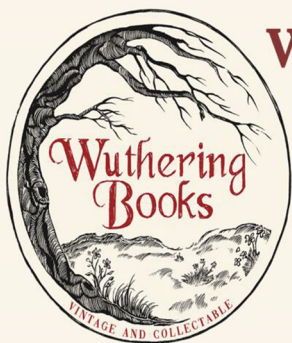


Settle & District Community News

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No. 195 Oct/Nov 2026





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Editor's Welcome



As autumn rustles in and the flowerpots are packed away after another successful summer festival, this issue of *Community News* brings together stories that reflect both the challenges facing our area and the remarkable energy of the people who live here.

Our report on the ongoing campaign to restore the hourly 580 bus service between Settle and Skipton highlights just how important reliable public transport is to local communities. Meanwhile, Settle Energy Local Club is looking to welcome more members, offering an opportunity to benefit from locally generated electricity.

There is plenty of good news to celebrate, too. Settle Victoria Hall's Beer Festival raised more than £14,000 for two charities, our local swimming pool has enjoyed an exceptionally successful summer, and the Langcliffe Singers' *A Shepherd's Year* is attracting national attention.

The latest Bowland wader survey offers some cause for concern about our wildlife, but the enthusiasm of Clapham and Austwick Brownies and Guides for their litter campaign offers an encouraging reminder of how much young people care about the environment.

Looking ahead, once again we're inviting local schoolchildren to design a Christmas-themed cover for our December issue, and we also have our Annual Open Meeting coming up on 12th October. See page 13 for more details on both of those things.

Finally, thank you to Stella Burke for the artwork on the cover of this issue, and to everyone who contributed articles, photographs and information, and to the advertisers whose support makes this magazine possible. We hope you enjoy the issue and find something that inspires you to get involved in local life.

John Drake

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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.



Bus campaign moves on

There have been further significant developments over the summer in the campaign to restore the hourly daytime bus service on the 580 route between Settle and Skipton.

The petition, organised by the 580 Bus Group and calling for the return of the service, which was axed without notice in April, was due to be presented to North Yorkshire councillors at the Skipton and Ripon Area Committee meeting in Skipton on 1st October. It was then expected to go to the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, David Skaith, who is currently conducting his own transport review before taking on responsibility for transport across the county next year.

As part of that review, residents are being asked for their opinions on the future of transport as a whole in the region. An online survey opened in August and closes on 4th November. It can be accessed at The Mayor's Local Transport Plan consultation – York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority – Citizen Space. There were also stalls, run by the mayor's office, in Settle Market and Bentham on 15th September, providing information about the review and seeking local opinions.

Meanwhile, North Yorkshire councillor Simon Myers, who represents Mid Craven, covering much of the 580 route, has played an active part in supporting the bus campaign and has sought, so far unsuccessfully, a meeting with the North Lonsdale Bus Company that runs the service.

Meanwhile, the 580 Bus Group, which was formed in 2024 to campaign about disruptions to the service, has gone from strength to strength. It has not only

organised the petition but held meetings and consultations. Jean Worthington from the group said: "Our bus service has been shown to be very popular. It's a well-used route used by all ages for various reasons between the important North Yorkshire towns of Settle and Skipton. The villages in between also value and need this service. It's not only locals badly affected but tourists finding it inadequate too which does not reflect well on our county which people flock to. We have been out and about talking to passengers in both Settle and Skipton plus having informal meetings for those who are at a disadvantage by not having access to the internet, social media etc." One of the suggestions from these meetings was to request that Age Concern provide an extra shopping day each month on the buses they run with volunteer drivers and escorts. The charity has pointed out, however, that to do so they need more volunteers. *See also Transport News by John Carey on pages 20-21.*

Settle Energy Local Club ready for more consumers

The Settle Energy Local Club is seeking new members who are looking both to reduce their energy bills and help tackle climate change.

Known as SELC, the club enables members to benefit from locally agreed, lower-priced electricity whenever their energy usage is matched by green energy generated by other local members.

Over the past 12 months, solar panels on five roofs have been providing electricity to members at 14p per unit (kWh). That is almost half the normal price of electricity. It means, once you take into account the mix of energy generated locally and the energy members still need to use from the grid, SELC members have been paying an average of around 18p/kWh this summer. That's 30 per cent less than the price cap.

The benefit is now set to increase with Settle Community Hydro planning to join as a generator. The hydro is the device near the former mill at Bridge End that generates electricity using water diverted from the weir. It supplies power to the nearby flats, with the surplus currently going into the grid. Its membership of

SELC will mean the club's energy no longer comes solely from solar panels but will be generated whenever the hydro is working, day or night.

Once the hydro becomes a member, the club can therefore take on more consumers. Anyone in Settle, Giggleswick and parts of Langcliffe can join, and there's no lock-in contract. Members are free to switch away if they move or change their mind.

New members are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis by entering an expression of interest on the club web page: energylocal.org.uk/settle. Entering your details does not commit you until a batch of new members are ready to be switched into the club. There is lots more information on the web page, and you can hear directly about the club and talk to existing members at the special green café at St John's Methodist Church in Settle on Saturday, 14th November, from 10.30am–12.30pm. SELC will also have a stall on Settle market on Tuesday, 3rd November.

Club chair Robert Bellfield said: "This is an exciting opportunity to join in a local community co-operative that is likely to save you money at the same time as playing a part to help the environment and increase local energy resilience in these increasingly uncertain times."

Secretary Paul Kelly added: "Generators receive the full 14p for electricity matched to club members' consumption. As we gather more members, we hope the favourable pricing will encourage more local businesses and buildings to become generators. There is almost no limit to how big the club can grow within the locality. After solar and hydro we could even think about a community wind turbine!"

You can contact SELC at settle@energylocal.org.uk.

Pool success

Settle Area Swimming Pool has enjoyed one of its most successful summers ever, with many of the open swim sessions full to capacity. The fitness courses and gym are also proving increasingly popular, but, perhaps most important, the shops and especially the unit on Sowarth Industrial Estate are helping to generate enough funds to give hope that the loans, which helped

finance the redevelopment of the early 2020s, will be paid off early. Organisers say, however, that there is still a great need for more volunteers to staff the shops and unit.



New opening times for Settle Community Fridge

Settle Community Fridge is changing its opening hours from 1st October, with afternoon sessions moving to Tuesdays and Fridays, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Wednesday morning sessions will continue from 10am to 12 noon.

Located outside the Settle Community and Business Hub office at 1A Commercial Courtyard, the fridge offers surplus fruit, vegetables, bread, pastries and dried or tinned goods for anyone to take.

Operating under the motto 'Bring What You Can and Take What You Need', the initiative aims to reduce food waste while helping people on low incomes access fresh food.

The Hub thanks Co-op, Booths, local growers, residents and businesses, including Wholesome Bee, Forage and Feast, and Drake and Macefield, for their continuing support.

Anyone with surplus food is encouraged to donate it, whether it is excess produce from the garden, unwanted groceries or food left over after visitors have departed.

For those unable to attend during the usual opening hours, food can also be donated or collected at Settle Quakers' Public Living Rooms on Mondays and Thursdays, from 10.30am to 1.30pm.

When surplus supplies are available, food is sometimes left beside the free bookcase outside Victoria Hall on Monday and Thursday mornings.

For further information, contact Jo on 07977 040329 or email hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk.

Banking services continue at Settle Hub

Settle Community and Business Hub has confirmed that its pop-up banking services will continue, with Barclays extending its service until at least February 2027.

Barclays staff are available at the Hub offices in Commercial Courtyard every Tuesday and Friday, from 9.30am to 12 noon and 12.30pm to 3.30pm. They can help customers with online and telephone banking, using the Barclays app and Post Office transactions.

Lloyds and Halifax also offer a pop-up service on alternate Thursdays, from 10am to 12 noon, providing similar assistance. Forthcoming dates are 8th and 22nd October, 5th and 19th November, 3rd, 17th and 31st December, and 14th January.

Neither service can handle cash or accept cheque deposits. Customers wishing to speak to bank representatives must attend in person, as Hub staff cannot take telephone calls or messages on their behalf.

NatWest's mobile banking van visits Whitefriars car park every Monday, except bank holidays, from 12 noon to 12.30pm. It also stops at Benthams Auction Mart from 10.45am to 11.30am and the Wheatsheaf car park in Ingleton from 2pm to 2.30pm on Mondays.

Bowland Wader Survey uncovers worrying signs

The results are now in for the RSPB's Bowland wader survey, which is undertaken each year between mid-April and mid-June, mostly by a group of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers.

The survey covers five species of ground-nesting waders - curlews, snipe, redshank, oystercatchers and lapwings – and the results are worrying for the future of all five.

Bowland farms have been surveyed for over a decade and, although those that participate may vary slightly from year to year, the number taking part has grown from 47 in 2021 to 80 this year. Habitat that contains a mixture of dense ground cover (e.g. rush) and open areas is important for successful nesting and the rearing of chicks.

The farmers are generally highly invested

in supporting the birds through good habitat management and sympathetic practices, such as limiting grazing during incubation and delaying mowing until chicks are fully fledged. This year, the RSPB also used a thermal drone to check silage fields for nests before cutting and to monitor birds without causing disturbance or distress.

It is estimated that there were 340 pairs of lapwings, 227 pairs of curlews, 198 pairs of oystercatchers, 54 pairs of snipe and 19 pairs of redshank across the areas surveyed this year. Sadly, in terms of successful breeding, the overall results show a steady and worrying decline since 2012 in all five species. Worst hit have been the redshank, lapwing and curlews, with the number of curlews recorded in 2026 being the lowest since the Bowland surveys began.

Regarding curlews, only 25 nests out of 44 that were found and monitored contained eggs that hatched. Nineteen nests failed either due to predation or abandonment. Twenty-two of the nests were protected by temporary electric fences designed to deter predators and help increase the likelihood of successful breeding. Overall calculations show that only 0.17 chicks per curlew pair fledged; as 0.5 chicks per pair per year are needed to maintain a stable population, these rates give great cause for concern.

The reasons for declining wader numbers are manifold. Even where habitat is good, predator numbers are low and farms are managed in ways that benefit the birds, extremes of weather (very wet then very dry) and decreasing amounts of food due to falling invertebrate numbers make the situation for the birds very challenging. This is a situation that is likely to intensify as the impact of climate change continues to grow. The report's stark conclusion states that "they [curlews], and our other waders, will soon be lost if we don't halt the decline and boost fledgling success as soon as possible."

For more information, or to help with the 2027 survey, contact the Forest of Bowland Conservation adviser, Frank Osterberg, at Frank.osterberg@rspb.org.uk. General information about the surveyor role can also be found here: <https://volunteer.rspb>.

org.uk/opportunities/42357-surveyor-not-on-a-reserve-bowland-breeding-wader-surveyor-2023-01-23?cookieconsent=set

Elaine Hill



Busy Summer for Brownies and Guides

Clapham & Austwick Brownies and Guides had a great last night of term, exploring the Settle Flowerpot Festival. The girls enjoyed looking at all the amazing displays around the town and, of course, we couldn't resist turning our visit into another little Protect the Peaks project. We created a short video inspired by the festival, which is now available on our YouTube channel – @ClaphamAustwickBrownieGuides. Why not take a look and subscribe to see what else we get up to?

Before we finished for the summer, we also managed to squeeze in a campfire cookout, which was very much led by the girls. They wanted to make their own burgers, as well as trying their hand at dampers and s'mores. A lovely evening of cooking, eating and enjoying being outdoors.

Our Protect the Peaks – Take It Home campaign has certainly been a lot of work, but it continues to progress and evolve all the time. Over the summer, we took the campaign to the Clapham Village Fete and also held a stall at Settle Market. The girls were brilliant at talking to people and encouraging local residents and visitors to get involved.

At Settle Market alone, the girls encouraged around 26 local businesses to get involved in some way - whether that was signing our pledge, displaying a Protect the Peaks pledge poster or taking

one of our Take Your Litter Home signs. Our signs are now travelling much further afield too, with some making their way to Hull, Scotland and Bradford.

Have you spotted one of our signs? Share a photo on our Facebook post or email it to us. It is fantastic to see where our girls' campaign is reaching.

We have now reached 100 pledges, which is a fantastic milestone but we don't want to stop there. We want to keep spreading the message and encouraging even more people to take their litter home.

We also had a very exciting visit from BBC York during our Settle Market day. They filmed the girls in action and then joined us as we took part in a litter pick at Ribbleshead. They produced a fantastic piece which is now online, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it will also make it onto TV soon.

Our Flowerpot Festival visit also inspired us to create a special display - an overflowing flowerpot-inspired rubbish bin. It certainly caught people's attention and helped us spread the campaign message in another fun and creative way.

