meet the farmers and RSPB staff who support their conservation work, as well as see the birds in action from their hide. We're teaming up with the Forest of Bowland National Landscape to make this a fully accessible event, part of 'Festival Bowland'.

On Sunday evening, we'll be returning to Settle for an opportunity to see celebrated musicians Dan Haywood, Ben Avison, Sam Lawrence and Becky Taylor perform as an ensemble for the first time, with a set of traditional and original music inspired by birds and the landscape and curated

especially for Ground Nest Fest. There will also be support from up-and-coming singer-songwriter Laura Sutcliffe.

To find out more about Ground Nest Fest, and for all bookings, please visit <https://www.ywt.org.uk/events/ground-nest-fest>

Wildlife Garden Open Day in Settle

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is celebrating its 80th anniversary with an Open Gardens event during May 2026.

You are invited to visit St John's Methodist Church Community Wildlife Garden on Wednesday 6th May and marvel at how the church has transformed a tarmac space into a wildlife haven. Visit our Community Wildlife Garden from 10.30am–4pm, when we will be serving refreshments, including homemade bakes. Wild Ingleborough will be joining us on the day, so come and say hello.

All money raised will be donated to the great work of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. To find out more, visit the trust at www.ywt.org.uk.

Wildlife charity rebrands as Yorkshire Dales Wildlife Rescue

Craven Wildlife Rescue has changed its name to Yorkshire Dales Wildlife Rescue, reflecting its growing reach across the region since it was founded in 2019.

The charity, now based at a wildlife hospital in Horton in Ribblesdale, operates across a wide area including the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, Cumbria, Lancashire and parts of North and West Yorkshire. Since its formation, it has rescued, rehabilitated and returned to the wild thousands of sick, injured and orphaned animals, many from endangered or vulnerable species.

Co-founder Jane Carpenter said the new name reflects both the organisation's development and its connection to the local area. "We have a really strong relationship with the Settle area," she said. "This name change shows how much we have grown

and acknowledges the vital role we now play in this special part of the UK.”

The charity has expanded from a home-based operation into a professional wildlife hospital, caring for a wide range of species from curlews and cormorants to hedgehogs, bats and badgers. Co-founder Penny Hunt said the change of name recognises that wider scope. “When we started, Craven was our patch, but we now care for wildlife from right across the region,” she said. “The name reflects our true scope rather than any change in what we do.”

Figures released earlier this year show a sharp rise in demand. In 2025, more than 750 mammals and birds were admitted – nearly double the previous year. Release rates have also improved, increasing from 68 per cent in 2024 to 74 per cent in 2025, significantly above the national average of 42.6 per cent.

The charity says the increase is due to a combination of factors, including growing demand across the Dales and surrounding areas, limited alternative facilities and the impact of climate change and human activity on wildlife.

Its future base is currently uncertain, however, as the former Church of England Primary School building it occupies may be put up for sale following its transfer to the Anglican Diocese of Leeds.

Support for the organisation has come from local MP Sir Julian Smith and councillor David Staveley. Patron Patrick Grant also highlighted the wider context, noting that around one in six UK species is now at risk of extinction and stressing the importance of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation work.

Tennis for all

Following a successful, if wet, winter season in which the club’s three mixed doubles teams finished second, third and first in the respective divisions of the Lancaster and Morecambe Vets League, Austwick Tennis Club, the only tennis club in this area, is looking forward to the

summer season, when it will be fielding two mixed doubles teams in the midweek Wharfedale League and, for the first time in a number of years, a men’s team, as well as a women’s team in the Saturday afternoon Bradford Parks League.

Social tennis remains the centre of club activities, with relaxed sessions on Monday and Friday mornings and slightly more competitive ones on Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings. The club is hoping to continue with coaching sessions this summer, and details will be posted on the club website (<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AustwickTennisClub>). The club is keen to recruit new members, whether beginners, players returning to the game or regular players looking for a friendly local club. Again, contact details are on the website.



High Art at Low Wood

The work of two prominent North Craven artists is celebrated in a spring exhibition at the luxury Low Wood Bay Resort and Spa on Lake Windermere.

Working with Lancaster-based Gavagan Art (formerly of Settle), English Lakes Hotels Resorts & Venues has developed the ‘Art in the Atrium’ gallery at Low Wood Bay into a quarterly free exhibition which is introducing an array of contemporary and historic fine art to a new audience.

The current exhibition features work by Malham-based Katharine Holmes

(pictured), whose work, along with that of her mother and grandmother, recently appeared at the Folly in Settle, and that of the late Anna Adams (1926–2011), who, with her husband, the artist Norman Adams, worked from a farmhouse at the foot of Pen-y-Ghent from the 1950s.

The distinctive limestone environment around Malham Cove and Gordale Scar features in many of Katharine’s paintings. Her large oil painting, ‘Limestone and Rain’, forms the centrepiece of the latest exhibition, whilst, as part of the gallery’s ceramics showcase section, a host of ceramics, small-scale paintings and a selection of Anna Adams’s poetry books will also be on display.

The exhibition runs until late May. For further information, visit <https://englishlakes.co.uk/experiences/low-wood-bay-art-in-the-atrium/>



Exquisite art in phone box gallery

The first exhibition of 2026 at Gallery on the Green in Upper Settle is by Kathryn Finter, a Canadian artist whose work seeks a better understanding of how medieval European artists created some of the world’s most exquisite illustrations. The mixed-media exhibition of 34 small fine art prints will be open throughout April.

Kathryn has a particular ongoing interest in the materials and techniques of manuscript illumination and egg tempera

panel painting, with a focus on artwork from the 15th century. Works from this exhibition previously featured in a show at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario.

The Gallery on the Green, now in its 17th year, is housed in a former BT phone box and is said to be possibly the world’s smallest public art gallery. The gallery is also featured in the current Dales edition of the upmarket *Live* magazine.



The art of wellbeing

The Clapham Art Group’s popular annual exhibition takes place between Saturday 23rd May and Wednesday 27th May at the Clapham Village Hall. Opening times are between 10am and 5pm and admission is £1. There is also a preview evening on Friday 22nd May at 8pm.

The Clapham group believes that viewing and, especially, creating art can contribute to ‘wellbeing’, as group member Laurie Tebbutt explains.

“Our art group has been running for more than 74 years — long before ‘wellbeing’ became a familiar concept — yet its founders clearly understood that creating art together nourishes people in ways that reach far beyond the canvas. That spirit remains at the heart of everything we do.

“Taking part in a weekly art group offers much more than a creative outlet — it’s a chance to nurture your mental, emotional and social wellbeing. Making art helps quiet the mind, ease stress, and promote relaxation through gentle focus and self-expression. Working alongside others fosters connection and belonging, easing isolation and building supportive friendships. Whether you’re painting, drawing, or simply sharing ideas, the process brings mindfulness, confidence, and joy. Over time, these small moments of

creativity build resilience, brighten mood, and add a renewed sense of purpose.

“It’s wonderful to meet friends and chat, but there is something truly special about the moment when a hush of concentration settles across the room. In that stillness, you can almost see the magic of art at work: no to-do lists, no checking your phone, no worries or aches tugging at your attention — just the grounding, calming interaction of paper, colour, and movement. It’s lovely to be pleased with the finished piece, but it is the act of creating itself that is where the wellbeing benefits truly shine.”

One member, who has been ill, said: “I had a good play yesterday with inks, homemade brushes and I wasn’t aware of any pain. In the past I have painted when I had a really bad back and it’s the power of art that takes over! Isn’t that amazing?”

“And it isn’t only the artists who benefit. Our annual exhibition also supports mental wellbeing for those who come to see the work. Simply spending time looking at art — slowing down, absorbing colour, texture, imagination and emotion — offers its own kind of calm and uplift. Visitors often tell us they leave feeling inspired, soothed, or energised, and we love that our creativity can have that positive effect.

“Our exhibition is both a celebration of our long tradition and an invitation for the wider community to share in the joy, reflection and wellbeing that art brings.”

Settle College students raise £8,000 for Nepal project

A group of 17 students from Settle College are preparing for a volunteering trip to Kathmandu, Nepal, this July, after raising more than £8,000 through a series of community fundraising events.

The students will be working with Projects Abroad at a local school, helping to improve facilities and teaching English. The trip will also include a three-day trek in the surrounding mountains, covering around 16 miles per day, as well as time

spent exploring Kathmandu and the wider area.

The group has organised a wide range of fundraising activities, including food and craft stalls, raffles, a bingo night, a film screening at a local primary school and a fancy-dress sponsored walk.

Further events are planned in the coming weeks. On 16th May, teacher Sam Boatwright will attempt to break the current 24-hour exercise bike world record of 605km at Sandylands Sports Centre in Skipton. The challenge will run from 8am on 16th May to 8am on 17th May, with supporters invited to take part by booking a cycling slot for £5-per-hour.

The group is also holding a car wash fundraiser on Sunday 12th April at Bibby’s Yard in Ingleton, from 10am to 4pm. As well as car washing, there will be refreshments, homemade cakes and an opportunity to meet the students and find out more about the trip.

Students say the project will not only support schools in Nepal but also provide valuable personal experience, helping them develop new skills and broaden their understanding of life in another part of the world.

They have thanked the local community and businesses for their support so far, including donations from Arla, contributions to raffle prizes and assistance from local schools.

You can offer your support by donating to their fundraising page: Crowdfunding for Good from JustGiving and follow their progress on Instagram: @settlecollegenepalteam

Bombay Breakfast The Gem Café Ingleton – not just another tea room!

Joining our valued band of advertisers in this issue is The Gem Café in Ingleton. Since relaunching the venue in December 2024, owners Georgina and James have been keen to create a welcoming Dales atmosphere, but with a twist to the usual

breakfast and lunch cuisine. Before returning to Yorkshire, where they grew up, the two spent time living and working in Kuala Lumpur, so many of the menu items have a South Asian angle. Georgina, being vegetarian herself, is also keen that there is a good choice of meat-free items, as many cafés and restaurants have only a limited selection. James had given up a career in business development for the catering industry and gained experience in some top-class eateries before looking for an opportunity to run his own kitchen. Then came the chance to take over the site in Ingleton, since when James and Georgina have settled into the local community, with their two girls in the local school and Georgina helping with the management of Ingleton's celebrated outdoor swimming pool.



As well as the more exotic dishes, The Gem still embraces traditional favourites popular with locals and Ingleborough fell-walkers, such as scones and soup, but all with a definite, distinctive and original flavour. The hash browns, for example, are a house speciality!

Although the café normally offers a day-time experience, the team are experimenting with evening 'pop-up restaurant' sessions with a themed menu; one recent event was a Chinese Night.

The Gem is open from 9.30am Wednesday to Sunday and is very conveniently sited just down and around the corner from the main village car park at the Community Centre, which, handily enough, is where the regular 581 bus from Settle pulls in. Give it a try!

Settle and District Community News

ISSUE 192
APR/MAY 2026

CONTENTS

3	Editor's Welcome
4-14	News Round Up
14	Easter Church Events
16-17	Transport News
20	Town Council News
21	View from the Press Bench
22	Meet Your Councillor
24	ACE News
25	At The Place
27	Big Year for Railway
28	Don't Bank On It
29	Long Preston May Day
31	Settle Wheelers
32-33	Ride2Stride 2026
35	North Yorks Open Studios
36	Girguiding Report
38	Settle Primary News
39	Wildlife of Snaizholme
40-42	The Heroine of Blea Moor
44-45	Off to the Seaside
46	Wellbeing
48	The Novice Gardener
50	Rugby News
52-53	A Cricketing Tale
54-55	Book Review
56	Going Global / Quiz
57	Crossword
58-62	Community Directory
63	Advertise with us
63	Crossword & Quiz Answers
63	Next Issue Date / Deadline



Rail photo competition

The Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company is launching a photo competition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of passenger services on the line. The theme of the competition is ‘Connecting Communities’, focusing on the stations along the 72-mile line.

Amateur and professional photographers can enter the competition, which will see the best 12 images featured in the 2027 Settle-Carlisle Calendar. The prize for the best photograph will be two first-class dining tickets on one of the Settle Carlisle Railway Development Company’s special steam charter trains.

All entries must be submitted in digital and landscape format, and the closing date is 10am on Monday 6th July. Full details of the competition are available on the Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company’s social media and website www.settle-carlisle.co.uk

New business offers fresh start for busy homes

Most of us know the feeling — life gets busy, the house gets a little chaotic, and before long it can feel difficult to keep on top of both the cleaning and the clutter.

A new local business, The Home Atelier, is offering help. The business is run by Amy Pierce, a professional organiser and housekeeping specialist who says that she works to bring homes back to a place that feels calm, clean and manageable again. Her approach, she explains, is simple: “A well-run home needs both organisation and proper cleaning to work. There’s not much point having a beautifully organised space if it isn’t clean. Equally, it’s very hard to keep a house clean if everything is cluttered or doesn’t have a place.”

As part of her professional training, Amy worked alongside well-known organising expert Dilly Carter, from the BBC programme *Sort Your Life Out*. She has trained with Dilly and worked on several episodes of the show, gaining valuable hands-on experience helping families tackle clutter and transform their homes.

