

A vibrant field of purple flowers, likely bellflowers, under a clear blue sky. A large, leafy tree stands in the background, and the sun is visible in the top left corner, creating a bright, sunny atmosphere.

village news

April / May 2026

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Dear Reader

We've been doing some *blue sky thinking* this month to come up with ideas for our letter and what have we plumped for? Well, see if you can guess.

April and May are two months which promise so much - carpets of bluebells flowering beneath a canopy of trees under blue skies, as shown by our cover picture, and longer, warmer days when we can enjoy the outdoors. The Blue Monday of 19 January, when we were all blue with cold, is long gone and we are poring over garden magazines planning a riot of colour in our herbaceous borders - forget-me-nots, Himalayan poppies, delphiniums, scabious, catmint.....

Out of the blue our printer has gone into administration and we have had to move to another. The deal we had could not be matched, consequently our printing costs have risen again, making us feel rather blue. It means we are even more reliant on donations, so if you feel inspired to support the magazine you will find a QR code on the back page to help you donate and thank you to everyone who does so.

May is special for a rather obscure reason; it is the only month in 2026 when we have a blue moon. This is when there are two full moons in a calendar month, possibly giving rise to the saying *Once in a blue moon*, meaning hardly ever.

Well, have you guessed the theme of our letter? We have rambled on till we are blue in the face so it's time to sign off now and wish you all happy spring days.

**L, C and L
and the team**

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Cover photo: Bluebells in Huby by John Chadwick

Linda Bullus, Caroline Henderson and Liz Barrett: joint-editors
email: lwparishnews@yahoo.co.uk

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KO Events annual general meeting

KO Events (KOE) held its annual general meeting on 24 February at The Shoulder of Mutton. There was an excellent turn out with nineteen people in attendance. KOE now incorporates KODS and KOSAF and is responsible for coordinating most of the fun filled activities and fundraising in the village.

The principal business was to look back on the very successful production of *Cinderella*, the first pantomime that KODS has performed since its inception in 1981. The financial surplus from *Cinderella* enabled KOE to send £1,375 to each of the charities chosen at the 2025 agm, which are Maggie's and The Friends of All Saints' Church.

The officers of KOE were all re-elected for another year. They are: Jim Bennett (Chairman); John Farenden (Treasurer); Richard Gisborne (Secretary); John Fairfield (Chairman of KODS); Jo Ball and Lucy Crack – the latter two being general officers representing The Friends of All Saints'.

Several social events are being planned for 2026 (details of which will be announced soon) as well as a KODS production to be presented in the latter part of 2026 or early 2027.

Richard Gisborne

Clay Shoot

The annual clay shoot will take place again on **Saturday 6 June**. As usual this will be held on the south facing sloping grass banks down Walton Head Lane. As before it is intended to have ten or twelve teams of six per team. There will be five or six individual stands followed by the team flush after lunch. The day will be set up again by Erik Aaron Shooting Ltd.

Anyone interested, please contact either David Yeadon or Jim Bennett as below. Always a great day.

David Yeadon 07889 606326
Jim Bennett 07970 374658

News from All Saints'

Spring is such a *welcome* season. Fresh green shoots transform the winter landscape; new-born lambs explore on wobbly legs. With increased daylight to inspire us, it's a time of renewal and regeneration. As it is in nature, so it is in church at Easter.

Our Easter journey began quietly with an Ash Wednesday evening service. Our rare evening services at All Saints' have a special atmosphere, intimate and peaceful. The congregation received on their foreheads the symbolic Sign of the Cross. Curate Emma invited us to consider the blessings God offers to those who observe the practices of Lent. And we were privileged that Will Lewis had been willing to make the journey from Leeds to play the organ for us that evening.

By the time you read this magazine we will have already celebrated Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday. I'm certain there will have been posies for our mothers and I'm hopeful there may have been a donkey, humble and patient, to accompany our Palm Sunday procession. Only time, and the next edition of the magazine, will tell.