We have a very action-packed and exciting term ahead, including an overnight adventure, a trip to Wembley for Big Gig, and a whole lot of activity exploring cheese.



Flowerpot festival '26: it made people smile – again

With most of the 200 flowerpot creations that decorated Settle and surrounding areas for much of the summer now safely back in storage at the Watershed Mill potting shed (a few of the individually produced 'fringe' contributions were still in place in mid-September), the

festival organisers' thoughts are turning to preparing the creations for the "Twelve Pots of Settlemas" that will be on display throughout the town's Settlemas initiative during December. An innovation last winter, Settlemas aims to help boost the tourist trade and interest residents at a time when the town is less busy. It will copy the flowerpot festival with its own trail. There will be more about this in the winter edition of *Community News*.

Meanwhile, this year's flowerpot festival, certainly the biggest and arguably the best, once again attracted visitors from far and wide. The comments in the visitors' book at Gallery on the Green, which featured photographs from behind the scenes at the festival, came from festival-goers from Australia, Europe and America, as well as regular visitors from all parts of the UK. "Amazing flowerpot displays!! We LOVE it" was typical of the comments.

The festival organisers want to say thank you to all the individuals, businesses and organisations whose creative contributions to the festival make it such fun and a great success. They have asked us to give special mention to the small team of volunteers who spent many hours creating and installing the displays and running the children's workshops, as well as to Tony Hardwick and Watershed Mill for providing the premises for the workshop (the "Potting Shed") and storage space for overwintering the displays. They added: "It's fair to say that without their generous support the festival wouldn't be able to happen!" They also wanted to thank Robert Staveley for lending them a van to transport the flowerpot creations to and from their display positions and mentioned the various businesses who acted as outlets for the sale of the flowerpot trails.

Looking ahead, they said: "Please don't hesitate to email us at steve@visitsettle.co.uk if you would like to become a flowerpot volunteer and help with the assembly, painting, and installation of the flowerpot creations. It's great fun to be involved in an activity that engages all parts of our wonderful community and brings smiles to so many faces - young and old!"

***A Shepherd's Year* gains national recognition**

An original musical work, commissioned by Langcliffe Singers and first performed in Settle Parish Church in July, is attracting national attention.

The story behind *A Shepherd's Year*, whose premiere was reported in the previous issue of *Community News*, featured in a Sunday morning edition of the BBC Radio 4 programme *On Your Farm* and was included in that channel's *Pick of the Week*. Both are still available on BBC Sounds and well worth a listen.

Margaret Coleman, chair of Langcliffe Singers, has been interviewed for the national music magazine *Making Music*, where she spoke of plans to give further performances of the work, initially when a film of how the piece came about is shown at the Victoria Hall, either later this autumn or early next year. She also said they were investigating the possibility of performing the piece at Skipton auction mart and had received requests for a recording of the piece and to purchase the score.

A Shepherd's Year is a musical journey through the seasons as lived by the hill farming community. It was commissioned to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Langcliffe Singers and was inspired by a visit to Skipton auction mart, interviews with farmers and work with children at Settle Primary School.

John Dawson, the local farmer who hosted the farmers' discussion that was drawn on for the work, said that the piece was the talk of the Dales, the auction marts, the vets and wherever the farming community gathered. He thought that the piece spoke for the family hill farm and said what needed to be said and what hadn't been said in this way before.

The choir hopes, through this work, to increase capacity for future musical collaborations and to develop new audiences and opportunities for participation in music in the local community, particularly by children and families.

The Langcliffe Singers are now preparing for their next Christmas and Easter concerts. They would welcome new

members, especially basses and tenors. No audition is necessary; potential members should just go along to rehearsal evenings at St John's Methodist Hall, from 7.30pm-9.30pm on Tuesdays during school term times.

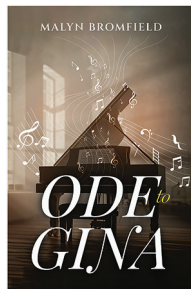
Art show at Zion Chapel

Settle has a new arts venue. The former Zion Chapel, next to the old primary school and close to Castleberg Crag, hosted an art show in mid-September as a possible regular use of the building, which is now owned by the North Craven Building Preservation Trust, along with the Folly and Dr Buck's House in the Market Square.

Visitor numbers were limited for the show as the building remains in a fragile state after some years of disuse, but opening it up is seen as the first step in the restoration of one of the town's most extraordinary buildings.

Local author publishes new novel

Local author Marjorie Blinkhorn, writing under the name Malyn Bromfield, has published her third novel, *Ode to Gina*.



Set in post-war Coventry, the story follows teenager Rosalind as she tries to unravel the mystery of her grandmother Alice's twin sister, Gina, who disappeared without explanation at the age of ten.

Rosalind also faces a mystery closer to

home, as her single mother refuses to reveal anything about her father.

The novel explores themes of music, family secrets and reconciliation, with the story moving between post-war Coventry and Alice's childhood in the 19th century.

Marjorie has also sold copies of the book at a fundraising event in support of the North Craven Building Preservation Trust and its work to turn Dr Buck's House in Settle into a museum celebrating the composer Edward Elgar's connections with the town.

Settle Stories launches new storytelling podcast

Settle Stories has launched a new weekly podcast, *The Storyteller's Toolkit*, aimed at helping people develop the confidence and skills to tell their own stories.

Hosted by Settle Stories founder Sita Brand, who has 40 years of storytelling experience, each ten-minute episode combines a traditional tale, a short mindfulness practice and a practical storytelling technique that listeners can use in everyday life.

"I've never once met someone without a story," says Sita. "What I have met, again and again, are people who believe theirs isn't worth telling. This podcast is for them."

The podcast has received a positive response from listeners, with Sita reporting that people have visited The Joinery to share how much they have enjoyed the episodes.

New episodes are released every Wednesday and are free to listen to on YouTube, Spotify and at settlestories.org.uk.



Beer Festival raises more than £14,000

The Settle Victoria Hall Beer Festival, held in August this year, raised more than £14,000 for Settle Victoria Hall and The Principle Trust Children's Charity.

The festival welcomed locals, visitors and beer enthusiasts to enjoy a carefully curated selection of ales and refreshing ciders, alongside live music across the three days.

Every pint served helped support both Settle Victoria Hall, enabling it to continue delivering arts, culture and community activities, and The Principle Trust Children's Charity, which provides

free respite holidays for children and their families across Yorkshire facing some of life's toughest challenges.

Founded by Tanya Carter and Mark Wildsmith, the annual festival's headline sponsor this year was Rathbones, and Walker Foster Solicitors was the programme and barrel sponsor.

The proceeds from the festival will be shared between the two charities, with more than £7,000 going to The Principle Trust. This could enable seven children facing adversity to experience a week-long respite break with their family, including a food hamper, giving them time to rest, reconnect and make memories that last.

Kerry Magson, partnerships and engagement manager at The Principle Trust Children's Charity, said: "The Settle Victoria Hall Beer Festival is a brilliant example of the community spirit, while also bringing people from further afield together to enjoy a great day out while supporting two local brilliant causes. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who organised, attended and supported the festival. Their generosity will make a real difference, helping us continue our mission of providing much-needed respite breaks for children and families across Yorkshire."

Since its launch in 2011 by founder Mike Davies MBE, the charity has provided respite breaks for more than 6,300 children from across the region through its respite homes in Blackpool, Filey and the Lake District. The respite homes allow children facing adversity – including mental health challenges – the chance to enjoy life-changing breaks away from their daily struggles.

Family fun at the farm

Lower Winskill Farm, above Langcliffe, was the venue for this year's Eco Explorer Day Camp, organised by Churches Together in Settle and District on Monday, 24 August. Fourteen families took part in the family-focussed event which benefited from fine weather and dry ground after the sunny summer.

Rev Julie Clarkson met families as they settled on their picnic rugs, encouraging them all to make the most of such a warm day. She prayed a blessing on the activities

before those taking part got busy with craft and exploring.

Forty-nine guests in total, together with a team of seven, enjoyed a range of activities, including crafting from things gathered in the field; making different creatures to put on a 'web of life'; a nature walk; a geology workshop; and parachute games. The picnic was followed by a hike to try some stream dipping in which bullheads and aquatic invertebrates were identified. Thanks go to farmer Tom Lord for hosting the successful event that was enjoyed by all.

Sally Waterson

Tennis club win

Austwick Tennis Club's A team retained their place in the Wharfedale League's top division with a final-day victory over Skipton. The club's ladies were promoted back into the first division of the Bradford Parks League, whilst the men narrowly failed to win promotion from the fifth division after entering the league for the first time in many years. Next year, the club hopes to enter five teams in the summer leagues, with three veterans' teams also competing in the Lancaster and Morecambe League. The club is looking to recruit more members, whether potential league players, social players or beginners. Details are provided on the club's website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AustwickTennisClub>

Come along to Knit and Natter at Settle Hub

Whether you're an experienced knitter, a keen sewer or simply fancy a chat, Settle Community and Business Hub's weekly Knit (or Sew) and Natter group welcomes everyone.

The friendly group meets every Wednesday throughout the year, from 10am to 12 noon, at the Hub office in Commercial Courtyard.

Participants can bring their own projects or make use of the sewing machines, fabric, knitting needles and wool available at the Hub. While most people work on their own creations, occasional sessions introduce other crafts, including felting, bracelet-making, lampshades and beeswax wraps.

No previous knitting or sewing experience is needed. Beginners can learn new skills, while those who prefer simply to come along for a natter are equally welcome.

The sessions are free, thanks to funding from the Well Together team at Bradford District Care Trust.

The group has been running for several years and would love to welcome some new faces.

For more information, contact Jo on 07977 040329 or email hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk.



Air ambulance coffee morning

Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) is to hold a coffee morning on Saturday, 17th October, from 10am to midday at St John's Methodist Church Hall, Settle. There will be a cake stall and YAA merchandise will also be available.

Organisers are looking for cake and biscuit bakers to help raise the funds needed to enable this vital service to continue. If you are able to help, please contact Anne Brennand (registered YAA volunteer) on 07911 170916 or email annebrennand@outlook.com.

Remembering Alison Tyas

Settle Quakers invite everyone who knew Alison Tyas, who died on 23rd May 2026, to a gathering in her memory at Settle Victoria Hall on Saturday, 14th November, from 12 noon to 2pm.



A Meeting for Worship has already been held to mark Alison's passing, but recognising her wide circle of friends and acquaintances beyond the Quaker community, the group is organising this larger gathering to give everyone an opportunity to share memories of her.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Settle and District Community News

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Settle and District Aid in Sickness Fund

Do you or someone you know need help with the extra costs that come with illness or immobility? The Settle and District Aid in Sickness Fund is a registered charity, operating since 1960, and its entire purpose is to help people with those increased costs. The fund makes one-off gifts to applicants in Settle parish and all 11 parishes that surround Settle.

Examples of costs with which help is available include:

- travel to hospital for patients' appointments and for family visits
- winter fuel bills for the housebound or immobile
- equipment to help with immobility
- domestic help.

The charity aims to help those who are less well off, but there are no formal means tests. Applicants are handled in the strictest confidence: there are no age limits and no complicated procedures or forms to be filled out. The amount of each gift is at the discretion of the trustees, except the rules say that there can be no commitment to recurring gifts.

If you think the fund can help, ring or send an email to Janet Heap, chairman and trustee: home phone: 015242 51609, mobile: 07709 252613, email: janheap@hotmail.co.uk.

Raise a glass to our advertisers

Our advertising income is what enables us to publish *Community News*, so please support the advertisers who support us. In this issue, we welcome a couple of local businesses new to our pages, including Austwick-based Lekker Wines.

Lekker Wines is a small, independent wine company with four employees, two small warehouses and a packing shed, all located in Austwick. Owner Karol-Ann Hewgill is proud to retain that independence. It means she can choose the wines she wants to sell, talk directly to customers and take the time to help people find something they'll genuinely enjoy.

So, why the name 'Lekker'? It's a South African word that roughly translates as great, good, tasty, enjoyable or excellent – and Karol-Ann tells us that it's the whole

philosophy behind Lekker Wines.

The business was born as an online wine shop during lockdown, when Karol-Ann found herself with something she hadn't had for years: time. Time with her children, time to think, and time to consider what she really wanted to do. Having grown up close to South Africa's magnificent winelands, wine had always been part of her life. Family gatherings, working in restaurants in the Cape and along the Garden Route, and afternoons spent wine tasting with friends as a student in Cape Town had created countless happy memories. Her years working in the wine trade had also given her a good understanding of the industry and, importantly, an appreciation of just how much fantastic wine was being produced by smaller, lesser-known producers. So, with a little prompting from Covid, and a lot of enthusiasm, Lekker Wines was born.