Amy adds: “While many cleaning services will work around clutter, and many organisers focus only on sorting belongings, I aim to help tackle the whole picture — decluttering, organising and leaving spaces properly clean at the same time.” She offers help with everything from wardrobes and kitchens to spare rooms that have slowly become storage spaces. The Home Atelier also offers regular housekeeping for those who’d like reliable ongoing support to keep their home running smoothly.

Contact details: WhatsApp or call 01729 544114, or email hello@thehomeatelier.co.uk

Settle Orchestra Concludes Season with French Flair and Classical Brilliance

Settle Orchestra brings its 2026 concert season to a sparkling close this June with a vibrant programme celebrating French elegance and classical vitality. Under the baton of conductor André Chan, the orchestra presents an afternoon of colour, charm and wit, performed in two beautiful Yorkshire venues: Christ Church, Skipton on Saturday 20th June at 3.30pm and Settle Parish Church on Saturday 27th June at 3.30pm.

The programme opens with Claude Debussy’s *Sarabande*, heard in the luminous orchestral arrangement by Maurice Ravel. Originally written for piano, the work unfolds with quiet dignity and impressionistic beauty, its gentle harmonies and subtle colours setting a reflective tone for the afternoon.

From French impressionism, the orchestra turns to classical exuberance with Mozart’s *Symphony No. 31 in D major*, “Paris”.

Written during Mozart's time in the French capital, the symphony brims with energy, elegance and theatrical flair. Its bold opening, graceful slow movement and dazzling finale capture the excitement of an 18th-century Parisian audience.

The second half returns to the refined world of French orchestral music. Ravel's beloved *Pavane pour une infante défunte* offers a moment of poised nostalgia, its flowing melodies and delicate orchestration evoking the grace of a distant courtly past.

To conclude the season, Francis Poulenc's lively *Sinfonietta* bursts onto the stage with playful rhythms, bright orchestral colour and irresistible charm. Written in the mid-20th century, the work perfectly balances wit and sophistication, providing a jubilant finale to the orchestra's summer programme.

With music that ranges from shimmering impressionism to sparkling classical brilliance, this final concert of the 2026 season with André Chan promises a joyful and uplifting celebration of orchestral colour to round off the season in style.

For more information visit www.settleorchestra.org.uk/

Support the Community Fridge when you shop at the Co-op

The Community Fridge, run by Settle Community and Business Hub, is part of the Co-op Local Community Fund this year. By downloading the Co-op app, becoming a member and selecting our cause, you can help us receive a share of £5m. If you prefer not to use the app, you can call the number on your Co-op card and ask to choose us as your good cause. Every time you shop, a small percentage goes towards supporting the Community Fridge and our Public Living Room events at Settle Quakers — helping reduce food waste while making fresh, healthy food more accessible locally.

Although we are very grateful for donations from businesses and individuals, we still need to buy additional food and

cover essential costs such as rent, bills and staffing. Support through schemes like this makes a real difference.

The Community Fridge is open at the Little Hub in Commercial Courtyard (next to Craven Homelet) on Mondays and Thursdays from 2.30pm–4.15pm and Wednesdays from 10am–12 noon.

The project redistributes surplus food from supermarkets, local businesses and residents, helping to cut waste and support the community. If you have excess food — whether from visitors or items you will not use — please consider passing it on.

At this time of year, we also have seeds and plants to share, including a wide range of heritage varieties such as tomatoes, peas and beans. If you have surplus seedlings, please drop them off. And if you take seeds, we encourage you to save some and return them for others to grow next year.

We would like to thank Co-op and Booths for their continued support, along with local businesses including Wholesome Bee, Forage and Feast, Drake and Macefield, and the many individuals who contribute regularly.

If you cannot visit during opening times, food is also available at our Public Living Room sessions at Settle Quakers on Mondays and Thursdays from 10.30am–1.30pm.

Banking news

Barclays continues to offer its pop-up banking service from the Settle Community & Business Hub in Commercial Courtyard every Tuesday and Friday from 9.30am–12 noon and 12.30pm–3.30pm.

Barclays staff are on hand to help you with a range of queries, including setting up online and phone banking, how to use the Barclays app, and post office transactions. However, they cannot handle cash or pay in cheques as part of this particular service. We are also pleased to share that the Barclays service will continue until at least February 2027.

Lloyds also continues to offer its pop-up banking service from the Hub Offices in Commercial Courtyard on alternate Thursdays from 10am–12 noon. Lloyds staff can help you with a range of queries, including using the Lloyds app, online banking and post office transactions. Again, this service cannot handle cash or pay in cheques.

The forthcoming dates for the service are 9th and 23rd April; 7th and 21st May; 4th and 18th June; 16th and 30th July; 13th and 27th August.

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

NatWest provides a mobile van located in Whitefriars car park every Monday (except bank holidays) from 12 noon–12.30pm. If these times are not convenient, then also on Mondays the van is located at Bentham Auction Mart from 10.45am–11.30am and the Wheatsheaf car park in Ingleton from 2pm–2.30pm.

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Easter Church Events and Activities

Easter is of course a major festival in the Christian calendar. In addition to Churches Together Good Friday *Journey to the Cross* through Settle, all our local churches hold special services. You can find details of all the church services and events taking place around the district on our website at www.settlenews.co.uk.

You are warmly invited to join us at

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Find us at : settlechristianfellowship.com

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St Alkelda's Church, Giggleswick
Tea and Cake - 6pm
Evening Service - 6:30pm
On the 4th Sunday of the month

- All welcome
- Informal worship
- Worship band
- Modern songs
- Encouraging message
- An encounter with God



You are welcome to join these free events in Settle organised by Churches Together in Settle & District

Good Friday: Journey to the Cross

A Drama in 4 parts, starting at 10.30 am at St John's Methodist Church and finishing at the Parish Church

Easter Sunday: Dawn Service

7.00 am start

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TRANSPORT NEWS



830 Northern DalesBus ascends Buttertubs in Summer 2025 – Photo: John Carey

All seemed to be going well on our local rail services following the excitement of the Avanti trains in January. However, there was an incident at the end of February when a retaining wall, located just south of Kirkby Stephen, collapsed during an overnight possession. This resulted in closure of the line on two days, with significant delays on a further two days whilst the debris was cleared and temporary repair effected. A rail replacement bus service ran on the days in question. It should be added that there is much evidence along the railway of infrastructure works in progress, including drainage, stabilisation of embankments and tree felling, all of which should improve resilience in the long term. In addition, we have recently heard that consideration is being given to replacement of signalling, often the cause of delays to train services.

At Horton, the work of commissioning the lifts seems to be progressing at long last. It is understood that the delays were

due to the lack of a three-phase power supply, which has now been installed. This has been quite an undertaking, at a cost reputed to be in the order of £4.2m. Of course, there is a serious point to this in that the provision of the footbridge and lifts obviates the foot crossing, which has in turn enabled the reconnection of Horton Quarry, from which there are now frequent train movements. We really do need to see freight back on our railways wherever possible. Regular readers will perhaps have heard it before, but a fully laden freight train can take up to 76 lorries off the road (source: Network Rail), so the environmental benefits are immense.

Unfortunately for the Settle–Carlisle line, the loading gauge is such that it cannot accommodate modern container wagons, which are committed to the West Coast Main Line. Quite simply, these were not envisaged at the time the Midland Railway constructed the railway. As a consequence, the line is limited to wagon-load freight,

such as quarry traffic, without alterations to tunnels and bridges, or singling of track at prohibitive cost. Whilst there are currently around 54 freight paths a day, only around 16 of these see regular use, the others being held just in case. Regular freight traffic includes the quarry trains operating south of Blea Moor, the timber trains from forests in Scotland to the Kronospan chipboard factory at Chirk in North Wales, Castle Cement from Clitheroe and Network Rail's own infrastructure trains. At the north end of the line, the gypsum works at Kirkby Thore is still regularly served, these trains running via Carlisle and to Tees Dock. Perhaps rarely seen, there is an occasional night-time MOD train from Glen Douglas (Faslane) to Plymouth (Devonport).

We expect to see the West Coast diversion trains back on our line for a short while from Saturday 4th April until Sunday 19th April, following which there is a hiatus and nothing until 2028, when the diversions will occur again with greater frequency.

Moving on to our local bus services, there is some good news to report. From Easter weekend until 18th October, the DalesBus network comes into its own, although there are no services directly serving Settle this year. A short train ride to Ribbleshead station allows access to the Saturday 80 DalesBus service to Hawes, connecting with the Yorkshire Dales Explorer train (depart Settle 10.21am). On Sundays, the 830 Northern DalesBus takes the high-level route to Richmond via Hawes, Buttertubs Pass and Swaledale (depart Settle 10.16am). From Garsdale station on Sundays, the 857 Wensleydale Explorer runs to Castle Bolton via Hawes (depart Settle 10.16am). The Sunday service to Malham has not been reinstated due to

operator issues. However, North Yorkshire Council now permits acceptance of the senior bus pass on all DalesBus services, which is excellent news.

Mention should also be made of the all-year Saturday S1 Western Dales Bus, which provides the connection from Dent station to Dent village, Sedbergh and Kendal, while the Little White Bus provides a Monday to Saturday connection from Garsdale station to Hawes, both connecting with the 10.21am train from Settle. From Kirkby Stephen or Appleby, it is possible to use the 563 to reach Penrith, Monday to Saturday. More locally, on weekdays and Saturdays, the regular Lonsdale 580/581 continues to provide the connection from Settle Market Place to Skipton and Kirkby Lonsdale, while the No. 11 provides a service to Horton and Clitheroe.

For regular journeys on the Leeds–Settle–Carlisle and Morecambe lines, it may be worthwhile purchasing a Dales Railcard, which saves a third off a standard ticket purchased on the day. These cannot be used for advance purchase tickets and have a pre-08.15am travel restriction. However, priced at £15, the card represents excellent value for money and can be obtained from Settle or Skipton ticket offices or online from the Settle Carlisle Railway Development Company.

Please do get out and use our local bus and train services, including the Morecambe line. Details of all local bus services can be found at www.dalesbus.org, while for rail services visit www.northernrailway.co.uk. In addition, it is hoped to have the combined Dales Area timetable booklet, including bus and train times, available in the usual outlets before Easter.

John Carey

philward43@hotmail.co.uk

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Settle Town Council annual meeting – open to all

Settle Town Council’s annual parish meeting will be held on Monday 27th April at 6pm in St John’s Methodist Church, Church Street, Settle. Representatives from local organisations and charities, including *Community News*, will be attending to share details of the services and opportunities they offer the local community. All residents are invited to come along for refreshments, a chat and meet the councillors. The formal part of the meeting will include a report on the year’s work by the mayor, Councillor Joe Lord, who will also report on the council’s plans and future projects. The meeting will conclude with an open forum and an opportunity for questions and comments.



Women’s Institute to be remembered through cemetery benches

Settle Women’s Institute has closed after 37 years of bringing together women from across the town, serving the community and holding regular

meetings. Before going out of existence, the organisation donated two memorial benches that have now been installed in the town’s community cemetery.

Jeanne Carr, founder member of Settle WI, said: “Sadly, Settle Women’s Institute closed at the beginning of March, but we wanted something to remember all our members, past and present, over the last 37 years. The benches will provide a peaceful place for visitors to pause, reflect and remember loved ones in a tranquil and respectful setting.”

In receiving the gift, the town council said: “This thoughtful contribution reflects the continued dedication of local groups and representatives in supporting community wellbeing and preserving meaningful public spaces. The kindness shown by the Settle Women’s Institute and their representative, Councillor Lynette Marsden, will be appreciated by residents and visitors for many years to come. On behalf of the community, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for this lasting and meaningful gift.”

Market Place and area footpath repairs

For some time Settle Town Council has been concerned about the state of some of the footpaths around the town hall, on the marketplace and at the Shambles. One problem is identifying the ownership of some locations and just who is responsible for paying for keeping these locations in a good state of repair. This is an ongoing project, and the council aims to give an update when possible (see also Phil Hinde’s council report opposite).

A view from the press bench

Once mayor and council chairperson Joe Lord had opened the March meeting, there were updates on a range of ongoing local projects. These included spending the so-called Section 106 payments from the developers of the Scholars Gate housing in Giggleswick for the benefit of residents on both sides of the river. Other activities included tree works at Castleberg and maintenance of the flagpole (presumably to ensure that flags don't get stuck at half-mast if the rope jams!), as well as placement of new benches in the community cemetery part of the churchyard.

There was also discussion on planned improvements to the uneven flagstones around the town hall and The Shambles, as well as to the area around the old fountain in the Market Place (a listed structure that regularly gets biffed by motorists). The flagstones issue is complicated by uncertainty as to who has ownership and responsibility: is it the freeholders of the town hall and Shambles buildings, the tenants of those buildings, the highway authority, or the town council, who do have stewardship for the Market Place itself? It was agreed that the council should project-manage improvements but invite financial contributions from the other parties.

This opened up a wider debate as to what residents and businesses want the Market Place to be, an attractive piazza or just a car park. It was suggested that we could have more planters and hanging baskets, but these would need tending and watering.