Good Friday, 3 April, brings a service of Meditations at the Cross, open to all, commencing at 10.30am. For young families there will be a children's workshop. Revd Stroma, Emma and Moira will lead us together on our journey of hope.

On Holy Saturday, 4 April, at 2pm a Vigil of Light will take place at the tiny chapel of St Mary, Stainburn. Friends across the benefice are invited to welcome the Risen Christ in this beautiful yet simple service. When planning your journey please bear in mind that there is limited parking, also no heating, electricity or facilities on site. Arrive early and wrap up would be my advice.

Easter Sunday finds us back at All Saints' for our biggest and most joyful celebration. With Lent's austerity behind us, church brasses will be gleaming and colourful seasonal flowers will showcase nature's beauty as we celebrate Easter's good news. Please come and join us on this, the happiest of days. Hear the Easter message, see the lighting of the Paschal Candle, and help decorate our Easter Cross with prayer ribbons and bright daffodils. The service will start at 11am. Arrive early for coffee or tea and biscuits with a friendly chat. Everyone is welcome, especially you!

In May we return to our usual pattern of services as set out in the middle pages of the magazine, including a traditional and very popular 8.30am Holy Communion taken from the Book of Common Prayer, on the first, second and third Sundays of each month.

If you're up for a challenging yet rewarding activity, you might consider joining our team of bell-ringers. Practice sessions take place most Wednesdays at 7pm. New members are always welcome and instruction can be given. Just contact tower captain Liza Gisborne on 01423 879070, she'll tell you all you need to know.

Lego church is now well-established, and the next session will take place at 3.30pm

on Monday 20 April. Revd Stroma, Moira and Emma will be on hand with a bible story and snacks for your budding young builders. Each session lasts around one hour.

And don't forget our friendly coffee mornings on the first Wednesday of every month, 9.30 to 11.30. Visitors in March were entertained by the school choir. If you missed their performance, you missed a treat. Choir and soloists were on top form, a pleasure to hear and a credit to their teachers. At the same event, Jean Matthewman's card sales raised £140 for the flower fund, helping to keep All Saints' looking fresh and furnished. Jean's selection of cards proved very popular - thank you to all who made a purchase.

In an increasingly turbulent and unpredictable world, a peaceful refuge is invaluable. We are fortunate in our village to be surrounded by nature and good neighbours. In addition, the church is open every day from 10am until 5pm, for quiet contemplation or prayer if wanted. Open to all. Happy Easter!