Fast-forward six and a half years, and Lekker Wines continues to trade from here in Craven, with a focus on finding wines that are truly 'lekker': wines that are interesting, delicious and offer something a little different from what you might find in the supermarket. Seasoned wine enthusiasts who know exactly what they're looking for are always welcome, but so are those who simply want a nice bottle for Friday night. There is no wine snobbery here. Karol-Ann is particularly proud to be able to exclusively import some superb wines from Glen Carlou, Muratie and Saronsberg in South Africa, bringing wines to the UK that customers might not otherwise have the opportunity to discover.

Lekker Wines also understands that buying wine online can sometimes feel a little daunting, which is why the team works hard to make the experience as personal as possible. From carefully selecting the wines they stock to packing orders, answering questions and adding personalised gift messages, the team genuinely cares about its customers and wants everyone to enjoy the wines they buy. Give Lekker Wines a call, and you'll actually speak to a human. No bots here! Tel: 07775 957499 – info@lekkerwines.co.uk – www.lekkerwines.co.uk



Wuthering Books A New Home for Literary Magic

Another advertiser new to our pages and offering something different is Keelan Blagg. He has been setting up Wuthering Books, an independent online bookstore based in Hellifield and specialising in the magical world of old and vintage books, where each volume has its own story to tell.

Keelan is a lifelong lover of literature and a member of the Provincial Booksellers Fairs Association (PBFA). Following several years of training and working in the book trade, Keelan has set himself the goal of sharing beautiful books with the local community and beyond. The business is rooted in a genuine passion for the printed word, but also for the memories and experiences each volume holds – books ready to be passed on from one reader to another.

From beautiful antique editions to intriguing rarities, Keelan seeks out books with character, individuality and a fascinating story behind them. The online shop offers something special for every kind of collector, with a particular focus on Victoriana, illustrated books, natural history, fine bindings and works by women.

Wuthering Books now invites our readers to become part of the story. Alongside selling books, Keelan also buys vintage and collectable books you may have tucked away in an attic or sitting patiently on a shelf, waiting for a new home. From a single treasured volume to an entire collection, Keelan is always happy to take a look and discover what might be waiting between the pages. He offers free valuations, taking a knowledgeable and enthusiastic approach that puts the history and appeal of each book at the heart of the

process. For Keelan, this is about much more than simply buying and selling; books represent our history and culture, our passions and our personal journeys.

Wuthering Books is proud to become part of the local community here in Ribblesdale, while connecting with fellow book lovers from further afield. House visits can be arranged for those with large collections, and Keelan can even bring a trusty four-legged assistant along!

So, before that old box of books is cleared out, consider getting in touch with your new local book dealer. It could be the beginning of an entirely new chapter for your volumes! If you do have vintage, antique or collectable books you'd like to sell, or simply want to know more about them, contact Keelan at info@wutheringbooks.com. You can also browse the current collection at www.wutheringbooks.com.

Community News Open Meeting

The Annual Open Meeting for the *Community News* will be held at 7pm on Monday October 12th in the Lowther Lounge at Settle Parish Church. All are welcome - this is the chance for readers and volunteers to have their say about the running and content of the magazine. Agenda and more details will appear shortly on our website at settlenews.co.uk



Calling all local schoolchildren!

We're inviting young artists to design the front cover of our December/January issue of *Community News*.

We're looking for a colourful, eye-catching Christmas picture that shows off your imagination. Perhaps you could give your design a local twist, with a festive scene inspired by Settle or the surrounding villages!

Send your artwork with your name, age and school by post or email to the editorial address on page 3.

Closing date: 5th November.

We can't wait to see your creations!

Meet Your Councillor



Sue Hayes

As many of you will already know, I previously went by the name Sue Lord, but have now reverted to my maiden name. Although I was born in Leeds, I was brought up in Giggleswick and Settle and I'm a Yorkshire lass through and through. Giggleswick is where I call home, but I'm passionate about the surrounding areas too. I care about the assets we have in Settle and believe they need to be looked after for the residents and visitors to use. Castleberg is one of my main areas of interest and there is a lot of work being done behind the scenes to improve this area. I, like many residents, get frustrated when it seems to take so long to get things done, but unfortunately, changes can't always be implemented overnight.

My working background is in

administration, working mainly for North Yorkshire County Council. I was also one of the original producers of *Settle & District Community News*, typing up all the copy into a Word document, which was then cut up and glued onto a carefully worked-out sheet of paper by Helen and Arthur Lupton, before being sent off to the printers. How times have changed.

I worked in the youth service, running youth clubs in the outlying villages for many years, as well as the one under the town hall in Settle. I then brought the mobile unit from Harrogate so that the youngsters had a base and a club to attend when The Cellar was closed.

Teaching in the adult education sector led to me working at Settle College, where I developed mutual respect with students and some of the talented colleagues who were there at the time. I'm proud to say that my two sons are now teachers, one teaching mathematics and the other English.

After a brief stint in hospitality and taxi driving during Covid in Scarborough, I'm now back on Settle Town Council to join the other councillors in making a difference to Settle for the residents and tourists alike.



Settle
TOWN COUNCIL

Settle Town Council meeting Sept 2026: Artisans' market to stay

According to the sign above the entrance, Settle Town Hall was constructed in 1832. As students of political history will know, that was the year in which Parliament passed the Great Reform Act, abolishing rotten boroughs and beginning the long march to universal suffrage, under which all adults have the right to elect the folks who govern us at local and national level. It is ironic, therefore, that none of the nine members of Settle Town Council, who meet monthly on the top floor of that building, have had to face a competitive election. The reason is that for many years the number of voters offering themselves as prospective councillors has fallen short of the number of seats that are up for election.

Early in the council's September meeting we were told that some townspeople were considering putting themselves forward for co-option for the two vacant seats, but none had come along to see what they might be letting themselves in for.

So, what was it they were missing? Over the course of an hour and a half on a wet Monday evening, under the efficient chairmanship of councillor Joe Lord, members dealt with, by my reckoning, some 53 items, many of them of importance to some, if not all, local residents.

But first, they were asked to agree to provide a present to be taken by the town's representatives to our French twin town of Banyuls-sur-Mer. Our council chamber is decorated with paintings of the French seaside town, donated by previous official visitors, and apparently *The Settle Embroidery*, donated on a visit to Banyuls-sur-Mer, hangs in its Hotel de Ville. The exact form of this year's gift was left to the delegation to decide.

One substantial item among the many discussed was the decision to continue with the artisans' market on the second Sunday of the month throughout 2027. That will not have pleased those local traders who objected, but we were told that other businesses and residents had supported the artisans' presence and there were signs that the market brought business to the town.

Significantly, the fee paid by the organiser raises more than £2,000 a year for the cash-strapped council to spend on things like street lighting and children's playgrounds.

Also of note, residents in the area where streetlights have been out of action for some time will be pleased to hear that repairs will be undertaken shortly, following the completion of a review of all the 70-year-old lights that need to be replaced. The residents will also receive individual letters keeping them informed of progress.

The council agreed without dissent to back the campaign to restore the hourly service on the 580 bus route and will be urging residents to respond to the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire's wider consultation on transport. Regular readers will be interested to hear that the long-awaited Market Place bus shelter could be constructed in the next 12 weeks.

Meanwhile, we were informed that the closure of the Tourist Information Centre, following the manager's retirement, will only be temporary, with limited reopening during the winter and a return to full service after Easter.

Overall, councillors keep a close eye on expenditure and are starting to look at how they might raise the estimated £60,000 needed to replace the children's play equipment in the Bond Lane playground.

It is also reassuring to know that a thorough risk assessment has been carried out for the Christmas lights switch-on, scheduled for 28th November. Interestingly, more organisations are bidding for stalls at the event than there are spaces available.

Amid all this there was an arcane discussion about why the body looking at what we can do locally about the climate emergency should be an advisory group, rather than a working group: the former includes non-councillors; the latter would have a specific time-limited function. There were also some concerns about what was happening with the Town Investment Fund, about which more will no doubt be heard later.

Mike Smith

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COVERING SETTLE
& ALL SURROUNDING AREAS

Find out where your house is leaking heat

Winter's coming, and rising energy bills are a big worry for everyone. Last year, Settle resident Bruce borrowed ACE's thermal imaging camera to find out exactly where his home was leaking heat. This is what he found: "I live in a property that was built in 1856 and subsequently converted into houses. I had noticed cold spots in my house – especially in the bathroom – and patchy condensation on the sloping walls upstairs. I wondered if the roof space hadn't been properly insulated during the conversion.

"I picked a winter's night when our heating was on. The thermal imaging camera is easy to use – it hooks onto a smartphone, you upload the app, and away you go. The app itself is straightforward, and the whole process took ten minutes tops. The camera uses infrared to make a colour picture of the heat it detects – the coldest areas are dark blue/purple and the warmest are yellow/orange. It showed very clearly the places where heat was leaking – mostly around the roof, as I suspected. So, when we redid the roof we added 75mm Kingspan boards – the thickest we could fit in – and insulated the loft space with 400mm of fibreglass wool. We also raised the level of the floor in the loft using recycled plastic 'loft legs'.

"Did it work? Yes, we've seen a significant reduction in our heating bills. The loft insulation will pay for itself in a

few years. And the best thing is we now have no cold spots, and no condensation!"

Find out where your house needs more insulation using the ACE thermal imaging camera. You can borrow the camera and learn how to use it at our Green Cafés – see below.

Upcoming events

ACE Green Café with guest speaker Mark Smith. Saturday 10th October, 10.30am–1pm, St John's Methodist Church.

10.30am Refreshments & chat

11.00am ACE AGM

12 noon–1pm Guest speaker Mark Smith
Mark Smith runs the brilliant website *The Man in Seat 61*, which is used by millions of people to help plan stress-free railway journeys across the UK, Europe and worldwide. Come and be inspired to plan your own railway adventures!

ACE Green Café featuring Settle Energy Local Club and the Green Doctor, Saturday 14th November, 10.30am–12.30pm, St John's Methodist Church Hall.

10.30am Refreshments & chat

11.00am Energy and home insulation special with Settle Energy Local Club (see SELC article for more information) and the Green Doctor – energy efficiency experts offering free, impartial advice to help people take control of their bills and save energy in the home.

You can recycle used blister packs, clean, empty toothpaste tubes and brushes, and crackly plastic wrapping at ACE Green Cafés. Please be aware that these recycling facilities are funded by ACE and are available only during Green Cafés. Please don't leave items for recycling at the Methodist Church at any other time.

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.

ACE Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker

The Man in Seat Sixty-One



www.seat61.com

Meet Mark Smith aka **The Man in Seat 61**, a career railway man who set up a website in 2001 to help travellers book train travel around Europe and worldwide.

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10:30 Green Cafe (Refreshments & Chat)

11:00 ACE AGM Business

12:00* Guest Speaker - The Man in Seat 61

13:00* Close

* Mark's train connections between London and Settle permitting

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TRANSPORT NEWS



Photo: John Carey

The reduction in the 580 service continues to be a hot topic. As I explained in the previous article, the 580 has always existed on a commercial basis; that is, without subsidy from the local authority. Had this been subsidised, then the local authority might have had some control over the timetable but, as it is, the timetable can be altered at the whim of the operator, as has happened. I suspect that not much will change until the new mayoral authority takes full control of bus services. Unfortunately, the service does not fall below the current two-hour criterion for council intervention.

Having closely followed the debate, I think it may help to explain a little more about how buses are financed. Although unsubsidised, the 580 operator receives reimbursement in respect of the senior and disabled bus passes and the single fare cap. The universal bus pass, introduced some years ago, has largely been seen as a positive in maintaining the mobility of the elderly and disabled. In North Yorkshire, it is reimbursed at a flat rate per journey,

albeit this is much less than a full fare. The original government intention was that the scheme should be revenue-neutral, perhaps by making better use of spare capacity, particularly in urban areas. However, in rural areas the proportion of pass users is much higher and often represents the majority of passengers. Operators are not allowed to seek additional payment. However, it is always open to a passenger to volunteer a fare rather than use a pass, although I imagine that this idea would not be popular!

The fare cap was introduced as a Covid support measure to help encourage the public back to bus travel. Whilst currently capped at £3 for a single fare, this will be reduced to £2 from 1st January 2027. Compensation is paid to the operator by way of a lump sum from the government. However, the scheme is not mandatory and it is up to individual operators whether they participate. In a few instances, operators have declined and so it is not entirely universal.

The creation of a bus user group can

be particularly helpful in lobbying for improvements in a constructive way. Often, gathering data and cases of hardship will assist. Not so far away, the similar-sized community of Sedbergh has formed an effective user group in response to the loss of its regular full-size bus service. The town is currently served by a 16-seat minibus with only three services on weekdays, which means passengers are regularly left behind. Incidentally, Sedbergh residents await the outcome of a local authority tender process.