Another ongoing issue is the speed of traffic in the town. Data from a recent speed survey by North Yorkshire Council, as the highway authority, is still awaited. This could inform extension or otherwise of the current 20mph zone.

There were no significant local planning applications to report this month, but the council has been invited to give its views on the policing and enforcement of any conditions placed on such applications when consent is given. Should town councillors be the eyes and ears for the planning authority to ensure that stipulations made when consents are granted are actually fulfilled by the applicants? Local views will be fed back to North Yorkshire Council so that a clear policy can be set for the future.

Good governance is an important issue for everyone in the town and there was agreement reached on a revised approach to recruiting co-opted councillors to fill vacancies. Another mundane but important topic debated was how to strengthen relationships with the Chamber of Commerce, not least around the conduct of the Tuesday and Sunday markets. A proposal will be sent to the Chamber.

The most positive part of the meeting was the conversation on how to make the annual town meeting, scheduled this year for 27th April, more effective, interesting and time-efficient. This meeting is when the council formally reports to residents and hears input and news from other town organisations.

It was agreed that the way forward was a split format, with the guest organisations operating from stalls in the meeting area and mingling less formally with councillors and parishioners, before a more concise official presentation from the council itself. So readers are urged to support this initiative and come along to St John's Hall on the 27th April – *Community News* will be one of the organisations joining in the new approach. See you there!

Phil Hinde

Meet Your Councillor



Mike Rose
A Leeds Lad in Settle

Hello everyone! I'm honoured to kick off this new series introducing readers of *Community News* to the people who serve on Settle Town Council.

Although I am originally a Leeds lad, my wife Gill and I have proudly called Settle home for 11 years now. When I'm not at the town hall, you'll likely find me at the gym or out with our two well-trained Labradors enjoying our beautiful countryside. I'm also a firm believer in supporting our local economy—so you'll frequently see me in our great pubs, cafes and restaurants!

From Healthcare Strategy to Town Governance

My professional journey began as a physiotherapist, eventually leading to a PhD in health psychology and a career in NHS service and research development. I've held several senior roles in the health service, including serving as an NHS Acute Trust Director and working with national healthcare regulators.

More recently, I have worked as a consultant in the charity sector. Service development, strategy and good governance are very much my 'thing', and I currently serve as a trustee on

the boards of two charities that support people facing significant disadvantage. I am passionate about using these skills to ensure Settle remains a fantastic, well-run and thriving place for everyone.

Putting Experience into Practice

I currently put my background to work on the Council's Finance and Staffing Committee and by representing Settle at national park events. I am a firm believer in solid governance—ensuring that the 'big picture' strategy always aligns with the day-to-day needs of our residents.

Why Serve? (And Why You Should Join Us!)

I love being a Councillor because it allows me to give back to Settle some of what the town has given me. Working with a varied, talented team to meet our strategic objectives is rewarding work, but it isn't all dry meetings—we have a healthy sense of humour and a genuine laugh along the way!

We are currently looking for people to join our team. It is a brilliant way to:

- make a real difference in the community we love.
- understand the machinery of local government and how things 'tick'.
- enjoy the company of a fun, dedicated and very varied group of people.

If you see Gill and me (and the dogs!) out and about, or sitting in one of our local pubs, please do stop for a chat. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to keep Settle the wonderful place it is.

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Hasn't the Earth's climate always been subject to change? Why does it matter this time?

The Settle and area Action on Climate Emergency give their answer to this key question.

Yes, the climate has been subject to change since the creation of the Earth. Forests grew in Antarctica during the time of dinosaurs. And as the fossil remains found in Victoria Cave show us, 130,000 years ago the Dales were part of a landmass fringed by tropical seas and inhabited by elephants and hippos.

Episodes of intense volcanic activity have been common throughout the history of the Earth. They have released huge amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere, causing mass extinctions. The best known is the 'Great Dying' 252 million years ago, when spiralling CO₂ levels raised global temperatures by 8° Celsius, causing the extinction of 90 percent of marine and 70 percent of terrestrial life. The difference with today's climate change is that it is humans who are causing this release of carbon dioxide, not natural forces.

What's different about the climate change we see today is the speed at which temperatures are rising. The Earth's temperature has gone up by 1.1°C in just 160 years, with most of that increase occurring in the past fifty years. This warming is many times faster than the natural warming that followed the last Ice Age, for example, which took place over ten thousand years. When our planet's climate changes slowly, life on Earth has more opportunity to adapt and survive.

Source: Met Office <https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-change-questions#climate-stability>
Do you have a question for ACE? Please send it to: acesettleandarea@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Saturday 11th April (10.30am–4pm) at St John's Methodist Church Hall: 'A Yorkshire conference on The Values Crisis – Can we create a just, sustainable world here?' Replacing April's Green Café, the event will examine the multiple crises we face, including climate breakdown, inequality, injustice, and the refugee crisis. Quaker and ACE organisers want the outcome to be a series of actions that can be taken locally to address these crises. Free, including a vegan lunch. All welcome, but booking essential at: bit.ly/thevaluescrisis.

Green Café on Saturday 9th May (10.30am–12.30pm) at St John's Methodist Church Hall. Climate change is a worry for most people. ACE Green Cafés offer you a chance to meet and chat over a cuppa, sharing ideas, concerns and questions about how climate change may affect us and what we can do to tackle it in our local communities.

You can recycle used blister packs and clean, empty toothpaste tubes at ACE Green Cafés. Donations appreciated.

Find out where your home needs more insulation! Borrow the ACE Thermal Imaging Camera to get a picture of where heat is leaking from your house. You can pick up the camera and learn how to use it at a Green Café.

Find out about ACE and our events - via our website: acesettleandarea.org; our newsletter - sign-up by emailing us on: acesettleandarea@gmail.com or via Facebook, as ACE Settle.



The Place

Boogie Fundraiser

Thanks to all who attended our Settle Boogie Night Disco Fundraiser at the end of January. It was sold out and, if you were there, we think you will agree that we all had an amazing time dancing away to some great tunes. Thanks to all who helped on the night. A special mention to Mikey Shaw, who helped with lights, Jules and Bessie, our fabulous DJs, and the wonderful Place and Victoria Hall volunteers. We raised £1,800 to help with the important work we do supporting people in the local community. We are now planning another Boogie Night next January.

Spotlight on activities

A new Information Support volunteer will be joining us on Friday mornings. This volunteer comes with a wealth of experience of guiding people through issues such as money, benefits, housing and pensions. This will be an appointment-based session every other Friday. Please give us a call to book in.

One of our newer groups is the Vision Aid Group. This is a peer support group for anyone experiencing any form of

sight loss, a space where people can come together and share experiences and ideas. This is held on the fourth Monday of the month, 1–3pm.

Citizens Advice continues to offer a session at The Place once a month on a Thursday. This is also an appointment-based session, so please call us to book in.

Horton Housing are here with us every two weeks on a Tuesday afternoon from 1pm–3pm, providing advice and support on a range of issues including housing and benefits – drop in on the day or call us to book.

Our popular Digital Support session is held every Monday 9.30am–3pm – phones, laptops, the internet, emails – we can help.

The Cancer Support Group meets at The Place every fourth Monday of the month 10.30am–11.45am, and our Better Days pain and chronic fatigue group is here every first Wednesday of the month 1pm–3pm.

Lastly, our Wellbeing Café is held at The Place every Tuesday afternoon 2pm–4pm. Anyone is welcome to come along and enjoy some company, art activity, puzzles, games, a brew and a chat. Low-level mental health support is available.

We are here on Commercial Yard (opposite Ruchee) every weekday 9.30am–1pm to support the health and wellbeing of residents in Settle – do pop in or give us a call 01729 824868. Check out the *Community News* directory on pages 58–62 of this issue or the website at www.settlenews.co.uk to see all our sessions.



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**Settle District u3a
Monthly Meetings**

Thursday 9th April

David Slater

The Civil War



Thursday 14th May

Karen Adams

*A Day in the Life of an
Archaeologist*



Doors open at 10am for 10.30am start
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Big Year for Railway

2026 is a huge year for the Settle-Carlisle Railway. Firstly, it marks 150 years since the first passenger train ran along the world-famous Settle-Carlisle Railway line, often described as the last mainline railway built by hand and running across some of the harshest terrain in England. We started this memorable year by operating as the diversionary route for the West Coast Main Line, which reminded us all of the important role this line plays, not just as a tourist or heritage asset, but as an operational mainline rail artery linking north to south and connecting rural communities.

Seeing the much larger, faster, bi-mode Class 805 Evero trains sweeping through the stunning landscape offered the perfect connection between its history and the present, with enduring Victorian engineering feats and preserved heritage infrastructure and the possible future options for the line, which continues to thrive following its saving in the 1980s.

The celebratory year was formally launched in Settle with an event at the Victoria Hall, inviting current and future stakeholders to come together to celebrate the milestone, but also to think about the next 150 years for the line and what that could look like. We also received a message of support from the Friends' Honorary President, Michael Portillo, wishing us well for the year.

Next for the festivities comes the launch of a 'passport' for the line – a family-friendly booklet that will have free challenges and activities to encourage

people to visit every station, giving them things to see and do there, a steam train journey from Carlisle to York in May to mark the formal anniversary, and the naming of a train by Northern, which will be a lasting reminder of the 'birthday celebration' for our remarkable railway.

A new play about the Settle-Carlisle line has been commissioned. Local playwright Joan Barnard is working with Kirkby Stephen-based Vagabond Theatre Group, who will perform the premiere in the Public Hall, Appleby, on Saturday 4th July. Their second performance is planned in the Victoria Hall, Settle, on Sunday 5th July. The matinee performances will enable people to travel by train to see the performances at either location.

2026 also marks 40 years since the stations between Settle and Carlisle re-opened. In the 1970s just Settle and Appleby were actually functioning as stations for stopping trains (some special walkers' services did call at the intervening points, though the buildings were all closed up and derelict), but in July 1986 several of the other wonderful stops along the line were brought back into regular use. Many of the buildings came under the management of the railway trust, who lovingly restored and repurposed them to help make visitors' journeys far more pleasant, with heated waiting rooms, shops, cafes and visitor centres. New plaques will be unveiled at each station this year to commemorate their history and place in their community, and Ribbleshead Tearoom is undergoing a £50,000 refurbishment before re-opening at Easter to showcase one of the beautiful 'jewels in the crown' on the line.

There is so much going on, and we would love everyone, locals and visitors alike, to get involved. We recommend you follow us on social media <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsSettleCarlisle/> to keep up to date with what is happening and when.

Anna Jackson



Don't Bank On It

In January I had a further surgery meeting with Sir Julian Smith MP about banking arrangements in Settle and the surrounding district, and the restrictive criteria used by LINK to assess applications for banking hubs in smaller communities. As previously reported in the October/November edition of *Community News*, Sir Julian had raised these matters with the Government's Treasury front bench in the House of Commons. The negative outcome, although predictable, was nevertheless disappointing. He followed this up with a meeting reported at www.juliansmith.org.uk/news/julian-smith-mp-meets-economic-secretary-treasury-discuss-banking-hubs-and-access-cash.

The locations of banking hubs are independently determined by LINK, the UK's cash machine network, which is responsible for making 'access to cash' assessments. Any decisions on changes to LINK's independent assessment criteria, which I was seeking, are a matter for LINK, the financial services sector, and for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) which oversees the access to cash regime.

As Sir Julian was aware, we had been turned down for a banking hub because Settle did not meet the LINK criteria in respect of population and numbers of shops/businesses in the locality.

Since he first raised this, it has become clear that Settle is not alone in failing to meet the LINK criteria, judging by subsequent representations made in

Parliament by other MPs.

In December Stuart Anderson, MP for South Shropshire, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether she would review the adequacy of assessment criteria for establishing banking hubs. In reply, Lucy Rigby MP, Treasury Economic Secretary, repeated the line that "...any decisions on changes to LINK's independent assessment criteria are a matter for LINK and the financial services sector."

Sir Julian has stated that, following his meeting with the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, he would continue to advocate for measures that support rural businesses and communities. I suggested that, given similar concerns raised by other MPs, consideration could be given to a cross-party approach to the Treasury and to LINK. He agreed to continue looking for suitable opportunities in Parliament to pursue the issue.

As previously reported in *Community News*, a banking hub opened in Barnoldswick in March 2024 whilst a temporary home for the banking hub located at the Library in Ilkley (population 15,000) opened last year. It will be relocated to a permanent site when work has been completed this year. Meanwhile Settle, along with other similarly sized rural communities, fails to qualify for a banking hub until the LINK criteria are changed to reflect the needs of communities like ours.

Barry White



Long Preston keeps May Day tradition alive



Shortly after 12.30pm on Saturday 2nd May children from Long Preston Endowed Primary School will dance around the maypole on the village green and, in so doing, continue a tradition which in its current form dates back more than 50 years, but which has origins from the time of the First World War if not before. Long Preston is now believed to be just one of seven places in England that celebrate May Day in this traditional way.