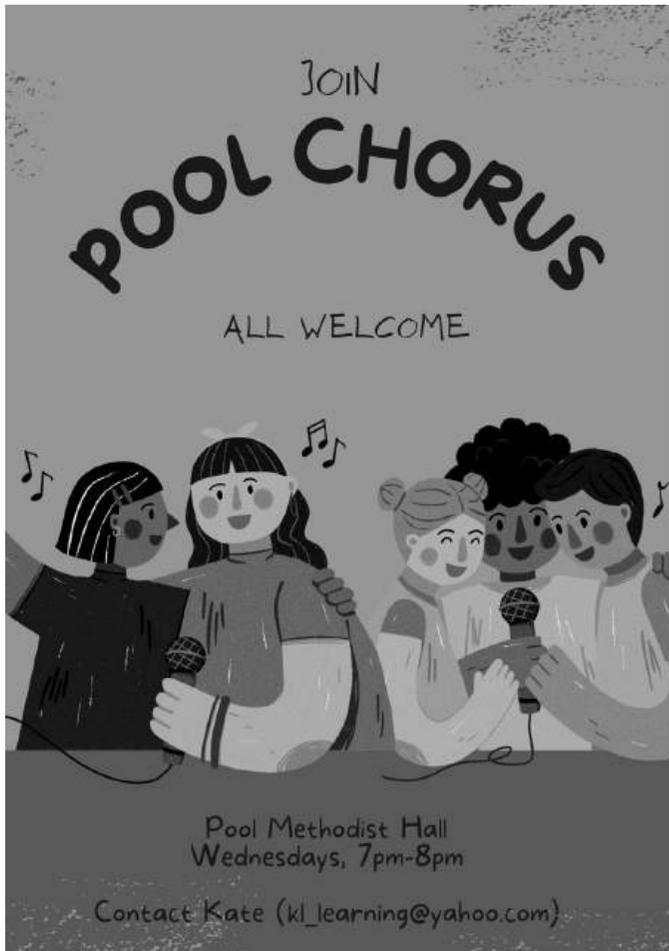
Jill Gittins

Pool Community Chorus continues to bring cheer

Pool Chorus meets on Wednesdays at Pool Methodist Hall (7-8pm). Come and join us for an enjoyable, informal hour of sharing song, fun and friendship.

We loved singing Christmas music at the Methodist candlelit service and joining the Wharfedale Court coffee morning for informal carol singing in December. Since then, we've been singing rock and pop classics such as Let it Be by the Beatles and numbers by Guns and Roses and Pink.

If you'd like to join, email Kate (kl_learning@yahoo.com) or pop along on a Wednesday. You will be made very welcome.



Pool in Wharfedale Scouts

A big hello from us all at Pool in Wharfedale Scouts. We have had a busy few weeks planning exciting sessions for our enthusiastic young people.

After Christmas, our Squirrels were very excited to get back to weekly sessions and despite their elation after the Christmas period, they managed to knuckle down and create some (rather messy) indoor snow. This was a very sensory activity which was enjoyed by all. We also had the joy of turning two of our leaders into snowmen. As you can imagine, this went down very well with our young people - lots of giggles were had.

Our Beavers have been channelling their inner scientist and have enjoyed science experiments, which is great for igniting their interest in STEM. Who knows, we may even have some future scientists amongst our Beaver group. Squirrels had a very active session for the Be Active badge. We enjoyed a bean bag balance race and an active animal circuit. Safe to say, we were all tired after all that running around. Leaders included! Beavers also got active and enjoyed some indoor highland games. They have also been very crafty of late and have made some paper fish, snakes and Valentines Day cards. They also made some fantastically yummy biscuits and got to decorate them too.



Carrying on with the healthy theme, Squirrels have been learning all about healthy lifestyles. They even got to learn some yoga moves from one of our very own Squirrels leaders. They also had the opportunity to try different healthy foods. Squirrels also worked towards their Space Badge by making straw rockets and bigger rockets for their teddies out of cardboard boxes. The teddies also had the privilege of being wrapped in tinfoil which acted as a spacesuit before they all got blasted into space. I'm pretty sure there are still some teddies out there sporting very fashionable tinfoil attire.

Squirrels also had an inspiring visit from West Yorkshire Police for their Local Superhero badge. When the Squirrels entered the hall, they were met with a maze of police tape that they had to go over and under to reach some chocolate eggs on the other side. Basically, we turned them into robbers for this activity! The children also got to try on some police uniforms and an opportunity to ask real police officers some questions about their role and the uniform they wear. We also had the





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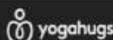
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added benefit of a police van parked outside for the Squirrels to explore. This session was a big hit with all of us and we are all extremely grateful to the two police officers, one of whom was a Pool police officer, for attending this session and for being so patient and kind with the children.

Beavers and Squirrels had the opportunity to attend the panto at Harrogate Theatre at the end of January. Jack and the Beanstalk was showing and we all had a great time with lots of laughter and shouting 'he's behind you'. Our Beavers and Squirrels were all extremely well behaved and we're very proud of how they represented us at this event.

We've had a fantastic couple of terms at Pool Scouts and are determined to create more fabulous sessions for our young people learning and achieving through play.

If you are interested in volunteering, our Beavers group are always in need of more community minded people. If interested, please visit <https://poolscouts.org.uk/volunteer/>.

We are excited to launch Cubs this year. If you or your young person is interested in getting involved, please visit poolscouts.org.uk.