On our local services, the 580/581 continue to serve the A65 corridor from Settle Market Place Monday to Saturday, whilst No 11 continues to run from Horton to Clitheroe via Settle. In addition, after a short ride up the Settle-Carlisle line, passengers can catch the S1, which continues to run from Dent Station to Kendal via Sedbergh on Saturdays. There is also the 113 Little White Bus from Garsdale to Hawes from Monday to Saturday. However, the Saturday service 75 from Settle to Malham and onwards to Skipton comes to an end on 17th October.

Meanwhile, on the DalesBus network, it has been a successful summer season, with annual passenger numbers on the weekend services expected to exceed 60,000. This is no mean achievement for a small volunteer management and fundraising team. Of course, the team would always like to do more. The summer timetable comes to an end on 18th October, following which there will be a core winter timetable.

Moving on to the railway, we have continued to see increased numbers of visitors coming to travel on the Settle-Carlisle line, many travelling to Settle to do so. Settle station always seems to be busy for the key northbound trains in a morning!

There can be no doubt that the publicity gained from the 150th anniversary celebrations has assisted here. Meanwhile, Northern's performance has much improved, albeit we have seen a number of unfortunate signal issues and two freight train failures in August, which caused long delays. The remote nature of the line inevitably means a long wait in the event of a call-out. The fragmented nature of our railways, with different freight operators, does not help, as a rescue locomotive may need to be dispatched from afar.

The ongoing issue of carriage allocation has not gone away, although Northern have made considerable attempts to keep trains in service. We have seen less short-forming of trains this summer, although it remains unpleasant when it occurs. The units are now approaching 40 years old and, in many cases, are beyond their expected lifespan. Disappointingly, one glimmer of hope has vanished as we have recently heard that surplus Class 158 units from Transport for Wales will now be reallocated to GWR.

But the best way to ensure that we have public transport is to use it! Details of all rail services can be found at www.northernrailway.co.uk, whilst for local bus services please visit www.dalesbus.org. For regular journeys on the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle and Morecambe lines, it may be worthwhile purchasing a Dales Railcard, which saves a third off the price of a standard ticket purchased on the day. 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.

John Carey

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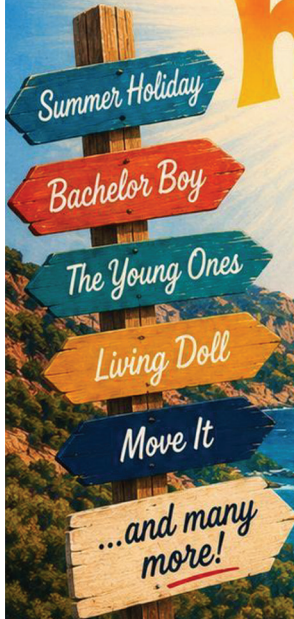


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The Place

A health and wellbeing hub for the local community

At The Place in Settle, we continue to work closely with other local health and community organisations to create and maintain health and wellbeing support for local residents. Some of these links have a particular focus on mental wellbeing; here's how you or someone you know can get support.

Wellbeing café

Our Wellbeing Café is currently held in The Place activity room from 2pm to 4pm every Tuesday and run in partnership with Pioneer Projects. It is a drop-in session and anyone is welcome. There is no need to book; just turn up. We have different activities available or you can just enjoy a brew or a chat with one of our volunteers or members of staff. We provide support and a listening ear for anyone who would like a chat or some support with mental health; we can also signpost additional sources of help where needed.

Social prescriber

Many things affect your health and wellbeing. General practitioners report that a lot of people visit them feeling isolated, lonely or stressed by work, money and housing problems. Some health conditions are linked to the lifestyle choices we make every day.

Social prescribing is a way of linking patients to sources of support within the community. It provides GPs with a non-medical referral option that can operate alongside existing treatment to improve health and wellbeing. Social prescribers are available at each general practice to listen to you and put you in touch with the people and activities that might help you to feel better. Appointments with Richard, our social prescriber, are available for anyone over the age of 18 at The Place on Tuesdays (and at the Hellifield Townhead Surgery on alternate Tuesday afternoons). To request a referral to see Richard, please speak to your GP or book an appointment through Townhead Surgery.

Mental health coach

Cheryl joined the Townhead Surgery team in June to take up the post of mental health coach. She supports patients with their mental health needs, working in conjunction with the social prescriber and mental health nurse. The mental health coaching service aims to help patients over the age of 18 who need support with the following issues: stress, worry or panic, anxiety, feeling lonely, sadness, bereavement support, loss and grief, low self-esteem, depression or low mood, sleep hygiene, employment stress, relationship challenges and substance misuse affecting behaviour. Appointments take place in the GP practice and over the telephone. Please contact the surgery directly to book an appointment.

We are at Commercial Yard (opposite Ruchee) every weekday from 9.30am to 1pm to support the health and wellbeing of residents in Settle; do pop in or give us a call on 01729 824868. You can also check out the *Community News* Directory or our website to see what other activities we have at The Place.



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Help us to help older people

You will be familiar with the façade of our Age UK shop on Cheapside in the centre of Settle. Maybe you have been inside to drop off a donation for us to sell; maybe you have bought a book, a lampshade or a shirt while you were there. If you have, thank you.

Where does the money go?

Many people assume that the money we raise goes straight to the national Age UK charity, which gives some of it back to us. Wrong! All the income we generate stays here in North Craven. Of course, we pay rent for the shop, salaries for staff and the usual utilities. After that, everything raised is used to pay for the services we offer to older people in North Craven. We use the Age UK brand name and are associated with it, but remain a proud local charity.

What did we do in 2025/26?

We have supported over 2,000 older people directly and provided advice in response to calls from concerned carers, family members, friends and neighbours of older people. Our information and advice team helped more than 800 people claim benefits to which they were entitled. This amounted to £258,400 in total, which is a substantial sum in an area where North Yorkshire Council acknowledges that benefits are under-claimed. A further 80 disabled people have been helped to obtain Blue Badges, and

general advice has been given about care and support, housing and energy matters. Much of this has been done in our 22 outreach sessions, enabling us to meet people unable to come into our Cheapside offices.

We have run bus trips, for example, to Harrogate and Morecambe. Our minibus has also run 98 shuttles, taking older people shopping in Settle, Kendal, Skipton and Kirkby Lonsdale, and our community transport has helped 740 people attend medical appointments.

We also aim to provide fun! Over 150 people attended our coffee mornings, lunch clubs, sports groups, bingo and dancing, or helped out on our allotment. None of this would have been possible without a dedicated group of 120 volunteers who give generously of their time, good humour and expertise.

What of the future?

We are here to help older people in Settle and throughout North Craven. We care, we understand and we want to help. But we cannot do this without your support. We, like everyone, are facing challenging times. Our outgoings have increased while our income has struggled to keep up. We have had to make cutbacks. Many of our social groups have become self-supporting and some have closed. We have had to let staff go and can no longer offer a befriending service that was greatly appreciated in the past. We will be closing our Second Time Around shop when the lease ends in September and concentrating donations and sales in our Cheapside shop. Please help us to help older people stay happy, healthy and in their own homes.



Why not:

- Offer to volunteer with us. There are lots of roles you might like, from becoming a trustee to sorting donated goods. Volunteering is a fun way to meet new people while supporting the work we do for older people. Please ring us on 01729 823066 if you can help.
- Donate clothes, bric-a-brac and almost anything else to our Cheapside shop.
- Make our Cheapside shop your first-stop shop for that book you need to read on holiday, the clothes you need to supplement your wardrobe or that elusive birthday present.
- Support us financially, either directly or by leaving a legacy in your will. You can make a cash donation in the shop or on our website (www.ageuk.org.uk/northcraven) where you will be given the opportunity to make a one-off or regular donation.

We will be grateful for whatever you can do to help us continue developing our support for older people in our community.

Rosemary A. Rees
Chair of trustees, Age UK North Craven

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Horton-in-Ribblesdale Show - the Vikings conquer

Report by Caroline Thompson and Paula Swainson

It was not the end of an era but the beginning of a new one at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on Saturday, 5th September. Within living memory, the annual show has traditionally been held on the field next to the school by kind permission of the Jackson family. The village school was formerly used for the display of indoor exhibits. However, this has not really been viable since its closure, so after much consideration it was decided that the best option was to move the event to the playing fields, where there is more space and a pavilion which has all the facilities for the preparation and selling of refreshments. It felt a little strange at first to see the show in different surroundings, though Penyghent still formed an impressive backdrop, albeit a little further away. However, the change of venue had much in its favour: there was easier access to the show field, much improved unloading facilities, better parking, more space for the marquees, and a larger area for the sheep pens and judging areas.

The hard-working volunteers in the pavilion had some excellent facilities on hand; the children had the playground facilities nearby and there were proper loos! There was an extremely good attendance and everyone enjoyed seeing the high-quality sheep shown by exhibitors who had come from a wide area. The champion animal on the field was shown

by Alec Houseman of Knaresborough. The Housemans are long-standing members of the Zwartbles Sheep Association and show their sheep under the prefix Viking, so they certainly came and conquered on Saturday. They regularly take top honours at the Great Yorkshire Show in the Zwartbles wool and fleece classes.

A fine run of wins at Malham continued for Horton-in-Ribblesdale farmer John Carr, as he collected a quartet of trophies in the Dalesbred section for best male, best female, the Dalesbred group and the supreme accolade of champion Dalesbred. Steve Raine matched the haul in the Swaledale section, winning trophies for



the best tup lamb, best female and overall Swaledale champion.

It was pleasing to see so many young handlers taking part in their classes and it was a really difficult task for the judges to separate them, but Bill Walker, Olivia Newhouse and Charlie Lancaster all came out on top in their respective age groups.

There was a fine array of vintage vehicles, tractors and implements, and Malcolm Campbell of Studfold won the shield for the best vintage tractor with his Massey Ferguson 1200, a classic four-wheel-drive tractor from the 1970s. Jim Love, following on from success at Malham Show, took the trophy home to Lancaster for the best vintage car with his immaculate Morris Minor 1000. Jim purchased the vehicle from Fife in Scotland when it was in need of total restoration, both inside and out, so it was an interesting ride home to Lancaster after the deal was done.

The entries in the dog and pet classes were amazing. Up until recent years, there were probably no more than ten dogs in all vying for the honours, but on Saturday 40 arrived. Freddie Parson won the large pet dog class with his black Labrador. Goats and a tortoise were unlikely allies in the any other pet class!

The entries in the marquee attracted lots of interest from the visitors to the show and the handicrafts section had some amazing entries. Margaret Wainright was an entrant from Shropshire and took the opportunity to enter some of her work whilst she was



up in the Dales on holiday, but she couldn't quite beat the skills of show secretary Paula Swainson, who won the trophy for the best exhibit in the needlework section with an exquisite patchwork quilt and also the trophy for the best handicraft.

The hotly contested Sargison Cup, awarded to a different confectionery class each year using set recipes, saw 13 entrants hoping to impress the judge with their cheese and onion pies. This year, Gill Sandiford took the honours.

Before the trophies were presented at the end of the day by show president Sutcliffe, the Jackson family were called to take centre stage and presented with decanters and flowers in appreciation of their generosity in allowing the old field to be used for the staging of the show over so many years. Everyone with long associations with the show agreed that, despite reservations about the new venue, once everything was put in place, it was the ideal site and there is much to build on in future years. Congratulations to the hard-working team on the Horton-in-Ribblesdale Show Committee for the decision to move forward; it really worked.

Find the full list of winners over the page.



Horton-in-Ribblesdale Show Trophy winners

Marmaduke White cup and champion rosette for the on-field champion, and the Joan Barker Salver for champion Zwartbles sheep – Alec Houseman.

Reserve on-field champion – Gavin White.

Crown Hotel cup for champion Dalesbred – John Carr.

Lobel challenge cup for best male Dalesbred, Bernard Capstick cup for best Dalesbred group, and best female – John Carr.

Carr Challenge Cup for best-fleeced sheep in the Dalesbred section – Ellie Forster.

Alexander Morphet cup for champion Swaledale – Steven Raine.

Thompson cup for best male in the Swaledale section, Ron Metcalfe cup for best tup lamb in the Swaledale section, and best female in the Swaledale section – Steven Raine.

Peter Wood trophy for best exhibit in the local Swaledale section, Foredale tankard for best pair of Swaledale gimmer lambs, and Dawson challenge cup for best-fleeced sheep in the Swaledale section – Barrie Thomas.

Golden Lion cup for champion Texel sheep – Tyler Caton.

Frankland challenge cup for champion Bluefaced Leicester – Gavin White.

Waterston Challenge cup for best five mule gimmer lambs – Gavin White.