The Long Preston May Day was resurrected in its current form in 1971 when Stephanie Phillip, a renowned dance teacher from the Dales, was approached to teach the village school children maypole dancing. The momentum has kept going over the years through the dedication and fund-raising efforts of the numerous May Day committees and the continued working partnership with Long Preston Endowed Primary School, whose children even performed maypole dancing in front of Queen Elizabeth II at the Harrogate show in 1977.

Whilst maypole dancing is at the heart of May Day in Long Preston, there is much more to the celebration. Before the big day, students in school years five to eight who have attended or attend Long Preston Endowed Primary School can go through an application process to be crowned that

year's May Queen and, most recently added, May King. They take centre stage during the maypole dancing, along with the retiring queen and king.

May Day races, open to all the village children, are also held in mid-April. Each race is categorised by age, increasing in distance as the children get older. Prizes and medals are given out at the May Day celebration alongside handicraft prizes.

Jo Heward, Long Preston May Day Chair, says: "The Long Preston May Day event is a celebration which evokes a lovely sense of community spirit, from the wonderful staff at the primary school putting their heart and soul into teaching the children the maypole dancing, to the supportive local businesses who sponsor us and the generous village volunteers who help to support the May Day committee in putting on a fabulous day."

Once the traditional dancing is over, the celebrations continue in the afternoon at the Long Preston Playing Fields, with rides, traditional games, face painting, inflatables, ducking chair, handicraft marquee, community marquee, independent stalls, cream teas, BBQ, bar and oven-fired pizzas, and much more.

Long Preston May Day has its own Facebook page and you can contact the organisers via longprestonmayday@gmail.com





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On their bikes Settle's sociable wheelers

Settle Wheelers is a sociable local cycling club with a growing membership. Established in 2001, we have an inclusive approach, with members of all abilities and ages. With the establishment of a Saturday 'steady' ride and our continued support of juniors through the British Cycling Go-Ride initiative, we now have more than 90 members who enjoy a variety of rides, many of which involve stops for coffee and cake!

There are a number of regular rides:

9.30am Saturdays: Junior Go-Ride sessions on Giggleswick School playing fields. Please contact us in advance to pre-book onto sessions.

10.30am or 11am Saturdays: steady ride from Settle Swimming Pool car park – usually around 50km (30 miles) at 18km/h (11mph). The exact time and route will be sent out via our members' WhatsApp, usually on the preceding Thursday. There is always a café mid-ride.

1pm Saturdays: fast ride from Settle Market Place – distance and pace set by those who ride, but expect a pace of 24–27km/h (15–17mph).

9.30am (10am winter) Sundays: club ride from Settle Market Place – distance and pace set by those who ride, but expect 65–80km (40–50 miles) at 19–21km/h (12–13mph), normally with a café stop.

Club members also arrange ad hoc midweek rides, mostly on road but occasionally mountain biking or on gravel via our closed WhatsApp group. It's very rare that there is not at least one midweek ride.

For the last few years there has been a trip to Mallorca in October where members of all abilities have enjoyed cycling in the autumn sunshine. The club also organises a fortnightly ten-mile time trial series throughout the summer.

Members vary from those who ride 30 miles on a Saturday on an e-bike with a leisurely café stop to those who ride in the 3 Peaks Cyclocross or the Fred Whitton sportive or a 600km Audax. We organise a number of social events through the year, including the very popular club dinner and awards evening at Knights Table, Stainforth, in November, where members can meet those with whom they would not normally cycle.

If you have an interest in cycling, why not join us? You can contact me directly or through our website settlewheelers.org.uk.

Nigel Beasant
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Ride2Stride 2026

One hundred and fifty years to the day after the first fare-paying passengers boarded a train at Settle bound for Carlisle, walkers taking part in this year's Ride2Stride festival will join Northern Rail's customer and commercial director, Alex Hornby, at Settle station for a short ceremony to mark this historic occasion.

It is fitting that the event, at 10.30am on Friday 1st May, takes place at the midway point in Ride2Stride, as the aim of the annual walking festival is to make the most of the opportunities the internationally famous line provides for car-free walking in the Dales.

After the commemoration, walkers will head out for one of that day's four free guided walks, three starting from Settle and the longer, more strenuous one from Dent station heading to Ribbleshead. Overall, around 750 people are expected to take part in the seven-day festival, starting on Tuesday 28th April and finishing on Monday 4th May.

Ride2Stride began as a one-off in 2012, but it proved so popular that it became an annual event, missing just three years, 2020–2022 inclusive, due to Covid restrictions.

Diane Taylor, from Friends of Dalesrail, one of the festival's founders, remains part of the small team that coordinates the input from key groups involved in leading the activities. In addition, the Friends of Settle and Carlisle draw on experience from their

own regular weekend programme to lead the Ride2Stride walks, which are carefully managed to offer something both for those keen on a short stroll and for those looking for something more demanding.

Six of this year's themed walks incorporate talks by experts. These include a visit to the Ingleborough nature reserves in conjunction with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on a route from Horton to Ribbleshead and, by contrast, a look at Settle through its old trees organised with the Respect Our Old Trees Settle group (better known by the acronym ROOTS).

There are also talks without the walk. The Friends Meeting House in Settle hosts a talk on Wild Ingleborough on 28th April and, at the same venue the following day, there is a talk on the 150-year history of passenger transport on the Settle–Carlisle line. Both talks start at 7pm, though, unlike the walks, there is a charge of £3 for these events to cover the cost of venue hire.

Music has always been an essential part of Ride2Stride and this year is no exception. There are three scheduled sessions. The first is at the Talbot in Settle on Thursday 30th April; this features the Blackhorse Jazzmen. The following day, Friday 1st May, it is on to the Golden Lion, on Duke Street, Settle, for a session by local musicians. Then, on Saturday 2nd May, the Station Inn at Ribbleshead will be the venue for a further session by local musical talent. In all three cases the music will begin at 8.30pm.

Last year saw the addition of a quiz to the range of activities that make up the festival, and that proved so popular it will be repeated this year, though presumably with different questions. The venue is once again Settle Social Club. The quiz starts at 7pm on Friday 1st May, giving competitors time to take part and enjoy a drink before moving on to the Lion for the music.

Diane Taylor's fellow steering group members, who have the formidable task of putting together the programme, are Cathy Crittenden, Martyn Benton and



Rosie Feather. Tony Grogan, one of the originators of the festival, sadly died earlier this year after a long illness, but his contribution to Ride2Stride lives on in the distinctive form of the busy programme that he designed for the first festival. This year's version can be downloaded from www.ride2stride.co.uk.

The long-term sponsors of the event are the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Railway, Castleberg Outdoors store in Cheapside, Settle, and Settle Social Club. There are also important contributions from the Friends of Settle and Carlisle walking group, Friends of Dales Rail, Friends of Dales High Way, Community Rail Lancashire and the Ramblers Huddersfield.

Rated one of the best walking festivals in the country by at least one national newspaper, once again this year's Ride2Stride is expected to attract visitors from far and wide, but it also has much to offer for those of us who live here and want to enjoy our countryside in knowledgeable and informed company.

Mike Smith
Photos: John Wood



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North Yorkshire Open Studios – don't miss it



Kairen Bradley with Elaine Newington Ward

If you have a long memory, you may remember me as a garden designer back in the 1990s. Alternatively, if you have eaten at Knight Stainforth campsite restaurant, you may know me as the artist who made the paintings which have been on permanent display there for ten years. My name is Elaine Newington Ward. More recently, I have been the chair of Settle Photographic Group. Now things are changing again. My fellow creative practitioner, Kairen Bradley, has persuaded me to re-emerge as an artist. I will be taking part in the North Yorkshire Open Studios events this year.

I will be launching a new series of paintings. Each image, of a Settle highlight, is populated by people whose stories you have to create yourself. All you see is their outline.

In Settle, I will be in the prestigious company of Frank Gordon, the long-established landscape artist, Kairen Bradley, the abstract artist who fuses and layers a variety of materials to create deep but gentle images, and Emily Knight-Moran, a skilled silversmith, at the Settle Studio Vault Gallery.

Open Studios is an annual event enabling artists, designers and makers to promote their work directly to the public. All of North Yorkshire is involved from one end to the other.

Studios will open the first two weekends in June, and for one weekend in November. You can visit painters, sculptors, printmakers, jewellers, ceramicists, photographers and other creatives. Download the extensive details from North Yorkshire Open Studios (<https://nyos.org.uk>) and plan two exciting weekends across Yorkshire.

Apart from the four of us in Settle, you can stay locally to visit Judy Metcalf (Bell Busk), Alison Wiffen and Brian Burton (Gargrave), Hestor Cox and Penny Hunt (Horton-in-Ribblesdale), Annie Farrer and Christine Horsewill (Clapham), and 12 more artists in and around Skipton.

We all look forward to meeting you in June.

Elaine Newington Ward



Girlguiding Report: Settle and Clapham

Although the spring term has been a short one, there has been plenty happening across our local Girlguiding units in Settle and Clapham.

At Settle Brownies, the girls have been working towards the Take Action Theme Award, focusing on the Influence Skills Builder. We are delighted to have welcomed seven new Brownies this term, along with two young leaders completing their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, who have been a great help during meetings.

The Brownies have also enjoyed celebrating different cultural events. We marked Burns Night and Chinese New Year, with the girls trying their hand at using chopsticks and making a colourful craft dragon as part of the celebrations.



Settle Rainbows at the Fire Station

Meanwhile, Settle Rainbows have been working towards a Four Elements Challenge. Their activities have included learning about wildfires, making edible campfires, designing recycling posters, creating and testing paper aeroplanes, and playing new games linked to water. One of the highlights for the Rainbows was a visit to Settle Fire Station, where

they learned about the important work firefighters do and what to do to stay safe if a fire breaks out at home. The girls found the visit fascinating, and we are very grateful to the firefighters who took the time to show them around.

At 1st Clapham & Austwick Brownies and Guides, the winter term has also been busy. Since the New Year they have been working hard on badges and programme activities, with several girls achieving Bronze and Silver Awards, and some now close to completing their Gold Award.

In February, Clapham Brownies and Guides joined 1st Settle Brownies for a special overnight celebration marking 100 years of World Thinking Day. A total of 22 girls and three leaders took part in the North West England Region online event, *A Voyage Under the Stars*, which included baking, a virtual campfire, relaxation activities and renewing their Girlguiding promises. The Clapham girls have also started a litter awareness campaign, learning about the impact of litter on the environment and designing posters to help spread their message in the community. Looking ahead, the girls are organising a Charity Tea Afternoon on Sunday 14th June 2026 to raise funds for Yorkshire Cancer Research, where they will be baking in the morning and serving guests in the afternoon.

To keep up to date with our activities, please follow Clapham Brownies and Guides on Facebook.

Jill Crowson

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Settle Primary: Growing and Learning Together

As we move into spring, there is plenty of activity to report from Settle Primary School.

Under the leadership of executive headteacher Mrs Claire Roberts and deputy headteacher Miss Laura Thompson, the school continues to be a vibrant place of learning. We currently have more than 200 children in the school, including the nursery, and continue to see a regular intake of children throughout the school year as people move into the area or move their children to the school.

Community and Federation

The school remains in a formal federation with Kirkby-in-Malhamdale Primary School, sharing a single governing body to ensure both schools flourish within the North Yorkshire community. Both schools currently maintain a “good” rating from Ofsted across all areas.

Science Week

One of our teachers, Mrs Ambrose, organised a week of science-focused activities as part of British Science Week. Starting with an assembly about Sir David Attenborough and sharing the theme – curiosity – what’s your question? The school had visits from three prominent scientists, Peter Riley, Dave Rockett and Peter Nutsford.

Beyond the Classroom

It’s been a busy term for extra-curricular life:

- **Sporting Spirit:** The school continues its proud tradition of competitive sports, regularly participating in the North Craven Area primary school leagues to foster teamwork and character. We recently competed in the swimming gala, cross country and have lots of summer events to look forward to.

- **Extended Care:** The popular breakfast club (7.30am–9.00am) and after school club (3.30pm–5.30pm) remain heavily used by local families, providing a mix of crafts, reading, games and homework support. A recent donation of Playmobil has been welcomed by the children.
- **Coming Up:** With the Easter holidays approaching, the school has organised both Sam Arrowsmith and Ambitions Gymnastics to offer holiday club activities: these are always a hit with the children.



Looking Ahead

For parents of younger children, the application window for the September 2026 intake into reception closed in January, and the school is now preparing to welcome its next generation of learners. We are also looking forward to welcoming a new intake of nursery children, starting the term after they are three years old. We have some open days coming up, please look at the school’s Facebook page for information on these, or contact the school directly.

The school continues to live by its ethos of ensuring every child is “loved, valued, and flourishes to achieve their potential” and we always welcome prospective families to visit our school. 01729 822019.

Settle and District *Community News* always welcomes news updates from schools in our area.

How Snaizeholme Project manages valley wildlife

Last month the Craven Conservation Group visited the Woodland Trust project site at Snaizeholme, the side valley that runs into Widdale just south of Hawes.