Pool CE Primary School

Spring has truly sprung at Pool CE Primary School and our grounds are bursting with colour and life.

This term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities. Our pupils have worked alongside Wildlife Friendly Otley and the Log Circle to plant new bulbs and create bug hotels, bringing nature even closer to our classrooms. Year 4 have embraced the elements on their residential at Nell Bank, getting stuck into mud and rain as part of their forest school experiences – there's nothing quite like learning outdoors in all weathers!

Our Reading Week was a tremendous success, with governors, family members and visits from authors Mark Bradley and Kate Pankhurst inspiring our children with a genuine love of reading. Science Week followed, encouraging pupils to explore with curiosity and ask questions about the world around them. Working again with Wildlife Friendly Otley and Climate Scientists, our children discovered so much about their environment.

We must extend heartfelt thanks to our wonderful PTA, who have transformed our school corridors with funding for beautiful new artwork. The displays celebrating history, sports and geography have captivated our pupils and made our school an even brighter, more engaging space for learning.

If you have a child who is starting school in September 2026 and you have not attended one of our open mornings, please call the school on 0113 2843151 or email

info@poolprimarysch.org.uk. We always look forward to showing new families around. We also have places available in other year groups and always welcome new starters at our friendly village school.

Friends of Pool Primary School News

Friends of Pool Primary School (FOPPS) would like to say a huge thank you to our families and the wider village community for their continued support.

Thanks to eighteen months of fundraising, we are delighted to share that new wall vinyls have now been installed throughout the school. These colourful displays have transformed corridors and shared spaces, creating a brighter, more welcoming and inspiring environment for pupils and staff alike. This project would not have been possible without the generosity, time and enthusiasm of our wonderful community - thank you to everyone who supported our events and initiatives along the way.



Mother's Day fundraiser

Children created special artwork which was turned into a range of personalised gifts and keepsakes for families to purchase - a lovely way to celebrate Mother's Day whilst raising a brilliant £136.80 for the school.

Looking ahead, we have more exciting fundraisers planned:

Easter raffle

Our popular Easter raffle is now underway, with fantastic prizes generously donated by local supporters. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 2 April.

Save the Date - Summer Fair

Planning is already underway for our annual Summer Fair, which will take place on **Friday 10 July**. We hope the whole community will join us for an afternoon of fun, entertainment and fundraising.

FOPPS is a volunteer-led group dedicated to enhancing opportunities for all pupils at Pool Primary School. New volunteers are always welcome - even helping occasionally makes a real difference. Email poolpta@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you again for supporting our school community.

Friends of Pool Primary School (FOPPS) Committee

Tiddlers baby & toddler playgroup

It's been lovely to welcome back many of our regular families at Tiddlers, and wonderful to see how the children are growing and developing. It has also been really nice to see some new faces joining us; new families are always very welcome.

We enjoy a relaxed morning together with plenty of free play, arts and crafts, story time, singing and of course a shared snack. Tiddlers is a friendly place for children and carers to meet, chat and make new friends. Sessions cost £3 per family, which includes drinks and snacks.

By the time this is published, we will have celebrated Easter with a special Easter-themed party at the end of March, which we are really looking forward to!

Upcoming Sessions, Fridays, 9.00 – 11.00am, Pool Village Memorial Hall:
24 April
8 May
22 May

If you would like to volunteer some time to help at Tiddlers, please contact Alexia through the Tiddlers Facebook page. We would love to hear from you.

Rainbow Charity Shop - at Pool Methodist Church

The volunteers continue to work hard, dealing with the generous donations recently received, and much appreciated. So many bargains awaiting new homes; do call in and see for yourself. We need more customers.

Open each Saturday from 10am - 2pm. The funds raised are regularly donated to local charities.

Penny Gwilt
Shop Manager

News from St Wilfrid's

St Wilfrid's has started off the year focussing on the young in our community, with various events occurring both in and out of the church building.