H. Middleton memorial trophy for the best exhibit shown by a young handler up to the age of eleven years – Bill Walker.

G. Middleton memorial trophy for the best exhibit shown by a young handler, aged 11–16 years – Olivia Newhouse.

Richard Sunter memorial trophy for the best exhibit shown by a young handler, aged 17–21 years – Charlie Lancaster.

A&T Advisory Limited shield for the champion in the any other breed class – Jess Middleton.

John Lambert shield for best vintage tractor – Malcolm Campbell.

Armstrong Old Timers tankard for the best vintage car – Jim Love.

Sargison cup for best cheese and onion pie – Gill Sandiford.

Peter Tebbutt memorial cup for best fruit cake, Mrs Mason memorial cup for best exhibit in the confectionery section and most points in the adult confectionery section – Helen Armstrong.

J. Barrow memorial cup for most points in the flower section and best exhibit in the flower section – Liz Staig.

Ann Humphrey memorial plate for the best exhibit in the handicraft section by a child aged 11 years and under – Jacob Atkinson.

Horton Landscaping cup for the best photograph taken by a child under 16 years old, and Thomas Metcalfe trophy for the best handwriting – Edith Hudspeth.

Most points in the confectionery section, ages 12–16 years – Lexi Cokell.

Most points in the handicraft and confectionery section, 11 years and under – Bill Walker.

Best exhibit in needlecraft and best exhibit in the handicraft section – Paula Swainson.

Exhibitors gaining most points in the horticultural section – joint winners Heather Huddleston, Guy Bolger, April Quigley and Roger Aiken.

Dennis Bainbridge salver for best exhibit in horticulture – Emily Palmer.

Best overall photograph – Guy Bolger.

Craven Pothole trophy for the under-16 champion exhibit in the indoor section – Olivia Newhouse.

Best exhibit in the egg section – James Caton.



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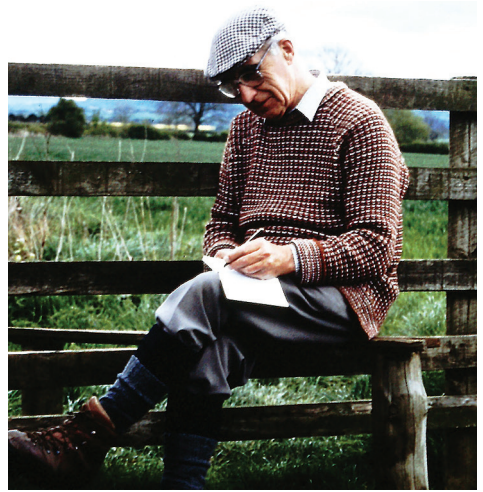
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Hill walking with Bill

Dr W R Mitchell MBE
writer, dalesman, raconteur

Bill Mitchell (1928–2015) was a local legend. He edited The Dalesman magazine for 20 years and over a 60-year period wrote over 200 books, hundreds of articles, and delivered talks on the history and evolution of this area. Bill made and collected many taped interviews representing a unique archive of dialect and history. Here his friend Bob Swallow recalls his life hill walking with Bill.



I first met Bill Mitchell way back during February 1979, just three short months after Pauline, I and our four children moved to Burton in Lonsdale from our previous home in Worksop, Notts.

Bill came to speak at the village hall one evening. I cannot remember his topic but that does not matter; rather, it was the manner in which he put it across. I thought “I could get on with this chap” so, after he had fielded questions, I approached him. It turned out we had a great deal in common, not least a love of the countryside and the Settle–Carlisle Railway.

I had always enjoyed writing. Bill encouraged me to write features for both The Dalesman and Cumbria magazines. Incredibly, I was paid.

Bill knew the Dales and Lake District mountains to the head of the intake fields. I knew the rough fells beyond, having started my fell walking career at just eleven years old with a seasoned walker. While in Worksop, Pauline and I became friends with neighbours Stan and Freda Field and their two daughters. Stan was an architect employed at a practice in the town. They too loved the high country of which there was plenty close to hand, the Peak District south-west of Sheffield

and further south the White Peak in Derbyshire.

Sometimes I would be invited along when Bill had two or three interviews lined up. His technique fascinated me. Occasionally quite blunt, yet no one ever appeared to take offence. He had learnt shorthand as a junior reporter and adapted it to suit his particular needs, a sort of one-man code.

Bill, it seems, had never ventured on the high fells. That, however, was soon to change. I was a Wainwright fan and had completed all 214 named peaks some time previously. Our younger son Michael had accompanied me on several sorties and declared that he wanted to finish the lot. Bill got to hear of this and wished to accompany us on a final sortie. Stan, by now living in Newton Aycliffe, was also lined up. We had no idea just how fit Bill was. He needed foul weather gear plus boots as we were to knock off the last nine Wainwrights on a December day when daylight was at a premium.

Well, they both completed the round trip, Michael’s last fell being Seat Sandal after we had started out up Red Screes then picked up the Fairfield Horseshoe. Bill took all this in his stride, presenting

Michael with two books and a compass. Later, Wainwright wrote him a charming letter which he still treasures.

Our trio was soon to become a quartet. A work colleague, Colin Pomfret, like me a building society branch manager, joined us. We were a disparate, sometimes desperate, band with a wide age profile. Bill was our elder statesman, six years older than Stan. I was a further six years behind, while Colin brought up the rear, six years younger than me.

Bill, being a journalist, suggested our adventures should be written up, he volunteering to be the scribe. Colin was appointed duty organiser with particular reference to long-distance walks. Stan, with a penchant for doing daft things, was duty comedian. I was left as deputy duty scribe and stills man – film, not whisky. Someone suggested that we have a title, GBC: Geriatric Blunderers Club, and it stuck!

We were out one day on the north-western fells in Lakeland. Around 1,500 feet, we met a party from the deep south having a rest. They enquired where we came from, so we told them, finishing with Stan. “Cockermouth,” said he and then, they being none the wiser, added, “It’s near Sellafield where the sea is always red”. We struggled to keep straight faces. Bill had trouble keeping his false teeth in place.

Bill was by now set on doing some serious walking, so called on his GP seeking to curtail his smoking. Not just any old gaspers, the crème de la crème – Woodbines which he incinerated at the rate of 70 a day. What happened next was recounted by Dennis Bullock, then secretary of the Dalesman Publishing Company. Meeting in the street, he exclaimed, “By we did bless you encouraging Bill to give up smoking”. “No way Dennis, first I have heard of it, why what happened?” I asked. “Well Bill came in one Monday morning and announced he was giving up smoking. For three weeks



it was hell on earth in that office, coffee cups were being flung around, typewriters looked likely to follow and then he was cured, never smoked again”.

One bright spring day, Bill, Colin and I set off from near Appleby to tackle the range of hills to the north of the town. Bill, of course, as usual leading the way, notebook and pen to hand. Apart from a few thousand sheep, there was a dearth of possible interviewees! We had a lunch break at the farthest point then set off back, it rapidly becoming clear that something was amiss with Bill. We really struggled to get him back to the car, making him promise to visit his GP next day. He did too, to be told he was going straight to Airedale Hospital, where the need for a triple heart bypass was diagnosed. Another ambulance took him post-haste to Leeds General Infirmary where that same evening he had the operation. I caught up with him two days later, sat up in bed with a mammoth zip down the middle of his chest and raring to go.

Back home he was advised to walk an extra lamppost each day. Not long after, just as I was getting up, the phone rang. It was Bill. A plaintive voice, “Bob, I’ve run out of lamp posts”. What a man.

We did several long-distance walks, though the bobby of them all was the Coast to Coast. On the second leg, a mile out from Reeth, Bill had an accident, landing face down, across the bridge, glasses broken. He came round, blood streaming from a nasty cut above his left

eye. We patched him up before heading back to Reeth where the local GP turned out specially (it was a Saturday) to use a derivative of superglue to stick skin together. We fixed his glasses with Elastoplast. It was a glorious day as we sat on the green with a large pot of tea wondering how we were going to get him back home. This dilemma was solved for us when he announced that he was not going home as Freda would kill him were she to see him in his present state. Robin Hood's Bay, the end of the walk, was a monster celebration.

We made several excursions to Scotland which Bill knew well, having been the youngest member of a similar older troop from years back. Staffa was memorable after a rough seven-mile sea crossing to view Fingal's Cave. Bill then opined that he knew where we might view puffins, so we legged it across the top of the island to find these fantastic little birds heading for burrows just below us, their mouths full of sandeels. We took it in turns to hang over the cliff edge taking photographs, ankles anchored by someone else hanging on to them.

Another memorable sortie was to the Isle of Eigg where we scaled the Scurr, which looks impossible head-on but is easy from the rear. Catching the last train back from Arisaig, it stopped in the middle of Glenfinnan Viaduct for the conductor to announce, "As we are running early the driver and I thought you might like to take some photographs". Not something that happens on your average intercity.

Bill's wife Freda was in a bad way and passed away almost at the same time as Stan was diagnosed with Parkinson's. Two weeks after Freda's funeral, Colin and I were going on a local walk based around Selside. Bill heard about this and wanted to join us. Chaos reigned in the hamlet; a herd of cattle had broken loose, roaming far and wide. Bill, of course, knew the local farmer, so we helped him round up

the miscreants. As an aside, he addressed Bill. "Sorry to hear about your wife, Bill". Dales farmers are short on words yet strong on sentiment.

Space will not permit more exploits on the fells. It all came to an end one October day in Bowland. The rain scythed down. It was dreadful. Arriving back at the car, Bill turned to Colin and me, saying "Sorry lads, that's it I've had enough". Sad really, he was just three months short of his eightieth birthday.

I was at that time heavily involved with the preserved signal box at Settle Station. On a Saturday, when it is open to the public, I would collect Bill from his home where, come rain or shine, he would be sat on the wall outside awaiting me. In the box, many of his mates were waiting to put the world to rights for the next couple of hours.

Eventually, Bill's health gave out and for several weeks he was a resident in Castleberg Cottage Hospital close to his long-time home in Giggleswick. I would visit him each week. On one such visit, just three weeks before his passing, he remarked, "Some of the happiest days of my life have been spent round the dales and mountains with you three idiots". "That was an oblique compliment. Nevertheless, it is meant most sincerely".

Bill's last two days were spent in Airedale Hospital where, when the nursing staff became aware of their well-loved patient, he was besieged with copies of many of his over 200 titles to sign.

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The Ribblehead Rap



I was doing one of my regular stints as an on-train guide for visitors travelling on the Settle-Carlisle railway when, just as we were about to head back south, a whole crowd of backpacking youngsters joined the train, all bound for the Leeds Festival. Many politely listened to my geo-historical patter, but as I got off at Settle, the very amiable guard suggested that for the festival-goers I should have tried doing my commentary as a rap! So here goes, ready for my next trip...

It was mighty cool in the Yorkshire Dales,
Some crazy guys planned to lay some rails.
They had to get freight to Glasgow City,
Though the guys to the west were sittin' pretty.
They'd not allow others on the Shap Fell line,
So the Midland team said, 'That's just fine:
We'll strike another route right through the hills;
Whatever it takes we'll pay the bills.
Then folks from the south can hitch our ride

Past the moors and valleys to the side of the Clyde'.

But building a track to the top of the ramp
Took a whole lot of navvies in a windswept camp.

And the chief engineer cried 'Holy Smoke,

The landscape here is just no joke.
Right up near the summit there's a moss to cross':

'We'll build a bridge', said the company boss:

'Over there where the Ribble starts down

On its way to the sea by Preston Town'.

Twenty-four arches weren't that easy;

Up so high it's awful breezy.

Some men fell in the cold and rain,

Others took sick and died in pain.

Yet by seventy-six the line was ready

And trains ran through all nice and steady.

You can still go that way and thrill
On the viaduct at the top of the hill.

But as you cross that terrible gap,

Just remember this story, it's the Ribblehead Rap.



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New Bridge will be a safe haven at primary school

A new school year is now underway at Settle Primary. The children have been welcomed back wearing new uniform and shiny shoes, having enjoyed a long seven-week summer holiday. Over the summer holidays, many staff gave their time to develop some areas of our school. Mrs Jessop, our new early years lead, worked alongside other staff from the early years team to redesign and refresh our reception classroom, as well as to sort through all of our learning resources both inside and outside! It was a monumental task, but one which has resulted in some very special learning environments for the youngest children.

At the opposite end of the school, our year 6 classroom and learning area have been refreshed to meet the needs of the children, and the result is a very calm, purposeful and light space for our oldest children to thrive in. All of our other classrooms have seen staff hard at work, tidying, sorting, rearranging and organising. It was a real team effort and one that highlights how special our school is.

Before the summer holidays, we shared our new room, The Bridge, with parents. This is our brand-new provision to support children. Designed as a calm and safe haven, this dedicated space focuses on connection. Here, children with special educational needs, or those navigating

a challenging chapter in their lives, can access specialist provision, sensory regulation, and highly tailored support, all while remaining part of our vibrant mainstream school.