Paul Bunton, Engagement and Community Officer for the Trust, explained how the 1,393 acre property, which came into Trust ownership in 2021, was being managed in three different ways. The valley bottom is being kept largely clear of trees and grazed by cattle to develop the grassland habitat for a range of wildlife, including nesting upland birds. The middle slopes are being planted with assorted tree types, the higher levels mainly with harder montane species. Finally, the top of the site is where peatland and stretches of limestone pavement are being conserved, not least to slow rainwater runoff down into the Snaizeholme Beck. The beck itself, which in the past had just been treated as a fast-flowing drain, is being allowed to re-naturalise to encourage trout and our native white-clawed crayfish.

After the introductory talk in the warmth of the log-burner-heated barn that serves as project HQ, over twenty of us headed out for a tour of the site. Curlews, lapwings and oystercatchers were soaring and calling in the spring sunshine. We looped round through neighbouring woodland, home to the famous colony of red squirrels, which came out to inspect us.



The Woodland Trust is launching an appeal to acquire further land in the valley, clearing pine monoculture and replanting with more diverse tree species to encourage a greater range of wildlife. The Trust is moving away from using plastic tree guards, instead relying on over-planting (allowing for some saplings to be lost) to compensate for predation and damage from voles and deer. Thermal imaging drone cameras are used to monitor the elusive deer, which are often more numerous than people realise. 400,000 trees have already been planted on the existing site, including aspen, willow, birch and alder. It is a long-term initiative and York and Leeds universities are involved in monitoring how soil health and water quality progresses over time.

Start-up of the project was helped by funding from the government-supported White Rose Forest programme, the 25-year strategy for developing woodland in North and West Yorkshire. But you can help with the work by supporting the Woodland Trust – search woodlandtrust.org.uk for more information.

Phil Hinde



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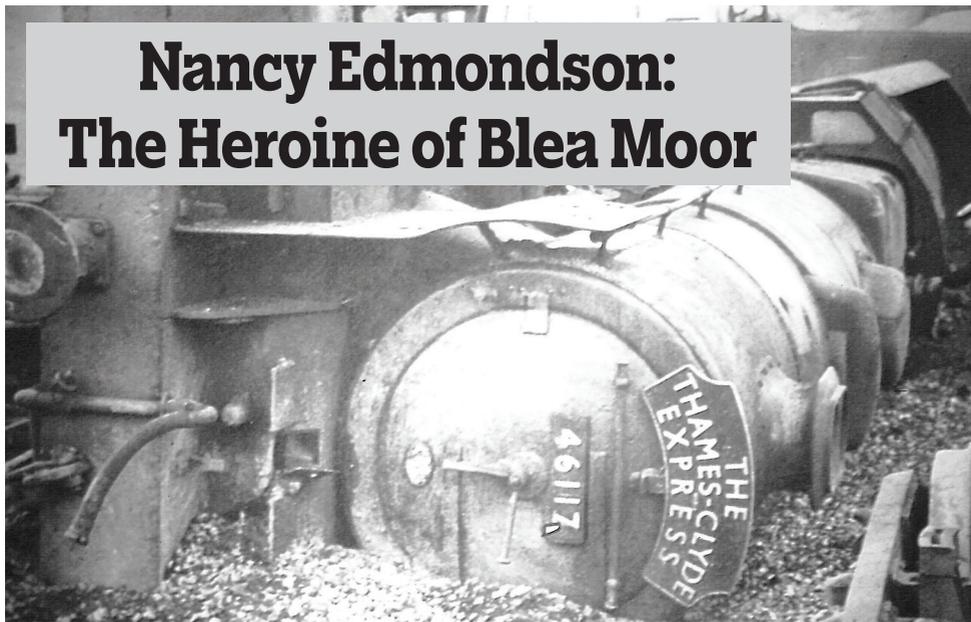
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Nancy Edmondson: The Heroine of Blea Moor



This April marks not only the 150th anniversary of the Settle–Carlisle railway’s first passenger train, but also the 74th anniversary of a most spectacular crash on one of the most isolated parts of the line and a remarkable act of heroism by a young woman who still lives in this area. Bob Swallow takes up the tale.

I have always had an interest in people, so when George Horner started to relate his memories from Blea Moor I sat up and took notice. He was one of the signalmen there at the time when Nancy Edmondson and her family were living at this most remote spot.

Let’s not get ahead of ourselves. John Dawson, her father, a ganger on the railway, was, during 1939, offered the post of sub-ganger for the stretch of line from midway on Ribbleshead Viaduct to halfway through Blea Moor tunnel — from the heights to the depths. The attraction was the tenancy of a tied property, No. 1 Blea Moor Cottages, one of a pair of steep-eaved semi-detached houses that had been built at the same time as the railway. There was a third property, but this was from a later period.

Nancy was born during 1938 and had

two elder sisters, Edith, then twelve, and Margaret, ten.

There was a plentiful supply of water from the tower provided for thirsty locomotives. Coal came courtesy of firemen’s shovels. The toilet was a mite primitive, an earth closet at the bottom of the garden close to the rhubarb patch. When this facility was upgraded to a chemical variety, dad took some time to suss out the working before announcing, “them as use it can empty it”, promptly departing for a local pothole. As Nancy was to observe, “I never was keen on that sport”. In any event, a visit at night-time required the services of an inverted enamelled jug beneath which was sheltered a candle to provide some light for the event.

Schooling for Nancy was initially at Chapel-le-Dale. A school bus driven



by Dave would arrive from Ingleton, blowing its horn whilst traversing Sleights to encourage pupils to hurry up, it being a mile and a quarter from Blea Moor to the road junction following the railway from Settle. It became the custom to load the hems of waterproof jackets with small stones to prevent such items becoming airborne. Sometimes, and against the rules, Nancy would walk across the viaduct, where there was a degree of protection from the parapet. She knew the train times by heart and the signalman on duty would always advise of any special movements. Later, as a pupil at the secondary school in Settle, she boarded out there during the week, returning home at weekends.

1947 was a hell of a winter. Dad spent a deal of his time trying to keep the points clear. Eventually, over a six-week period, the line through Blea Moor became blocked, though snow ploughs managed for some time to get through thus far with supplies. It was not unusual to have a ride either inside the plough or on a locomotive down to

Settle to visit such shops as were still open.

Eventually, in desperation, a jet engine mounted on a flat truck was brought up to Blea Moor to try to blast a way through. "It'll niver get up here", said dad, and of course he was right. It stuck in the first minor drift and had to be recovered by Italian prisoners of war.

Edith was due to get married at Chapel-le-Dale. Dad got his signalman friend from No. 3 to cause an unscheduled stop at the signal on the up line for a Midland Class 4 0-6-0 light engine. "Would the crew mind dropping off his daughter's wedding dress, over her arm, hair in curlers, at Ribbleshead, where a taxi was waiting to continue her journey?"

If you thought that strange, how about Margaret going into labour unexpectedly early, resulting in the up Thames-Clyde Express being brought to a stop at the same signal. Dad and the guard tried manfully to lift her from ground level into the dining car, several passengers lending a hand.

In due course, at Skipton Maternity Hospital, a baby was delivered sound in wind and limb.

So we arrive at the fateful day, 18th April 1952.

It is a beautiful spring day and Nancy is sunbathing atop the pigsty — as you do. She hears the up Thames–Clyde Express approaching, coasting along at around 55 mph. As it approaches the facing points around two hundred yards from Nancy, the pilot engine, a Midland Compound No. 41040, clears these before, with a tremendous crash, the train engine, Number 46117 *Welsh Guardsman*, rears up before crashing down on its side not far from Nancy. The train, comprised of modern — for the time — stock, remains mainly coupled together and to the train engine. It is strewn across the permanent way.

Imagine the scene: the only people available to help are the signalman, who immediately summons rescue services but is unable to leave his post, plus Nancy, then a thirteen-year-old Girl Guide, and her mother Lucy. These two clamber all over the wreckage, finding a baby in its carry cot, which has been flung through a window. Their home becomes a casualty clearing station until much later when rescuers arrive. They are initially appalled at the scene that greets them — the embankment littered with bodies, which thankfully soon turn out to be passengers who, after lending a hand, are sunbathing in the spring weather!

The cause of the accident was traced to a brake rod on the pilot engine tender, the split pin to one end of which had fallen out, leaving the rod flailing around for over two miles until it reached the point into the up loop. Here it moved the point mechanism under the second locomotive, causing



the accident. There were no fatalities; injuries were, in the main, light, with seventeen people admitted to various hospitals.

Eventually, when all was cleared up, the Railways Board presented Nancy with an inscribed watch, which is still going and she still wears. Mum received remuneration for blankets and refreshments. Nancy also received letters of commendation from the Chief Guide and the Education Authority.

Nancy spent nineteen years at Blea Moor on and off, latterly in training at Newcastle. If the crew on the train from Carlisle knew her, they would stop at Blea Moor to drop her off, avoiding a mile and a quarter walk in all weathers. Now there is service for you, and, by the way, she married Dave, the school bus driver, before moving to Burton in Lonsdale, where she still lives, now in her late eighties.



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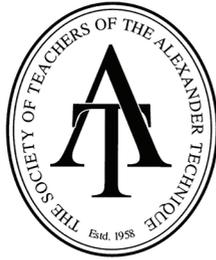


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Off to the Seaside!

Looking back on a January outing



Seaside – in the middle of winter – yes, really! Wanting to fly the flag again for walking excursions from spots reachable by public transport, but discouraged by grey clouds over the local fell-tops, we decided to head into the next county. So, down to Giggleswick for the 9.20am train to Lancashire. The other half had been agitating for a trip to see the winter bird flocks around Morecambe Bay for some time; a forecast for a bit of a weather window over on the coast had suggested this was the day to agree.

Once the train had crept round the curve into Carnforth station it was time to get out and start walking. The map showed that to head south along the coast, we first had to go north past the rather untidy relics of the Carnforth Iron Works to find the footpath alongside the River Keer, perhaps the smallest of the several rivers that drain into Morecambe Bay. We were aiming to follow the Lancashire Coastal Way but, as we found, this Way is more of a concept than an actual footpath! Recent rain and high tides meant that the first section was a muddy experience; trying to follow the shore meant getting lost in the meandering streams of the salt flats. At first dog-walkers seemed to be scaring away the birdlife, apart from a few mallards paddling along the Keer. (Fun fact – female mallards are the only wild ducks that actually quack!)

But once we got in view of the main Bay it all seemed worthwhile. It is, after all, a designated site of international

importance under the Ramsar Convention on conserving wetlands for wildlife. Sun broke through and across the water the southern tip of Lakeland, from Black Combe up to the Coniston peaks, gradually became clearer. The tide was still low so the birds we had come to see were mostly feeding on far-out mudbanks, but as the sea came in with legendary speed, flocks were ushered towards the shore. Nearer to us at first were the shelduck, a few curlew, and numerous redshanks probing for food in the sand and mud, but as we walked further we saw several eider, the largest wild duck in Europe. If we had been over on the east coast we would have been calling them Cuddy Ducks after their association with Lindisfarne and St Cuthbert. But as the tide pushed in, what really caught the eye was the black, white and red of hundreds of oystercatchers – certainly many more than you could shake the proverbial stick at. Also plentiful were lapwing – encouraging as this is a species in decline. Some of these birds will head up to Dales moorlands; others may fly back to Scandinavia to breed.

As the days were still short, and the trains home run to a rather quirky timetable, we pushed on through the little caravan park at Red Bank and up a very modest rise to a triangulation pillar at a mere 21 metres above sea level. But remember these trig points were really put there for horizontal map-making; the benchmarks and heights they carry are actually an extra feature – the Red Bank trig certainly gives a good

line of sight to the landmark hills around the bay.

As we walked on, the birding highlight was the sight of pintails; the male is surely the prince of British ducks, elegant and serene. However, as well as encouraging bird watching, this is a good walk for train spotters, as at Hest Bank the railway is only a few yards from the beach. The short stretch here is the only section where the West Coast Main Line from London to Glasgow truly earns its name, though it does offer a further glimpse of salty waters north of Carlisle.

After a rocky and pebbly few yards over an interesting selection of geological specimens washed over from elsewhere in the bay, the fleshpots of Morecambe came in view. So, the last part of the day was a stroll along the promenade into the town. Many of the fleshpots were closed for the winter season, but quite a few folk were out enjoying the rare January sunshine. We managed to buy a tray of chips to sustain us before making the last few yards over to the station and the afternoon train back to Yorkshire.

By the time you read this the birds will have dispersed to their inland breeding sites, but the sand will be warmer, the hostelrys will be re-opening and the statue of Eric Morecambe will still be there to greet you at your journey's end. So winter, spring, summer or fall, just catch that train and head west for a coastal walk that surely offers the best seafront views in Britain.