January started the year with Messy Church held jointly with the Methodists at the Methodist Chapel. Leaders, parents and children enjoyed an Epiphany party where the children enjoyed crafts based on the Epiphany theme, such as decorating star biscuits, thumb paintings, wooden spoon king puppets and many other crafts. The afternoon ended with a lovely story of the three kings' journey as told by The Revd Wendy Walker.

Both January and February Lego Church took place at Pool Primary School after school. Although our numbers were few, those attending showed great creativity designing a Lego construction, in January based on something that made them happy and in February something on the theme of Noah and the Ark. It never ceases to amaze me what wonderful ideas the children come up with. Our next Lego Church will take place at Pool School on **Monday 27 April**, when we look forward to seeing what the children can come up with. All are welcome to this event.

On 22 January we welcomed Year 2 of Pool Primary to St Wilfrid's for the afternoon. They were invited to learn about the local parish church and how Christians worship and practise their faith. Five stations were set up to experience church in an interactive multi-sensory way. These stations were manned by both members of St Wilfrid's congregation and the clergy. Activities in which the children could take part were undertaken at each station, as follows.

Font Baptism – welcomed into the church family. Floated welcome crosses on the font water.

Stained glass windows Light of Christ shining through; some pictures of bible stories. Made their own stained glass window.

Prayer For others and ourselves. Wrote their own prayer to hang on the Prayer tree.

Lectern Learning from the bible. Heard a bible story and made origami birds to remind them.

Altar Celebrating bread and wine during communion. Celebrated with bread and Ribena.

Door Through which we come into worship, pray and learn about our faith then go back out through the door into the world to help others and be kind.

A lovely enjoyable afternoon was had by all, particularly tasting the bread and wine.

Gill Damp

Community Coffee Morning

At the coffee morning last February, Sandra Moss collected The Children's Society boxes for the last time, having been the local secretary for the last 25 years. On behalf of the village community, I would like to thank Sandra for all her hard work over the years and hope someone else can take her place.

The coffee mornings this year have been very well attended, even with some younger people. It must be the draw of the lovely warm barn that Rod and Anne kindly let us use that helps swell the numbers. We are all very grateful to them. The next dates are as follows:

15 April - Easter raffle to be held, raffle prizes
please

20 May

Venue: Sleights Meadow, top of Crag Lane, Huby
10.00 -11.30am

Home baking with tea/coffee. All proceeds to St Barnabas' Church, Weeton

Ros Bodsworth

The Children's Society box opening spring 2026

The box opening for The Children's Society boxes is now completed and we have once again raised the magnificent sum of £1,003.61.

There were 27 boxes out this year and people have given very generously. Thank you to everyone who has given donations through the boxes and the coffee morning, which has made this last collection an excellent farewell to our many years of running this in the villages. A huge thank you to all supporters over the years. We have now raised in the region of £12,000 in total.

Those folk who would be happy to continue supporting this worthy charity may do so on line at www.childrengsociety.org.uk

Once again thank you to everyone for your support.

Very best wishes,

Sandra Moss

Weeton Parish Council, March 2026

Resignation of Bob Wileyman as parish councillor

After fourteen years as a councillor on the Parish Council, which included holding the position of Chair for ten years, Bob Wileyman tendered his resignation in January. On behalf of all the councillors, I wish to thank Bob for his service to the community and, from a personal perspective, publicly thank him for his mentorship during my time as Chair.

The vacant councillor post will be filled by co-option at May's Parish Council meeting. Anyone interested in being considered for co-option to the Parish Council should notify the clerk by email (clerk@weetonparish.gov.uk) **no later than 30 April**. More information on being a parish councillor can be found on our website.

North Yorkshire Local Plan

North Yorkshire Council (NYC) has recently published an updated map of sites that landowners and promoters have put forward for consideration as development allocations in the next Local Plan. There is map on the Parish Council website showing those sites in the parish that have been put forward. NYC are now assessing each site ahead of a public consultation towards the end of this year.