We believe every child deserves to feel safe, understood, and ready to learn. The Bridge is much more than just a classroom; it is a dedicated, calm space built entirely around connection where children can access:

- Specialist provision: small-group and one-to-one learning led by experienced staff.
- Tailored support: individual learning plans crafted to meet each child's unique pace and needs.
- Regulation and sensory spaces: a quiet zone to help children regulate their emotions and reset so they can thrive in school.

Why 'The Bridge'? We chose this name because we want this space to act as a bridge between a child's safe, personalised support base and their mainstream classrooms. It allows children to get the targeted help they need with their learning and wellbeing, while remaining fully integrated with their peers and our whole-school community.

We can't wait to see the progress our pupils will make in this new environment.

Mrs Smith, our school special educational needs co-ordinator, and Mrs Roberts, our executive headteacher, will be overseeing this provision, which is being led by Miss Marshall, one of our experienced and knowledgeable teaching assistants. Our wider team of skilled teaching assistants will also provide support in The Bridge. We have an exciting year ahead and we look forward to sharing news from our school over the coming months.

Community News would also love to hear news from other schools in our area.



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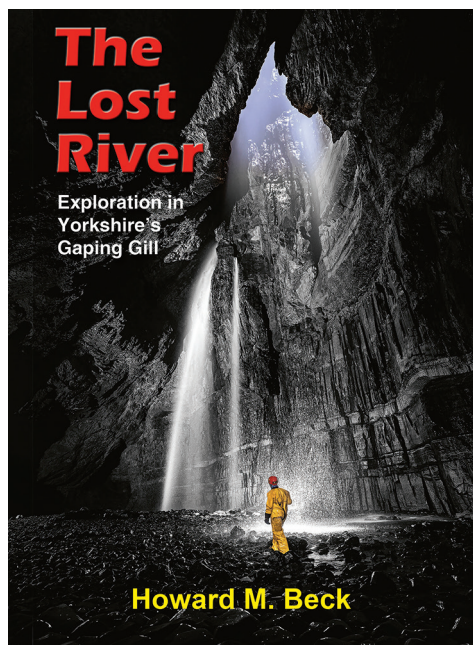


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The Lost River of Gaping Gill **By Howard M Beck**

England is the most visited, picked-over and investigated nation on earth, according to American travel writer Paul Theroux. Perhaps this is why, around 1842, Settle gentleman John Birkbeck of Anley Hall, employing a canny water diversion, made a valiant attempt using ropes only to descend the great entrance shaft of Gaping Gill. His aim was to find some place untouched or gazed upon by humanity. He was followed 40 years later by Alfred Ernest Clibborn. Both attempts were resounding failures.

Many years would pass before French fortitude succeeded where Birkbeck and Clibborn had failed. Invited by James Farrer, Lord of the Manor of Ingleborough, the French speleologist Edouard Alfred Martel arrived in Clapham village bearing luggage the likes of which the residents had never before seen.

Aided by a gang of labourers and with a surface phone operated by his wife Aline, on 9th August 1895, armed with lengths of

wood and rope ladders, he made the first complete descent of the frightful abyss. An hour was spent exploring and charting the Hall of Winds, as the great chamber subsequently became known. What he had discovered was a microcosm of hidden Yorkshire - indeed, of Great Britain - quite unknown until then.

What the Frenchman and his predecessors found, as many have since, was that a descent of Gaping Gill's great shaft is not merely a down-to-earth experience but a thought-provoking one, stimulated by the fact that Fell Beck - the stream falling down Main Shaft - vanishes into the Main Chamber floor, never to be seen again until it emerges from Beck Head, adjacent to Ingleborough Show Cave; its course in between remains a mystery still only partially explained today.

Martel's prediction that passageways would eventually be discovered beyond the huge boulder piles marking the eastern and western extremities of the great chamber has since been borne out by explorations down the decades, with 21 kilometres of galleries, chambers and passages now explored and mapped, coincidentally with as many entrances.

No other pothole system in the country enjoys greater prestige or has garnered so much media interest. Scientists, journalists, documentary-makers, celebrities, tourists, politicians and even an episode of the children's television programme *Blue Peter* have together brought the below-ground attractions of this premier pothole to the attention of a discerning public.

Documenting the twists and turns of progress since 1837, this author has researched and written a comprehensive history of the Gaping Gill labyrinth and the associated Ingleborough Cave, highlighting the decades-long human story of discovery and hardship behind the pioneering efforts.

The Lost River: Exploration of Yorkshire's Gaping Gill (ISBN 978-1-8382628-3-9) was released by Wild Places in September 2026.

Settle Orchestra welcomes new conductor

Settle Orchestra begins an exciting season this autumn, welcoming a new conductor and providing a platform for one of its own outstanding performers.

Colombian conductor Juan José Muñoz Borja (below) will be taking up the baton, with 17-year-old orchestra member Harris Birch (right) stepping into the spotlight as bassoon soloist for concerts in Settle and Skipton.

Juan José is currently completing a master's degree in orchestral conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music

(RNCM) in Manchester. He has worked with a wide range of professional and youth orchestras in Colombia and internationally and has taken part in masterclasses with distinguished conductors. During



Settle Orchestra's 2026/27 season, he will also begin a collaboration with London-based Chineke! Orchestra as assistant conductor. Alongside his conducting career, Juan José has a strong commitment to the role music can play in communities and as a tool for social change. Most recently, he worked with the Iberacademy Foundation, coordinating community engagement strategies through its In Crescendo programme. His arrival continues Settle Orchestra's relationship with emerging conducting talent from the Royal Northern College of Music and follows a successful season of concerts in Settle and Skipton.

The relationship will once again be supported by Northern Rail, which will provide train tickets for Juan José between Manchester and Settle for the orchestra's weekly rehearsals and concerts. This helps make it possible for the orchestra to work regularly with emerging conducting talent based at the RNCM while maintaining its home in the Yorkshire Dales.



Juan José's first concert programme with the orchestra brings together music by Mozart, Jacobi and Beethoven, with afternoon performances at Settle Parish Church on Saturday, 14th November and Christ Church, Skipton, on Saturday, 21st November.

Opening the programme is Mozart's *Ballet Music from Idomeneo*, before the spotlight turns to one of Settle Orchestra's own young musicians. Harris Birch, one of the orchestra's youngest members, will step forward as bassoon soloist in Jacobi's *Introduction and Polonaise for Bassoon and Orchestra*. The performance follows an exceptional achievement for Harris earlier this year. At just 17 years old, he achieved a distinction in his bassoon diploma, scoring an outstanding 48 marks out of 50. His featured performance is particularly special for an orchestra which places great importance on encouraging young and emerging musicians.

The 2026/27 season will also be special, as the orchestra celebrates Anne Heaton's final year as orchestra leader, following many years of dedicated music-making and leadership. Applications are now open for an accomplished violinist to succeed Anne and help shape the orchestra's next chapter.

The orchestra brings together musicians from across the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding area for weekly rehearsals in Settle and concerts in both Settle and Skipton. String players looking for an opportunity to enjoy challenging and varied orchestral repertoire in a friendly ensemble are warmly invited to get in touch at settleorchestra.org.uk.

Looking for Oswald – and calling in on Long Meg



As a change from treks to lofty summits and remote trig pillars, a recent walk took me into the Eden Valley – a bit further from Settle, but still easily reached on our local railway.

In our own area we have the parish church in Horton dedicated to St Oswald, who, with Aidan and Cuthbert, is one of the ‘big three’ northern saints. In fact, there are said to be some 60 churches across the north of England dedicated to Oswald, but who was he, and why, part-way to Carlisle, has he got an entire village – Kirkoswald – named after him?

A glance at the map and train timetable suggested a fairly easy excursion from Lazonby and Kirkoswald station round to Langwathby, with a chance to investigate Oswald, and also to check out Long Meg and see the remains of a castle built by the nefarious Hugh de Morville.

My starting point was actually in the middle of Lazonby, next to the distinctive octagonal livestock market building. The market is itself a child of the Settle and Carlisle Railway, having been developed once the line had opened. But already visible a mile or so to the east were the houses of Kirkoswald, and it’s a pleasant walk down the road and across the very fine sandstone bridge over the Eden to reach this second village.

Oswald was king of Northumbria in the early Dark Ages, but while exiled to Scotland in a time of strife, he visited Iona and was converted to Christianity. When, after victory in battle, he came into his kingship, he oversaw the conversion of many of his people to the Christian way of belief – a task achieved with the help of Aidan, to whom he granted the isle of Lindisfarne as the site for a monastery. Sadly, he was subsequently killed fighting

the heathen Mercians in Shropshire (the name of the town of Oswestry commemorates this, being derived from ‘Oswald’s tree’), but his pious works and reputation as a just king led to his becoming venerated as a saint. I have read two explanations as to the particular link with Kirkoswald. One is that when the Viking raiders later threatened Lindisfarne, the holy relics of the local saints were moved inland, and Kirkoswald was one of their resting places. A second story is that Oswald and Aidan were travelling along the Eden and converted a group of pagan locals who were worshipping at a spring on the hillside. The church was built on the site of the spring. A curiosity is that the church tower or belfry is on a small hill a couple of hundred yards away from the actual place of worship.

Having visited both church and tower, I called at the community-run village shop to top up supplies before heading up into the woods. Here are the rather slender remains of Kirkoswald Castle, which was fortified by Hugh de Morville, the Norman Lord of Westmorland, who was one of the four knights who murdered Thomas à Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. Alas, the footpath marked on my map petered out into a tangle of nettles and Himalayan balsam, but I carried on, startling some deer in the undergrowth, to the hamlet of Glassonby and on over the hill to meet Long Meg. She is, in fact, a shapely standing stone, just outside one of the widest Neolithic circles in England, formed by the 60 or so boulders that are known as Long Meg’s Daughters. At sunset on the winter solstice, Long Meg casts her shadow directly across the centre of the circle. Rather unexpectedly, a small party of Japanese tourists were posing for photos on the stones, with the fine view west to the Lakeland fells as a backdrop.

Finally, there was an easy walk down to Langwathby and, as we were in one of those summer heatwave spells, a pint of ale at the pub overlooking the very pleasant village green, itself a short way from the station and my train back home to Settle.

Phil Hinde

Couch to 5K

Last September my friend Rob Jackson, who was then the chair of Settle U3A, asked me if I would be interested in helping him start a Couch to 5K group. I expressed my doubts about whether there would be enough interest, but happily I was proved wrong.

Initially, about 20 people expressed interest, so we asked Simon Oxley (chairman of Settle Harriers) and Jess Bagnall (junior captain) to help set up several small groups.

We met at Settle swimming pool and our warm-up was to walk alongside the river to the fields in Giggleswick, where we used the *Couch to 5K running plan - Better Health - NHS* as our training programme. The biggest problem was a lack of confidence. Some of the group had run before, but a long time ago, and some had never run at all. All the runners seemed very apprehensive but relaxed when they discovered they were all several years younger than me!

If you have never run before, even running for 90 seconds can be quite daunting; the trick is to distract the novice runners with conversation so they don't think about the time passing.

After a few weeks, the dark evenings were upon us and the number of regulars had diminished to nine, seven of whom were ladies. Nothing could deter them, not even pouring rain or freezing wind. Occasionally someone missed a session due to other commitments or the odd injury, but they had clearly got the bug.

Eventually, the big day dawned and we all went off to Skipton to do the local parkrun. Actually, not all of us made it, as I managed to put my back out two days before and couldn't go. I had emailed the organisers and so our group got a big shout-out before the event, which helped



The happy runners after completing Skipton parkrun - coach Robert at the back

with any last-minute nerves. Everyone had a great time and was smiling all the way round.

We still meet once a month in the Talbot to rehydrate and discuss our next moves. I must admit that I thought most of the nine would stop running now that they had achieved their goal. How wrong I was! We did lose three, including both the men, and one of the ladies went off to do her own thing, which included a 12-miler in May. One of the remaining ladies regularly runs with the Settle Harriers, and the other four have formed a self-help group, The Elite Ladies. Thanks to Rob's great initiative of "the Settle non-parkrun" (every Saturday at 9am from the swimming pool), we have been joined by several others and a Saturday very rarely goes by without any of the group running. Recently they have been doing hill work and speed sessions. It won't be long before I'm unable to keep up with them.

If you are thinking "I wish I had done that", you can. Rob and I are going to start another group in early October. If you are interested, look out for messages in the Settle Chat group on Facebook, or contact me at beesley52@outlook.com or Rob at runrob58@gmail.com.