Phil Hinde



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Spotlight on Wellbeing - Pip Carr



There is increasing evidence that spending time in nature can be very beneficial to our overall sense of wellbeing, both physical, mental and emotional. Just 15 minutes a day spent outdoors can result in numerous benefits such as:

- Improved mood
- Reduction in stress, anxiety and depression
- Improved confidence and self-esteem
- Improved sleep
- Better concentration and memory
- A reduction in fixation on negative and intrusive thoughts

Other associated benefits could be:

- Better physical health due to increased exercise
- Reduction in loneliness when getting out in nature with others

There are many ways to interact with the natural world:

- Walking or hiking, either alone or by joining a group
- Volunteering with a conservation organisation such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, which can also provide a sense of purpose
- Gardening or growing your own food (join a gardening club)
- Bringing nature indoors with houseplants, terrariums and herbs
- Painting or sketching outside, or taking up wildlife photography
- Visiting parks and gardens
- Taking part in outdoor sports such as running, cycling, paddleboarding, wild swimming and kayaking
- Eating as many meals as possible outside when the weather permits
- Connecting with wildlife by observing

flora and fauna in woods, fields, by rivers, at the coast and in nature reserves

- Walking your dog or a neighbour's dog
- Simply sit in your garden or on a bench in a park and use your senses: listen to the wind in the trees or grass, birds singing, the sounds of water, insect sounds and animal activity.

This poem by *Mary Oliver* summarises the powerful effect nature can have on us.

I Worried Mary Oliver

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers flow in the right direction, will the earth turn as it was taught, and if not how shall I correct it?
Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven, can I do better?
Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows can do it and I am, well, hopeless.
Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it, am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia?
Finally, I saw that worrying had come to nothing. And gave it up. And took my old body and went out into the morning, and sang.

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The Novice Gardener

Annie Gammon

Email: annie@settlenews.co.uk



Spring is a big season. So much happens in the plant and weather worlds between 1st March and 31st May. We travel from the start, with so few flowers, vegetables and trees in leaf, to the abundance of late May. The daylight hours increase by almost six hours, from just under 11 hours to just under 17 hours. That sixty percent increase drives more warmth and more growth. There is a huge change during those months.

I read somewhere about the descriptions which are used in Japan for much shorter 'micro seasons'. These five-day periods split the year into 72 sections, each with its own timely nature-linked description. I do not think these necessarily happen at the same time each year: I think this depends on variability of weather each year. These micro seasons in Japan have descriptions like:

- sparrows start to nest
- first cherry blossoms
- swallows return
- peonies bloom
- hawks learn to fly
- dew glistens white on grass.

I do not consider that these descriptions transfer directly to us in the Ribble Valley, but I do like the idea of noticing particular garden developments. The micro season terms give us a chance to add detail to what we know happens in a largely similar

sequence each year. I think that five days is too short, but that sometimes much growth does happen in that period.

My spring micro season descriptions would include:

- hosts of daffodils wave in the breeze
- willow tree in full leaf
- yellow dandelions prevail
- tulips bloom
- swifts return
- foxgloves heighten

Please do send in any descriptions you would include to annie@settlenews.co.uk.



In the particular part of spring (early and cold) when I write this, I have particularly been noticing the tiny leaf buds emerge and then begin to expand. You can see the barely visible developing green buds on the sprig of cotoneaster in the first picture. I do enjoy

seeing each tree and bush come into leaf each spring.

The second picture is of a pot where, by luck rather than judgement, I have a complementary set of plants together. Here, the low-growing thyme frames some miniature narcissi 'Ice Baby' and a pink scabious which survived the winter very well. I don't often get the combinations of plants to work well: I tend to plant individual species with a bit



of thought about colour and sequencing with other plants, but not enough about complementary heights and sizes. I hope to get better at planning and implementing the right harmonious combinations. Enjoy your spring garden.



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Third consecutive title in sight

At the time of writing, the talented squad of players that make up North Ribblesdale RUFC, are on the cusp of something never done before in the history of English rugby by any club outside the M25.

With three games to go, the club sits proudly top of their league, Regional 2 North West, nine points clear. Two of those games are at home on 21st March and the final game of the season on 11th April when they entertain Douglas from the Isle of Man for what could be a crunch game or, merely, a celebration of a fantastic achievement from the local club. Either way, please get down and support the team if you receive *Community News* in time.

Since the last edition, Ribb have continued to blaze their way to the top, with only a narrow defeat to local rivals Vale of Lune from Lancaster lowering their colours in an intriguing contest before a large crowd, swelled by many from Settle. Comfortable victories over Widnes, West Park St Helens, and Winnington Park, scoring 160 points in the process (and many spectacular tries), culminated in an epic contest away at second-placed Sandbach (who were, thus far, unbeaten at home this term). Ribb once again had strong numbers making the long journey, and their vocal support proved crucial, almost turning the atmosphere into a home fixture. Despite opening well, Ribb trailed at the interval, but in the second half really put their nearest rivals to the sword. The hosts had no answer to Ribb's pace, power and precision, scoring four second-half tries to run out 37–22 comfortable victors, to send them nine clear at the top.

The title may be secured on 21st March against bottom club Altrincham Kersal (if local rivals 'Vale' drop any points in their game against Birkenhead Park). Whichever way those results go, the title is now Ribb's to lose, and only a serious loss of form really stands in their way.

As already stated, it will be a serious achievement for a community club such as ours. If successful, we simply do not know which league we will be in, such are the vagaries of the RFU and the 'League Pyramid'.

The players and the club will embrace the challenge in much the same way as we have these last three seasons: by working hard, improving their skills through quality coaching, and staying committed to the club.

The club's second string, the Stags, are in second place in their merit table and in pole position for a home play-off match. They also recently won the Gordon Throup memorial trophy, overcoming a strong Keighley second team, and also recently thrashed the visiting Old Leos 75–5 to demonstrate it is not only the first XV that can entertain.

Our ladies continue to be competitive in a challenging league, and our mini and junior section continues to provide rugby for enthusiastic young Craveners. That, coupled with 'walking rugby' for our more senior members and O2 Touch on a Friday evening, completes the club's offering to all local residents. If you wish to get involved, either on the active side or in an administrative role, whatever your skillset, there is a place for you. Please contact me on 07711 028287. A friendly welcome is assured.

Finally, congratulations to North Ribb's George Burton, who has been selected to play for Yorkshire U20s, yet again highlighting that playing for Ribb is no barrier to representative rugby. We wish him well.

Gavin Davidson
Chair, North Ribblesdale RUFC



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Now that April's here



Just back from hot Egypt, my thoughts now turn to cricket. In fact, they rarely turn away from cricket, ‘God’s greatest creation’ (H. Pinter). Indeed, even in Luxor Museum I espied clear tomb depictions of a figure holding a bat in God Anubis’s afterlife — the celestial realm, of course. The development from curved to straight bat was replicated in England some millennia later.

Imperialists argue that the British introduced cricket to Egypt in the late 19th century and that the green fields, the white uniforms and the spirit of gentleman’s sport laid the foundations. Not so. This was simply a renaissance.

Between 1909 and 1939, Egypt hosted several first-class cricket matches, some against foreign teams.

Following the 1952 revolution, British influence began rapidly to decline. As the Brits left, so too did the infrastructure and passion for cricket.

How could that be?

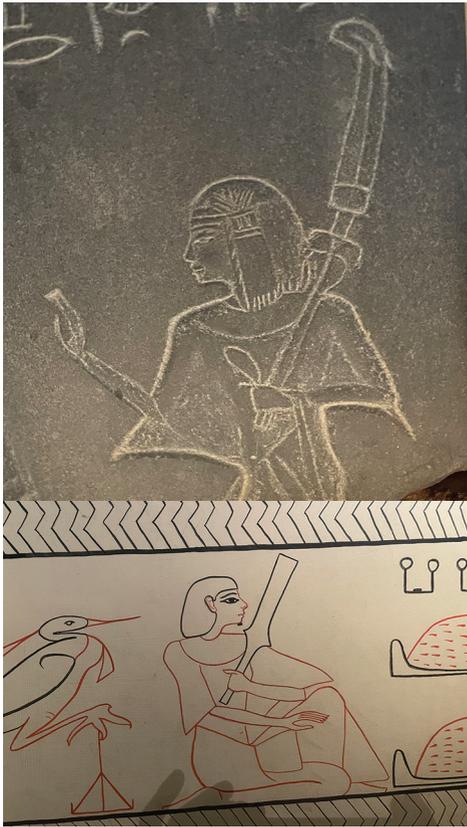
There were no formal clubs and no recognition of cricket in Egyptian sporting culture between the mid-1950s and the late 1990s. Cricket grounds were built over — what sacrilege — but the late 1990s saw a resurgence amongst Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan and British expatriates.

There are attempts to reintroduce cricket into schools. A Cairo league was operating by April 2008, with the hope of participating in the North West African Championship.

The Cricket Committee of Egypt was established in 2025 to promote the future development of cricket, but they also need to highlight the ancient historical heritage of Egyptian cricket with a PlayPharaoh Annual. If I’d known what was afoot, I’d have packed a trunk of Wisdens and helped with the missionary work. Trouble is, in ten years, they’ll probably thrash us in a T20 match, or perhaps an F5 by then. Let sleeping mummies lie?

I searched in vain in Luxor and Cairo souks for a souvenir Egyptian cricket bat but instead bought a necklace ‘worn by Queen Nefertiti, my friend’ for our granddaughter and a Mo Salah football shirt, ‘as worn by the national hero’, for our grandson. The shopkeeper offered to get it autographed for little extra cost, but I doubted the presence of the football star, pen in hand, in the back room. Making these purchases, I had to restrain myself from giggling at the memory of the hilarious Michael Palin/Eric Idle haggling scene in Monty Python’s *Life of Brian*, financed by George Harrison simply because he wanted to see the film — money well spent.

I also bought myself a white Panama



hat to protect my pate and thought I'd got the better of the deal, until the label told me it was made of Chinese paper. The stallholder had insisted it was a genuine authentic copy of Howard Carter's tiffin when he dug up King Tut. Whom can one trust?

But I digress. By the time you read this, the cricket season will be almost upon us. As I write, the members of the Settle District u3a/SCC Walking Cricket squad will be shifting up a gear in their winter training, honing their skill and toning their muscle for the oncoming season. One of our number, Andrew Blyth, buoyed by the 2025 Championship success of his home county, Nottinghamshire, flew off to Barbados to recharge his batteries

and pick up some tips from the great ex-Notts/West Indies all-rounder and captain, Sir Garfield Sobers. I trust he will share his pearls of wisdom when we reconvene at SCC at 3pm on Monday 6th April.

I would encourage any (grand)parent to get girls and boys involved in cricket from the earliest possible age. I have always believed that cricket is more than just a sport. For me, it embodies a set of values, adherence to which is beneficial to all who play and watch it. There's been the odd rotten apple over the years from certain quarters, though I suspect far fewer than in many other walks of life. It's no accident that the phrase 'It's not cricket' is traditionally used to highlight anything that is unfair or underhand. Underarm is OK for Walking Cricket. There are several junior teams at Settle Cricket Club and any new youngsters will be warmly received.

At the other end of the age range, we Walking Cricketers are also keen to take on new, yet mature, male and female players. You don't have to be an expert, as will soon be evident if you decide to join us. We are in no way competitive and simply play games within our own squad. 'Fun' is the key word and everyone is active for the whole game. No one sits out waiting to bat. Members who pay the annual subscriptions of both the u3a and SCC pay a mere £1 per two-hour session. Any u3a members who are not SCC members pay £2. All equipment is provided. A soft ball is used, so there is no need for pads, gloves, helmet or box. Just bring a sense of humour.

Ian Gray



William Boyd: *Gabriel's Moon*

In six years of writing reviews for *Community News*, I have never, to my shame, touched upon the work of contemporary British novelist William Boyd. I cannot plead that Boyd's work is hard to find – he has written 19 novels, five collections of short stories, and 15 screenplays. Publishing success apart, Boyd has been well recognised academically, with degrees from Glasgow and Nice, and with four honorary doctorates, all from Scottish universities. He has been honoured with a CBE and is a Fellow of The Royal Society of Literature.

Born in 1952 in West Africa, Boyd began his writing career in 1981, with *A Good Man in Africa*, which draws upon his childhood years. Now in his seventies, Boyd is still writing; most recently he has embarked on a trilogy, the first book of which – *Gabriel's Moon*, published in 2024 – is the subject of this article.

The lead character in *Gabriel's Moon* is travel-writer turned unwitting spy, Gabriel Dax. The moon in the book's title refers to a night-light that Gabriel believed he knocked over in bed when he was six years old, setting the house ablaze and killing his mother. Gabriel's elder brother, Sefton, was away at boarding school on that fateful night, so escaped unscathed. Their father had died some years earlier, so on the mother's death the two orphans were brought up separately. What happened to them in adult life is important. Gabriel

was brought up by an uncle, whose art dealership he joined. Sefton was formally adopted by a family named Roscommon and went on to be something undefined in the Foreign Office (that is to say, he joined MI6).

The two brothers have little to do with each other until Faith Green, a senior MI6 case officer, lights upon Gabriel to make use of him as a courier of paintings, for which Gabriel's work as an art dealer and travel-writer provides ideal cover. It is Sefton who has prompted Faith Green to do this but it takes Gabriel a large part of the novel's narrative to realise it; furthermore, his lasting uncertainty about it is compounded by a deeper and persistent uncertainty: did he really cause the fire that killed his mother? In the hope of relieving years of sleepless nights and nightmares, he embarks on a series of consultations with a psychiatrist, Dr Katerina Haas. Katerina Haas and Faith Green personify the two principal intrigues that run through the novel.