Chris Beesley

The Novice Gardener

Annie Gammon

Email: annie@settlenews.co.uk



I still don't know quite what to expect to see in my garden when I have been away. I returned in mid-September after a couple of weeks away – uncertain whether most plants would have finished flowering, whether the trees would have dropped leaves, or whether the flower beds would have become jungles. I knew there had been fairly regular rain here in Settle, so the desiccated end of the spectrum didn't cross



my mind – as it might have done during some of our summer months.

I was pleasantly surprised to see how many flowering plants were still in bloom, complemented by seasonally bright pink-red hips and berries. Some flowering plants seem to have come into their own in this early autumn; others have continued flowering through summer and autumn, really earning



their place in the garden. I also have a sense of a steadying of the rate of change: not so much heat, not so much light, a slower pace of growth.

I could tell from the plastic bucket, which I had left outside empty and which was now half full, that there had been a decent amount of rain and not too much evaporation. This also showed in some foliage growth – the wisteria has become



particularly voluminous.

One plant which really caught my eye was a sedum, a bright block of candy pink flowers – it had had the merest tinge of pink before I went away. And the cyclamen seem to have multiplied exponentially, with their delicate flowers hovering magically above ground level: they produce lovely drifts of white and pink in some shaded areas.



Some plants have clearly enjoyed the rain. The shrubby potentilla has revived, having looked very sad in the heat, showing plentiful peach-coloured flowers. Some white snapdragons that I planted as seedlings earlier this year now look very content with their water intake.

And the good-value, long-flowering penstemon and astrantia continue to provide blue and papery pink colour, respectively. They have definitely repaid regular deadheading by producing more blooms.



I had planted some symphyotrichums (asters) earlier in the year, which have the typical purple daisy-like flowers, but also interesting black stems and dark foliage. They have made me think about looking out for plants with interesting stem colours.

And now we are well into berry season: the cotoneaster is splendidly covered with red berries, the raspberries are doing well and I am enjoying the colour the hips from the roses bring (where I have not deadheaded them!). Enjoy the autumn in your garden.





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Over and out!

Yes, the 2026 cricket season is now lamentably a thing of the past, as Roy Orbison sang in 1964. Woe, woe and thrice woe! This year, we've experienced Test series against New Zealand and Pakistan and Yorkshire's regular endeavours to avoid relegation from the County Championship's First Division, to say nothing of the various limited-overs excrescences, of which I will say nothing.

Dwarfing all this has been the Settle Cricket Club/Settle District u3a Walking Cricket campaign, henceforth to be affectionately termed 'WC', though obviously not because of the runs, restricted as we are to a slower mode of locomotion, or, more usually, loco-motion. To see women and men of some maturity seeking to emulate derring-do deeds of yesteryear can appear truly loco. Why is the ground so much lower than it used to be? If we're shrinking, shouldn't it be easier to get down? Are our arms shrinking too?

Our crazy cavorting must have seemed completely loco to a Sevilla-based friend who joined us for an August session. Never a cricket fan and more used to the highly skilled professionalism of Spain's world-beating footballers, our guest looked upon our activity with mixed emotions -

bewilderment and incredulity. Whether he will return to Andalucia with appropriate missionary zeal to spread the WC ethos is debatable. Introducing our noble national pastime to our continental colleagues may be akin to flogging a dead bull, though we have indeed witnessed international, nay intercontinental involvement this season.

Big-hitting Troy of Danish/Minnesotan extraction joined our ranks a few months back and caused a rethink in our placement of fielders, up a tree in the middle of Booths' car park and standing on a picnic table in front of the SCC clubhouse being two options. With a baseball batting stance, Troy conjured up, for Andrew, nostalgic reminiscences of Kenyan Basharat Hassan of Nottinghamshire (1966-85), with his projecting rump. Troy, the ace that launched a thousand sixes, is the embodiment of Bazball. The USA's national cricket team competes in the 50-over World Cup. Troy could be a major asset. Perhaps we could trump Trump and deal some cash for SCC. Who'll play Infantino to the infantile House of Orange?

Having said all that, Troy was not the one who smote the ball over the boundary wall. Stuart, a normally classy groundstroke-maker, was the culprit, his shot necessitating the impressive scaling of the wall by Dave, who, sharing troglodyte tendencies with his partner, Ros, could be very useful if Matt's retirement persists. Matt was a speleologist. I thought that was someone good at spelling, but no, as the French are apt to say after their fashion. It's someone who goes down holes. Matt was always summoned to retrieve the ball when it was hit under the covers.

Another of our batters in the true classical mode is Peter, ex-SCC player and current *Craven Herald* match reporter, who possesses his very own Geoffrey Boycott

bat, signed personally by the great man himself. Peter was, I suspect, the only supporter to write sympathetically to GB when he was dropped by the selectors after scoring 246* in a mere ten hours against India at Headingley in 1967.

Peter is not so precious that he will not entrust his willow to lesser mortals but does expect it to be treated with due respect, i.e. solid defensive prods and definitely no boundary hits. If I ever stoop to a reverse sweep, a hoick to cow corner or, heaven forbid, the ramp, I feel I have to apologise profusely to a crestfallen Peter as he witnesses the sacrilege perpetrated with his sacred bat.

Don't tell the England and Wales Cricket Board but it has been known for our scorer/umpire to massage the scores towards the end of a match so that we can engineer an exciting finish. We see no problem with this creative accountancy, as we only play for fun amongst ourselves. Les is perhaps the most adept at cooking the books but we're all prepared to send a catch to lose five runs, I mean walks, to level up the scores. This tactic may seem utterly un-Boycottian in its frivolity, but the GB bat was recently used to this end, when batter Colin, needing NOT to advance the score, played out a maiden over, claiming, after every delivery, that his weapon simply refused to let him hit a run, I mean walk.

We've been operating for several years now, showing remarkable resilience in the face of often inclement climes, but this spring and summer we have been rewarded with wonderful weather to warm our weary withers and other neglected parts of the anatomy. In fact, at times it has been so hot that fielders have been reluctant to leave the shade of the boundary trees as we rotate positions after each over. I wonder if Joe Root has this problem.

As we enter autumn, however, and the u3a Sport group limbers up for darts and snooker at Settle Social Club in cricket's six-month off-season, I cannot let go just yet. Two very important events remain to be enjoyed before the curtain falls and darkness descends upon the land.

Firstly, it is my impossible annual duty to select the 'Walking Cricketer of the Year'. In the absence of statistics and, indeed, any ambition other than to have fun, on what criteria can one base a decision? Four previous winners were Bill, as an encouragement to do essential ethical missionary work in Australia; the late and sorely missed Edward, for his super-slowmo deliveries, which gave the batter enough time to be in three minds at once as to how to miss the ball; Jane for being an all-round good egg; and Sarah, the personification of bustling good humour. It must reflect her Worcestershire background, where cricket isn't more serious than life or death. The prestigious award will be made at our annual traditional Golden Lion's Den World Series Owzthat Tournament, held continuously since 2025. Watch out, Victoria Hall! We could massage that to 1825.

(Surnames withheld to protect the innocent).

Ian Gray

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Cricketers draw stumps...



The saddest time of any year for me is the last day of the cricket season at Marshfield, with the evening shadows lengthening – or just as likely a steady drizzle.

It's been another busy year, with a total of 204 league fixtures, each one needing an organiser, captain, transport, administration, practice, manager, communication, finance, scorer, catering, groundwork and much else.

Settle's first team have had a tough season, with several regular players unavailable for the first few months and playing catch-up ever since, but they did exceptionally well to make the prestigious Lancashire Cup quarter-finals. They now take a step down to Division Two but remain the only side in all of Craven to play in an ECB Premier League, directly below Minor County level. The team is in transition, with talented juniors coming through, and will punch well above its weight against towns like Morecambe and Barrow and the city of Preston – with 40 times the population.

The second XI are in the top half of Westmorland Division One and our third and fourth teams finished as winners of Divisions Five and Six respectively, both great achievements. As well as beginners in All Stars, juniors played across five age-group competitions and have produced several district and county players this year. An Under-14 girls county match between

Cumbria and Yorkshire at Marshfield featured three of Settle's own – on opposing sides! Our Under-13s made it to their cup quarter-finals and the women's XI reached the last eight of the Super8s Hundred cup. Walking Cricket, also known as *Last of the Summer Wine*, keeps a dozen or so of the faithful busy on Monday afternoons.

Settle play across four counties at some fantastic grounds but are always glad to get back home. I first played in 1976 for the second XI (only because there was no third XI) and my spirit still lifts as I step out to play Walking Cricket 50 years later. Opposition teams love coming here and tourists often wander in during matches to admire the limestone backdrop, the old pavilion and immaculate pitch, and to have a drink at our superb clubhouse.

Settle is blessed with outstanding sports teams and facilities – rugby, football and swimming for a start – but for many the beating heart of the town in summer is at Marshfield. The club looks forward to the challenges of 2027, boosted by the recent arrival of state-of-the-art practice nets which will help men, women and children reach their potential. New members, players of all ages and volunteers are always very welcome, and officials can be contacted via About Us on settle.play-cricket.com/home.

Peter Metcalfe



At the time of writing, in mid-September, I should have been reporting on North Ribblesdale's first-ever game at level five of the league pyramid; however, the Rugby Football Union, in its wisdom, has imposed a two-week postponement on all clubs at level five and below due to the drought conditions across England south of Bingley! Needless to say, it has rained almost every day here since the announcement was made and Grove Park is looking resplendent and ready for action with a perfect playing surface. However, having travelled south recently, I passed several rugby and cricket grounds that looked as if a combine harvester had been baling straw on them rather than like green playing surfaces. It's a shame as many clubs, not only North Ribb, have done a lot of work in preparation for the new season, only to be knocked back by the authorities. Player safety is of paramount importance and any decision that is made with that in mind must be respected.

That said, our first fixture is now away against Northern (just north of Newcastle), a club that, not long ago, were plying their trade against the likes of Gosforth, Sale, Fylde, and Roundhay. They were promoted last season from North 2, the equivalent level to ours, so it will be a good challenge with which to start our season.

North Ribb Stags begin their first-

ever league campaign, now competing at Yorkshire Three level, on the same day with a home game against Hornsea from the east coast. Both games kick off at 3.00pm. For those wanting to travel with the team, the coach will leave the clubhouse for Newcastle at 10.00am and return at approximately 10.30pm.

North Ribblesdale Ladies begin with a challenging game at Grove Park on Sunday, 27th September, against Selby Ladies. Please get down and support the players for what are expected to be challenging games on all fronts.

The club is trying to support a move for a senior player to come over from South Africa to bolster the squad. Anyone in the community who can offer help in any form, be it work, transport, or even a donation towards airfares (the club cannot do this; it has to come from outside support), should please get in touch with me directly on my mobile 07711 028287. Any support raised will be acknowledged at the club and publicly if the donor is happy for it to be so.

I'm looking forward to an exciting season and seeing many from our community down at Grove Park.

Gavin Davidson
Chair, North Ribblesdale RUFC

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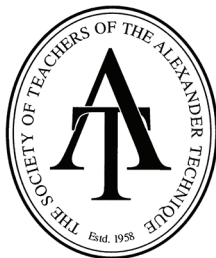
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Tears and Laughter - *Nunc!* by Quentin Letts

Nunc! must count as one of the oddest books I have reviewed for the *Community News*. It is a humorous novel, so nothing unusual in that, but the oddity is that its source material is the New Testament. Some may feel squeamish about seeing the Bible used for amusement, but, devout atheist though I am, I have found neither mockery nor blasphemy in *Nunc!*

Its author, Quentin Letts, 63, has had a long and distinguished career in journalism; I have known him best as parliamentary sketch-writer for *The Times*. In fact, I love sketch-writers as a breed, most often for their wit and concision. Peter Simple of the *Daily Telegraph* could skewer his character types merely by the names he gave them: the crackpot psychiatrist, Dr Heinz Kiosk, and the pious motoring vicar, the Rev. John Goodwheel. Quentin Letts is up with the best of them: he writes of pugnacious little Nicola Sturgeon as Miss McTermite, and he punctures former Home Secretary Priti Patel simply by writin' down her manner of speakin'.

And so to *Nunc!* The word *nunc* is Latin for "now" and in Christian worship it opens the canticle *Nunc dimittis servum tuum...* ("Now lettest thy servant depart...") which is ascribed to the prophet Simeon. Simeon is the lead character in *Nunc!* and the setting is first-century Jerusalem under Roman occupation. The diverse characters who rub shoulders with Simeon bring to life the daily doings of the

ancient city and highlight their parallels with our own. Old Simeon works as a tour guide at the temple; he happens also to be an accomplished singer, though now he rarely exercises his musical skills. His most faithful friend is Reuben the tea-seller, and together these two are helped, hindered, buoyed up and downcast by a colourful cast of other players: we meet Simeon's kindly landlady, Noor; pompous city superintendent Kedar; beautiful Zillah, promiscuous, much-married, much-widowed and therefore wealthy; Onesimus the greengrocer, with his hapless teenage son Benjamin; and many more. Into their mouths Quentin Letts puts pure 21st century dialogue, with all the slang, rudeness and ribald humour that must have been as prevalent in Biblical times as it is in our own.

Nunc! is made up of largely unconnected events that depict the foibles of the historical characters as well as those of our contemporaries. Indeed, *Nunc!* gets its bite from the connections that run from old Jerusalem right through to modern Britain. Some examples: on the orders of King Herod, Simeon's old temple is being demolished and replaced in a project which has a whiff of HS2 about it; Benjamin's vegetable cart one day suffers pothole damage on Deuteronomy Street, a main road that the local authority has long neglected (ring a bell?), and while he repairs it, Kedar gets the traffic warden to book him for obstruction; the city's crowd

scenes depict football hooliganism long before football was played; and when one of Ezekiel's almond trees is cut down it regrows, in a Sycamore Gap style story, perhaps?

Yet alongside the comedy a serious side appears when, from time to time, Simeon communes with the divine, by means of a large feather – yes, a feather – that he has kept since his army days. While landlady Noor is forever trying to throw it away, Simeon carefully preserves it, and when he sits down in front of it to worry through a problem, angelic guidance comes. Such guidance plays a role several times over. One is when three none-too-wise men (Three Blundering Eejits in the chapter heading) turn up from somewhere out east to tell Herod that they have come to pay homage to a new king (who is not Herod). When they move on, they leave behind “a rumour, repeated by a goatherd and clearly ridiculous, that the sheikhs had gone to a farm and hailed some peasant girl's child as the next king. The goatherd was charged with wasting police time.” Herod, of course, then begins his murderous rampage against new-borns which we now call the slaughter of the innocents.

At roughly the same time, three visitors

from Nazareth, namely a carpenter, Yousef, together with his wife Mary and baby Yeshua (got it?) arrive to join Simeon for their pre-booked temple tour. But on divine instinct Simeon hustles them away, urging the three of them to hurry out of Jerusalem and beyond Herod's reach. As they depart

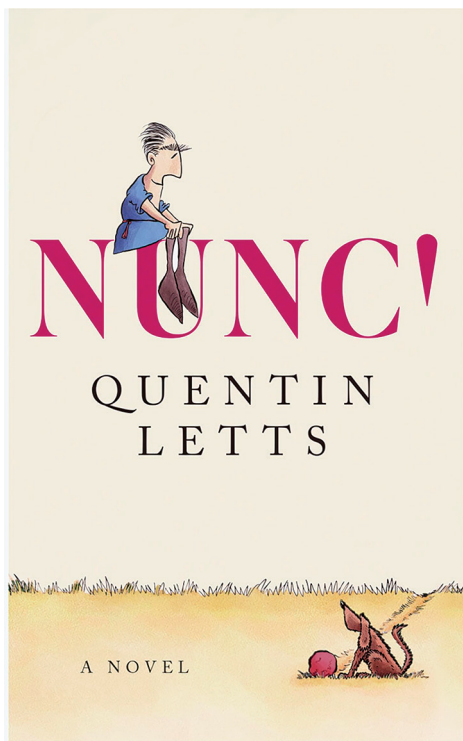
to safety, Simeon sings *Nunc dimittis* for the first time, then collapses and dies.

Two scenes from modern life in London bookend what has taken place in Jerusalem. In the opening chapter a cancer-stricken 62-year-old, Alex Symons (note the name) endures a consultation with his cold-hearted doctor who gives him six months to live. In the closing chapter, Alex, on his way home and acting entirely out of character, Alex enters a church where, at Evensong, he hears what might be the

Nunc dimittis. He reflects that the six months he has been given are better than *nunc*.

Quentin Letts thus touchingly suggests that not only does human life not change much over two thousand years, but also that tears are close to laughter, and life to death. *Nunc!* stretches the limits of my reviewing abilities, and I have reached the editor's word limit too, so I must leave you now to depart in peace and enjoy *Nunc!* for yourselves.

Bob Young





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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
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- Worship band
- Modern songs
- Encouraging message
- An encounter with God

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GOING GLOBAL



We have a Norwegian double this issue. Above, Fiona Ludlam-Brown from Hellifield is pictured with *Community News* in front of the Gateway to the Arctic in Tromsø. The tiny triangle you can see through the archway is the city's famous Arctic Cathedral.

Below right, *Community News* editor John Drake took a copy of the mag (almost) as far north as it is possible to go, to the town of Hammerfest, once known as the most northerly inhabited place on Earth before Svalbard claimed that title.

Whether you're heading far north, south, east, west or just round the corner somewhere in the UK, don't forget to take a copy of *Community News* with you and send us your photos!

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

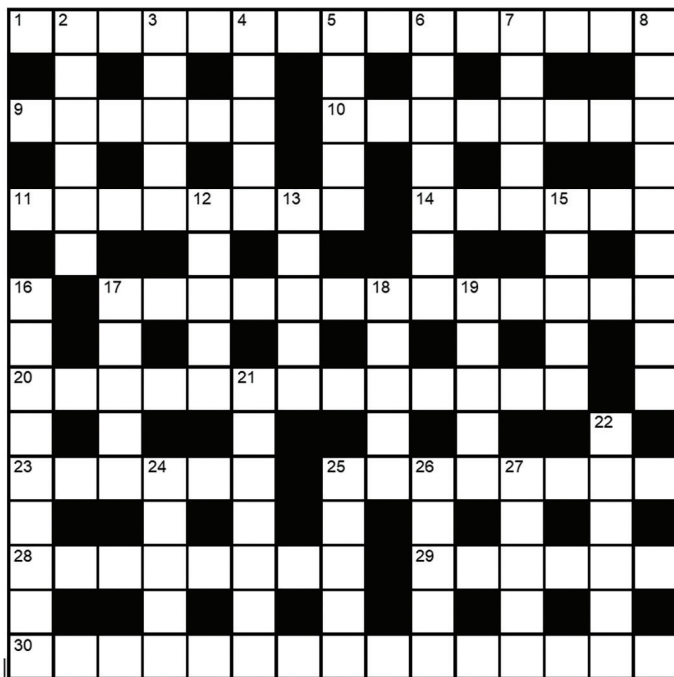
QUIZ TIME

Cryptic Yorkshire

1. Midlands outlaw on the coast
2. Ghostly inland port?
3. Hillman car found in the estuary
4. City with a relatively lightweight football team
5. Eighties pop duo from just beyond Giggleswick
6. Megaherbivores on the loose here
7. A river of gases?
8. Town of heavy furniture near the fireside
9. Would you boycott this mining village?
10. Colourful Yorkist gave battle in vain
11. Where old stoker drove vampire ashore
12. Deadline date for food retail

Check your answers on page 63





Across

1. Portable audio players (8,7)
9. Cooing bird (6)
10. Now Zimbabwe (8)
11. Re scientific investigation of crime (8)
14. Death (6)
17. Modern practical application of science (3,10)
20. Book-lending vehicle (6,7)
23. Permanent polar covering (3,3)
25. Part of a yacht (8)
28. Glutton (8)
29. Go back on (6)
30. Voting locations (7,8)

Down

2. eg John Drake (6)
3. Blockade (5)
4. Dressed up to the ----- (5)
5. Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue (5)
6. Down----- (= oppressed) (7)
7. Watery fluid in nose or eyes (5)
8. Roll of fat round the waist (5,4)
12. Central supporting pillar of spiral staircase (5)
13. Perfect (5)
15. Sarcasm; paradox (5)
16. Conclusion (7,2)
17. Aristocrat (5)
18. Custom; monk's cloak (5)
19. Female reproductive organ (5)
21. Elucidate (7)
22. Company-group founded by Richard Branson (6)
24. Christmas song; girl's name (5)
25. Teams (5)
26. Main artery of the body (5)
27. Branch of Islam (5)

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Please check guidelines on page 63 regarding the listing of commercial activities. Notify any changes or additions to directory@settlenews.co.uk.

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.settle-towncouncil.gov.uk. For further details, email clerk@settle-towncouncil.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: Tues at the Talbot 8.30-10.15pm, Oct 6th & 20th. Nov dates tba; check www.talbotsettle.co.uk/events. Free entry, sitters-in welcome.

Giggleswick and Settle BrassBand: Rehearsals every Wed 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). Contact SettleRC1957@outlook.com

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.

Langcliffe Short Mat Bowls: Every Thursday evening at Langcliffe Institute 7.30-9.30pm all year round. All welcome -no previous bowling skills required-a good evening guaranteed. Contact Pat /Alan Smelt on 01729 823033.

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.

Strong & Steady - Strength, Balance and Falls Awareness classes: Horton in R., Langcliffe, Settle, Long Preston & Hellifield. Call Jo Wulf for further details on 07966 981985 or email jo@wolftracks.co.uk New class starting in Austwick Parish Hall, Tues.11.30-12.30

Nordic walking: Classes for all levels: Mon 3.30pm, Tues/Fri 9.30am. Call 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: Settle Sharks Netball: Minis age 7-10, Juniors age 11-15 and Seniors age 16+. Sessions are term time and held at Giggleswick. Contact Charlotte for details at settlesharks@yahoo.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.

Vision Aid Group: fourth Monday of month 1-3pm at The Place in Settle, for Registered Severely Sight Impaired and others with sight problems (e.g. cataract, glaucoma). Provides chat, ideas and support, with refreshments. 26th October, Richard Breare - Craven Cassette Talking Newspaper. 23rd November - Macular Society. Contact Anne Webster 07557 442420 or The Place 01729 824868

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.

Langcliffe Midlife Muscle – a quiet exercise class aimed at 50+ women for strength and bone health. Mondays 9am or 10.30 at Langcliffe Institute. Call Jo for details on 07966 981985 or email jo@wolfracks.co.uk

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.

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, dried or tinned food, or drop off any spare food you wish to donate. Open Tuesday and Friday afternoons, 12.30–3.30pm, and Wednesday mornings, 10am–12 noon, at the Little Hub, 1A Commercial Courtyard.

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 - 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

Help out on Community News...

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to join the *Community News* team. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity, from writing, production, design, distribution, advertising or something else you think you could add, contact a member of the editorial team. You can find all our details on page 3 of this issue. We look forward to hearing from you.

HOW TO ADVERTISE WITH US OR MAKE A DONATION

Ordinary commercial advertisements are charged at the rates below. No charge is made for listing clubs and activities in the Community Directory, providing these are free to join or on a paid-for basis simply to cover running costs.

Directory entries for sporting or other activities from which the provider derives an income, will be accepted at the discretion of the *Community News* management team.

Where a charity or community group wishes extra publicity for a major event or programme, in the style of a full colour advertisement, a nominal charge will be made, not more than 50% of the commercial rate. Contact us to discuss requirements.

ADVERTISEMENT SIZES & RATES

Full page

210mm tall x 148mm wide (plus 3mm bleed) = £160

Half page

95mm tall x 128mm wide = £80
OR 190mm tall x 63mm wide = £80

Quarter page

95mm tall x 63mm wide = £40
OR 47mm tall x 128mm wide = £40

Eighth page

47mm tall x 63mm wide = £20

These rates are per issue.

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ALL ADVERTS TO BE PREPAID

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

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 PAY OR DONATE

Payments may be made by bank transfer (ref: 'Advertising' or 'Reader Donor') to:

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National Westminster Bank

Sort Code: 01-07-93

Account Number: 53002016

Or, send a cheque payable to Settle and District Community News to:

6 Townhead Croft, Settle, BD24 9LG.

NEXT ISSUE (DEC 2026/JAN 2027)

Due for publication on 26th Nov 2026

The deadline for copy and advertising bookings is 5th Nov 2026

Quiz Answers

1. Robin Hood ('s Bay); 2. Goole;
3. Humber; 4. Bradford (the Bantams);
5. Wham; 6. Leeds (Rhinos); 7. Aire;
8. Settle; 9. Fitzwilliam (Geoffrey's birthplace); 10. King Richard III;
11. Whitby (Dracula); 12. Selby (sell-by).

Crossword Solution

Across: 1. Personal stereos; 9. Pigeon; 10. Rhodesia; 11. Forensic; 14. Demise; 17. New technology; 20. Mobile library; 23. Ice cap; 25. Staysail; 28. Gourmand; 29. Renege; 30. Polling stations.
Down: 2. Editor; 3. Siege; 4. Nines; 5. Lyric; 6. Trodden; 7. Rheum; 8. Spare tyre; 12. Newel; 13. Ideal; 15. Irony; 16. Summing up; 17. Noble; 18. Habit; 19. Ovary; 21. Explain; 22. Virgin; 24. Carol; 25. Sides; 26. Aorta; 27. Sunni.

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