There is no argument but that *Gabriel's Moon* is a spy thriller: Gabriel is a spy, and there are a few thrills. But unlike other, and perhaps lesser, spy thrillers, this one does not rely on violence, hi-tech or flash cars. (Especially not cars. Dax has to be content with a rental Simca 1100 – remember those, shaped like a collapsing French greenhouse?) It is intrigue rather than cliff-hanging that draws you in,

and to my mind that makes *Gabriel's Moon* distinctive. In delving into all the intellectual and emotional doubts that Gabriel Dax himself experiences, Boyd reveals a fertile imagination as well as great technical expertise.

Because Dax is required to undertake multiple trips, the narrative is

geographically spread wide. Faith Green hooks Gabriel in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but then sends him off to Spain, Poland, and Ireland. Boyd is memorably good at portraying his multiple locations. Take, for example, Dax having a quiet drink in a Dublin pub, with its smoke-stained dark walls and discoloured ceiling: "it felt like sitting in a pint of Guinness". Most of the book is set in the 1960s, and as

somebody who was a young man in that heady decade, I found to my delight that Boyd captures the period so beautifully.

To assist Gabriel with his courier activities, Faith engineers that he should make contact with Kit Caldwell, one of her MI6 team based in Spain. The two men develop a close friendship, in which, as it burgeons, Gabriel learns that Kit plans to defect to Moscow. So, Gabriel has to confront a dilemma: does he betray his friend or his country? Answer: his country. But in fact no defection take places

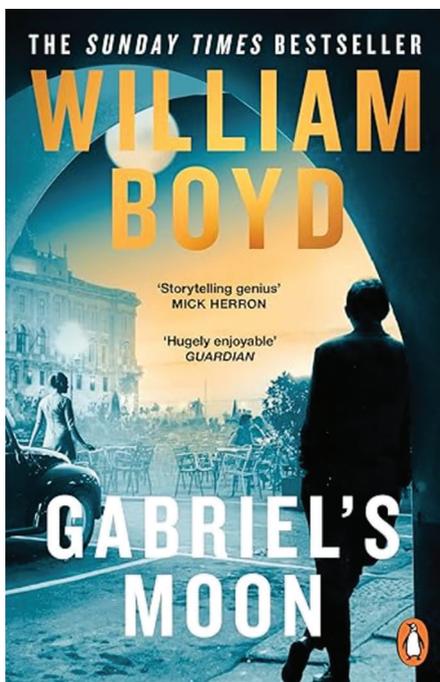
because Kit quite what he seems; nor, it emerges, is Gabriel's brother Sefton, whose sticky end isn't serves to resolve most of Gabriel's questions about the nature of the undercover work he is doing. Through Sefton's death Gabriel comes to realise how double-agents and triple-agents work and how, in this case, Faith Green has controlled them.

Faith remains an intriguing figure. She has batted away every one of Gabriel's questions about the work he is doing, which makes him ever more determined to get behind her, both personally and professionally. In the process he follows her to a holiday hideout in Suffolk where, unexpectedly, she beds him. (She is his handler, after all, so a bit of handling is perhaps in order.) However, the night of passion reads like a one-nighter, and leaves Gabriel no clearer

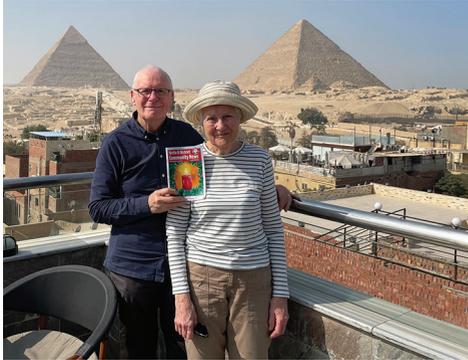
about what makes Faith tick. But after that night he feels sure that their working relationship is over, and that he won't see her again.

Not so. In the last sentence of the last page, Faith arrives, unannounced, outside Gabriel's house. Here, then – probably – begins the next book in the Gabriel Dax trilogy. It is called *Predicament*, and it has just been published. Watch out!

Bob Young

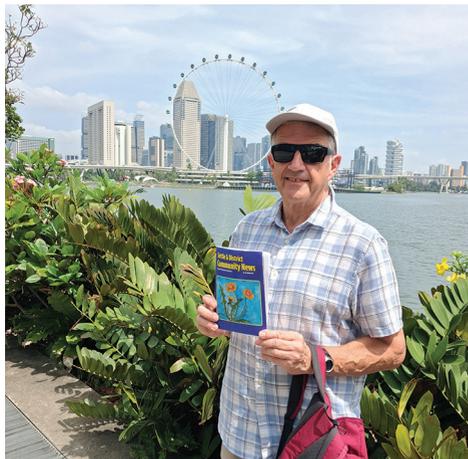


GOING GLOBAL



Ian and Margaret Gray (above) took *Community News* with them to Egypt and sent us this cracking shot (to use a cricketing analogy, see more on that theme from Ian on page 52-53) in front of the pyramids.

Meanwhile, Nick Abbey (below) writes to tell us: “One of the upsides of needing to find an alternative way home from Sri Lanka, due to the appalling situation in the Middle East, was that we found ourselves with a few hours to spare in Singapore. And so naturally took a pic with the copy of *Community News* we take everywhere!”



QUIZ TIME

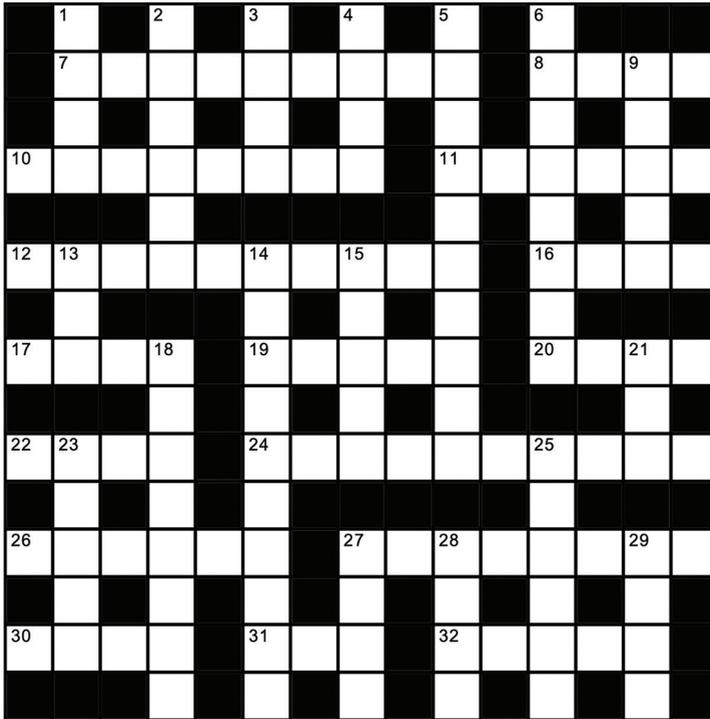
High Flying Birds

Springtime makes us take notice of our feathered friends. All our answers are species or types of bird.

1. Maid Marian’s boyfriend.
2. US rockers famed for ‘Hotel California’.
3. Spitfire engine.
4. Indie band from Hull including Norman Cook (Fatboy Slim).
5. Dylan Thomas wrote of the ‘..... priested shore’.
6. Why don’t polar bears eat? (They can’t get the wrappers off)
7. Bulmers cider brand.
8. Beatles song from the White Album.
9. Pretty (hit recorded by Manfred Mann).
10. American Taylor.
11. Pickpocket seen on the river in Settle.
12. Classic instrumental from Fleetwood Mac.

Check your answers on page 63

We love to see your photos from around the world so keep them coming! Email us at global@settlenews.co.uk



Across

7. Position and duties of a Minister (9)
8. Group (4)
10. Michael -----, GB comedian (8)
11. Well mannered (6)
12. Help (10)
16. Ill (4)
17. Small ancient Greek 'harp' (4)
19. Fresh, invigorating air (5)
20. Fire; bag (4)
22. Cab (4)
24. eg Victor Borge, Peter Schmeichel; dogs (5,5)
26. Abstain; cease (6)
27. Flat tyre (8)
30. Post (4)
31. Ashes container (3)
32. Upset (3,2)

Down

1. Heroic; monumental (4)
2. Nation on Borneo (6)
3. Doubtful (4)
4. Blackthorn (4)
5. Enhance; harmonize with (10)
6. Tapering stone pillars, eg Cleopatra's Needle (8)
9. Predicting the future (5)
13. Pig's home (3)
14. Considerate (10)
15. Not a single person (2,3)
18. Entitled; suitable (8)
21. Snooker stick (3)
23. Stadium (5)
25. Shrewd (6)
27. Coniferous tree (4)
28. Southern French resort (4)
29. Fascinated (4)

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Settle Town Council: Meets first Monday in the month (excluding Bank Holidays) 7pm at Settle Town Hall. Agendas and Minutes will be posted on the Market Place Notice Board and on the website at www.settletowncouncil.gov.uk. For further details, email clerk@settletowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01729 823617.

Settle Market: Every Tuesday.

Artisan Market: Second Sunday every month.

Music

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

Langcliffe Singers: Every Tuesday Rehearsals at St John's Hall Settle, 7.30pm-9.30pm (term time only). Contact musicdirector@langcliffesingers.org.uk

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

St Alkelda's Church Choir: First Sunday of the month Sung Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) 6pm, Giggleswick Parish Church.

Black Horse Jazzmen: Tuesdays, April 7th and 21st, Thursday April 30th, Tuesdays May 5th and 19th and Tuesday June 2nd at The Talbot, 8.30pm to 10.15pm. Sitters in welcome. Further info: www.talbotsettle.co.uk (note the one Thursday session on April 30th).

Giggleswick and Settle Brass

Band: Rehearsals every Wednesday at the Conservative Club, Station Road, Settle. 6.45pm for junior/training band and 7.30pm for the main band. All ages, all abilities are welcome, and we may be able to provide

an instrument if needed. Contact info@giggleswickandsettlebrassband.co.uk

Recreational

Art Group: Mondays 10am-12 noon at Tosside Community Hall. Tel: 01729 840272 or email info@tossidecommunityhall.org.uk. All abilities welcome.

Life-drawing sessions, untutored, monthly on final Saturdays (1pm-4pm) and second Tuesdays (10am-12pm, 1.30pm-3.30pm) at Quaker Meeting House, Kirkgate, Settle (opposite Victoria Hall). Easels and boards and refreshments provided: please bring your own paper and drawing materials. Full day £20, half day £10, three hours £15. Places limited. To book in advance/request more info, email suevickerman1@gmail.com

Settle Photographic Group: Every third Monday, St. John's Methodist Church Hall and on Zoom, 7.30pm-9.30pm and on the 1st Monday of the month, October-April. Visitors welcome. £4.

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

Langcliffe Village Institute Short Mat Bowls Club: Two sessions- Thursday 2pm-5pm and 7pm-9.30pm. All welcome. Contact Pat Smelt. 01729 823033.

Settle Bridge Club: Every Tuesday 7pm-9.30pm. Online bridge using the RealBridge platform and every Thursday 1.30pm-4.30pm in person bridge at St John's Church Hall. For more information see www.bridgewebs.com/settle/ or contact Rosie Sanderson at rosiesanderson19@gmail.com

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

Settle Spinners and Knitters: Meet in the back room of St John's Hall 2pm-4pm every Tuesday All fibre crafts welcome. For more information contact settlespinners@gmail.com

Settle and District Gardening

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

St Alkelda's Church Gardening

Group: Meets in the New Churchyard at 1.15pm every Monday. Choice of maintenance of flowerbeds, grass cutting etc in the grounds of St Alkelda's.

Giggleswick Litter-Picking Group: Meets on the first Monday of each month at 9.45am in St Alkelda's Church porch.

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 or email: ingleborougharchaeologygroup@gmail.com

Garden Club: Last Tuesday of each month, 2.30pm at Tosside Community Hall. Tel: 01729 840272 or email info@tossidecommunityhall.org.uk

Stainforth Hookers meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month (dates may change dependent on how weeks fall) at Stainforth Village Hall for a warm and friendly dedicated crochet circle. 2pm-4pm and £5 per session with tea and biscuits, chatter and giggles included. We welcome those that are visiting and bringing their crochet along as well as regulars. For more information email: Stainforthhookers@gmail.com

North Craven Flower Club: Second Thursday of the month (except August) at Hellifield Village Hall 2pm. First class demonstrators do their stuff, and the arrangements are usually raffled. Tea and biscuits/cakes are served after the meeting. New members (£38 per year) and visitors (£6 per session).

Hatha Yoga: Tuesdays at 7.15pm-8.15pm at Settle Primary School. Advance booking required: yogabyscarlett@gmail.com

Young people

1st Castleberg (Settle) Scout Group: For Boys and Girls 6-18 years old. The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers meet weekly during term time at the Drill Hall Castleberg Lane, Settle. For further information contact settlescouting@gmail.com.

Girlguiding: Rainbows ages 5-7 years, Brownies 7-10 years, Guides 10-14 years, Rangers 14-18 years. We have units in the area with availability for these age groups. Adult supporters also welcome. Get in touch via the contact page at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Sport and physical activities

Austwick Piccalillis Pickleball meet every Tuesday morning at Eldroth, Thursday evening at Catteral and Saturday mornings at Giggleswick. If you are interested in playing this exciting and fast-growing sport, please contact us at austwickpickleball@gmail.com for times and further information. Equipment provided.

Austwick Bowling Club: Our friendly club is looking for new members. Everyone welcome, all ability levels. Open sessions on Mon, Wed and Thurs, Sats friendly matches/competitions. Season April-Sept. Green hire available. For more information on all aspects of the club contact John Jebson 01729 825786.

Table Tennis: Every Monday, Hellifield Village Institute 7pm-9pm. Contact Andrew Crabtree 01729 851806.

Line Dancing: Every Monday 1.30pm-3pm. St John's Church Hall. All welcome. Proceeds to charity.

Sequence Dancing: Every second Saturday evening of the month at the Catholic Hall, Settle. Start 7.30pm, £4 each including tea and biscuits. All proceeds to Age Concern Settle.

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

Badminton: Every Tuesday, Hellifield Village Institute 6pm–9pm. Contact Rebecca Gooch (07443 493169).

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

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

Exercise classes for Older Adults: Call Jo Wulf for further details on 07966 981985 or email jo@wolftracks.co.uk

Nordic walking: Mon 9am/Fri 10.30am. ‘Racing Snails’ Nordic Walking at a slower speed - Thurs 3.15pm. Please book in advance: 07966 981985 or email jo@wolftracks.co.uk

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. www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk/ for times.

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

Settle Netball: Anyone 18+ is welcome and we train every Tuesday (term time only) 6pm-7pm at Giggleswick sports hall, £5 per week (this is for court hire, I run the sessions not for profit). Contact Charlotte Orange charlotteorange@hotmail.com

Walking Rugby: meet every Friday 2pm-3pm at North Ribblesdale Rugby Club in Settle. We are a friendly group of men and women of varied abilities and ages, so if you would like to find out more please contact Alan Simpson 07891322096 or drop in to one of our sessions.

Settle Harriers Running Club: Every Monday and Wednesday (seniors) at 7pm and every Tuesday (juniors). See www.settleharriers.org for more details.

Settle Wheelers Cycling Club: A friendly and inclusive cycling club holding regular rides:- 11am Saturday Steady ride from Settle swimming pool; 1pm Saturday fast ride from Settle Market Place; 9.30am (10am winter) Sunday club ride from Settle Market Place. There is also a junior Go-Ride session on Saturday mornings. Please see the www.settlewheelers.org.uk for further details or contact the membership secretary nigelbeasant@hotmail.co.uk.

Settle Bowling Club: Open all year round. All ages or abilities are welcome and crown green bowls can be provided, if needed. For further details, contact club secretary John Chambers on 01729 360112 or 07905 701824 or email john.chambers@gmx.com

Indoor Bowls: Mon and Thurs 2pm-4pm at Tosside Community Hall. Tel: 01729 840272 or email info@tossidecommunityhall.org.uk. New players welcome.

Fit as a Fiddle classes with Jo Wulf: Fri 2pm to 3pm, £6 per session at Tosside Community Hall. Tel: 01729 840272 or email info@tossidecommunityhall.org.uk.

Support Groups

Age UK North Craven: Trips for the over 60s. For destinations and prices contact Janine or Amy on (01729) 823066.

Time Together Tuesday Dementia Cafe: for people living with Dementia and their Carers. Every Tuesday afternoon 1.30pm-3.30pm at St John’s Methodist Church. Join us for a cuppa, homemade cake, information and chat.

Coffee Pot: Held every Wednesday at St John’s Methodist Church from 10.30am-12 noon. Scones, cakes and hot drinks available.

Settle Community Library: Stay and Play (under-5s) Fridays, 11am-12 noon (term time only); Knit and Natter first and third Thursday, 10.30am-12 noon; Lego Club (age 5-11), Fridays from 3.30pm-5pm (term time only); Breathe Easy Asthma and Lung UK Peer Support Group, second Wednesday 2pm (Meetings run from March to Dec). All

groups are free, but donations very welcome. Visit www.settlelibrary.org.uk, check our Facebook page, or call 01609 534535.

Settle Area Refugee Support Group (includes Settle Supports Ukraine): We arrange talks and events, collect donated items and other support activities. Always looking for bicycles, phones, iPads etc. Contact Phil 07793 036745 or Angie angie.pedley@gmail.com

Settle and District Aid in Sickness Fund: Help with the extra costs that come with illness or immobility. Call 07709 252613 or email: janheap@hotmail.co.uk

Men's Groups

Men's Forum: Every second and fourth Monday in the month, apart from holiday periods. Friends Meeting House in Settle, 2pm-4pm. Members with very varied interests living in the Settle area give or organise a talk about once a year on a very wide range of subjects. Good companionship and mental stimulation on offer. Contact 01729 823205.

Andy's Man Club: Free-to-attend peer-to-peer support group for men aged over 18. No fees, no registration and no pressure to talk. Every Monday, 7pm, excluding Bank Holidays. Settle CofE Primary School, Bond Lane, Settle, BD24 9BW.

Women's Groups

Austwick WI meet in Austwick Parish Hall at 7.30pm every second Thursday. New members and visitors welcome. £5 for visitors. Contact: austwickwi@gmail.com or visit our website: austwickwi.wixsite.com for information

Giggleswick with Settle Mothers' Union: Every second Wednesday, The Lounge, Limestone View, Settle, 2pm. Contact: Branch Leader, Catie Jones, (01729) 822676 for more details.

Giggleswick WI: We meet every first Thursday of the month with various speakers at 7pm at St Mary and St Michael Church, Tillman Close, Settle, BD24 9RA. New members and visitors are always

welcome. Contact: wiggleswick@gmail.com. Follow us on our Facebook page.

Hellifield WI: We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7.15pm in Hellifield Village Hall (Institute). Visitors and new members are welcome. Contact Aileen Alexander (President) Tel 01729 851318.

Long Preston WI: Every second Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm in Long Preston Village Hall. New members and visitors always welcome. Follow us on Facebook.

Settle Community and Business Hub in Commercial Courtyard. Phone Jo for more info 07977 040329

Community Fridge: Come and help yourself to surplus fruit, veg, bread and dried or tinned food, or drop off any spare food you may wish to donate. Open Mondays and Thursdays 2.30pm-4.15pm and Wednesdays 10am-12 noon at the Little Hub in Commercial Courtyard next to Craven Homelet.

Public Living Room at Settle Quakers: Mondays and Thursdays every week from 10.30am to 1.30pm. We offer hot drinks and meals (but please come before 1pm if you would like food), card and board games, jigsaws, craft activities, help with cooking or just join us for a chat and some company.

Knit (or Sew) and Natter: We meet every Wednesday in the Hub offices at Commercial Courtyard from 10am-12noon. 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 own.

Ink Recycling: Any sort of printer ink cartridges, big or small, used or unused. Sorry, no toners. Please drop them off at our offices in Commercial Courtyard or the collection boxes at Settle Quakers and St John's. For large amounts please contact Jo on hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk or phone 07977 040329.

Business Networking and events: Informal business and charity networking is held on the last Wednesday each month from 8.30am in a pub or cafe in central Settle. These events are free, just buy what you want to eat or drink.

All the following groups/activities are held at The Place in Settle, BD24 9RH.

Citizens Advice Clinic: Held first or second Thursday of the month. Appointments only. Call 01729 824868 to book.

Digital Drop In: Weekly on Mondays 9.30am-3pm. Pop in for any Tech or mobile help.

Settle Cancer Support Group: Held fourth Monday of the month 10.30am-11.45am. For anyone affected by Cancer including patients, carers, families and friends.

Wellbeing Cafe and Safe Space: Every Tuesday anytime between 2pm-4pm at The Place activity room. All welcome no need to book. Creative art, puzzles, brew and a chat.

Horton Housing Drop In: Every two weeks on Tuesdays 1pm-3pm. Help with Housing, Benefits, Drug and Substance Dependency, Mental Health and Budgeting. Drop in or phone 01729 824868 to book.

Age UK - Coffee and Chat: Every Wednesday 10.30-12.30pm. All are welcome.

Age UK - Movement to Music: Every two weeks on a Wednesday starting from 10th April 2pm-3pm.

'Better Days' Pain and Chronic Fatigue peer support group: Held on the first Wednesday of the month 1pm-3pm.

North Yorkshire Horizons - Adult Drug and Alcohol recovery service: Every Thursday by appointment. Phone 01723 330730 for more information or to book an appointment.

Gr8 Minds Counselling: For anyone aged between 5 and 18. Every Tuesday at 2pm-4.30pm appointments only. For

appointments self-refer or via Townhead Surgery.

Vision Aid Group: Peer support for anyone suffering with any form of sight loss. Fourth Monday of the month 1pm-3pm.

Community Activities

Cuppa and chat at Stainforth Village Hall: Come along to our community Village Hall for a cuppa, company and a chat. First and third Thursday's every month starting at 2.30pm. Donation for tea/coffee and biscuits greatly appreciated. Everyone welcome.

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

Craven Conservation Group: Natural History group affiliated to Yorkshire Naturalists Union. Indoor meetings in Settle, and field trips. Website: craven-conservation-group.org.uk

Action on Climate Emergency (ACE) Settle and Area: Monthly Green Cafe second Saturday of each month 10.30am-12.30pm at Settle Methodist Church. Details at www.acesettleandarea.org

Castleberg Masonic Lodge: Meet every Thursday before the full moon except July and August. Full dates at www.settlefreemasons.co.uk or by contacting Chris Maudsley on 07879 474786 or email info@settlefreemasons.co.uk

Three Peaks for Palestine: Sharing information and activity in support of justice for Palestinians. Vigils alternate Saturdays in Settle Market Square. A regular bulletin to keep you in touch. Contact us at threepeaksforpalestine@gmail.com

Notify any changes or additions to directory@settlenews.co.uk as soon as possible so we can ensure that all the information we include here is as accurate and useful as possible.

Support Community News!

We invite readers to make a small donation to help sustain *Community News*. Although the magazine committee and our loyal band of distributors are all volunteers we still have to pay for the printing.

Just £5 will cover the cost of printing your annual personal set of six copies.

A larger donation or better still, a standing order, will maintain the magazine and reduce our reliance on the volatile advertising market.

How to donate

Preferred payment is by BACS or Standing Order (reference 'Reader Donor') to: Settle and District Community News National Westminster Bank
Sort Code: 01-07-93
Account No: 53002016

Quiz Answers

1. Robin; 2. Eagles; 3. Merlin; 4. Housemartins; 5. Heron; 6. Penguins; 7. Woodpecker; 8. Blackbird; 9. Flamingo; 10. Swift; 11. Dipper; 12. Albatross.

Crossword Solution

Across: 7 Portfolio; 8 Bevy; 10 McIntyre; 11 Polite; 12 Assistance; 16 Sick; 17 Lyre; 19 Ozone; 20 Sack; 22 Taxi; 24 Great danes; 26 Desist; 27 Puncture; 30 Mail; 31 Urn; 32 Cut up.
Down: 1 Epic; 2 Brunei; 3 Iffy; 4 Sloe; 5 Complement; 6 Obelisks; 9 Vatican; 13 Sty; 14 Thoughtful; 15 No one; 18 Eligible; 21 Cue; 23 Arena; 25 Astute; 27 Pine; 28 Nice; 29 Rapt.

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47mm tall x 63mm wide = £20

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10% discount for an annual contract (6 issues)

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To enquire about advertising or to book space, please email advertising@settlenews.co.uk or call 07484 174333

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Account Number: 53002016
Or, send a cheque payable to Settle and District Community News to: 6 Townhead Croft, Settle, BD24 9LG.

Next Issue (Jun/Jul 2026) is published on 4th June

The deadline for copy and advertising bookings is 14th May 2026

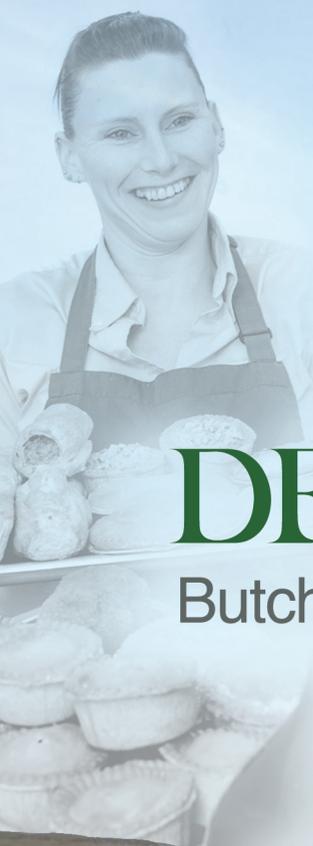
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