The potential scale of development will understandably be a concern for many. Recent changes by Central Government to the National Planning Policy Framework has removed some aspects of protection that Green Belt was previously afforded and, with NYC being set significantly higher housing targets, it is very probable that land will be made available for development. However, there are infrastructure issues in the local area that could make significant development challenging and in recent planning decisions it is clear that NYC still have a very high threshold for approving residential development in certain areas of the Green Belt.

Juniper Solar Farm

The planning application for Juniper Solar Farm will be considered by North Yorkshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee rather than the local Planning Committee. Details of when the Strategic Planning Committee will convene a meeting to decide on the application will be posted on the Parish Council's website once we are notified.

David Chalmers, Chair, Weeton Parish Council

chair@weetonparish.gov.uk www.weetonparish.gov.uk

St Barnabas' Church, Weeton

As we are all aware, we live in a beautiful part of Yorkshire and we are very grateful for that. If you have walked around St Barnabas' lately you may have enjoyed swathes of snowdrops and now daffodils appearing on the drive. Blossom is also coming out signs of spring all around us. Not to mention the birds nesting.

Since Christmas, we have had some excellent family services, with attendances

around thirty including several young families. We are grateful to the young mums who are going to help us with some of our fabric jobs, which our Treasurer, John, has undertaken for several years. A huge thank you to John for keeping everything ticking over so successfully and good luck for the future.

We are looking forward to several weddings in the summer months and hope the weather is kind on those Saturdays. It is a super venue whatever the weather.

Looking ahead to summer, we have the **Cellissimo** cello concert coming once again on **Sunday 5 July at 3pm**. This is an excellent summer afternoon's entertainment and comprises a short concert, about 45 minutes, followed by afternoon tea. It is headed by Will Lewis, one of our past rectors. Payment is by donation, recommended minimum £5, all profits going to St Barnabas'. Do put this in your diary.

Sandra Moss

Almscliffe Tennis & Bowling Club

Our hidden treasure!



As we put this article together, chaos seems to reign in the world. Hopefully, by the time you are reading, war in the Middle East will be a thing of the past and we will have welcomed home safely our members and other locals caught in the crossfire as they travelled home from far-flung places. The arrival of March has brought hope with the weather as the sun has finally appeared and we are truly able to enjoy our little oasis of calm at the club!

Most members will tell you how they breathe a sigh of relief as they walk under the pedestrian railway tunnel and enter the club's beautiful grounds. The cares of the world can be forgotten for a while as attention is turned to friendly competition, chat and, of course, the all-important tea and cake! Do come and see for yourself; non-members are welcome to come and try bowling or tennis on a Saturday afternoon (guests welcome), court 3 is always available to book online for non-members and non-members are also encouraged to join the club's tennis coaching programme.

Tennis



Winter maintenance over, the courts are in pristine condition, the less hardy amongst us are re-appearing from hibernation, and April sees us embarking on our busy spring and summer activities: league matches start at the end of April, and the Club Tennis Championship kicks off in May. Search Almscliffe Tennis & Bowling Club to see a schedule of

all our group tennis activities on our website.

The club will be resounding with merriment and laughter as the children enjoy the second week of their **Tennis Activity Camp, 7 to 10 April**, before the full coaching programme (run by Kinetic Tennis) starts again week beginning **20 April**.

Should you or your child be hesitating about picking up a racquet, give it a try, come and **join one of the coaching sessions for free**, week commencing **27 April**, email info@kinetictennis.co.uk to reserve your place or for more information. As an adult beginner or junior beginner aged between 5 and 8 years, you will be eligible for one of **Jamie's introductory courses: £75** for a racquet, 6 coaching sessions, 6-week club membership and a tube of balls **per adult**, and **£55** for a racquet, 6 sessions, balls and a T-shirt **per junior**.

Saturday 9th May

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6-12 years	Tue 18:30-19:30	WYS Doubles	Tue 19:30-21:00
13+ years	Tue 19:30-20:30	ALTS Singles	Thu 10:30-11:30
5-8 years	Wed 16:00-16:55	LEDS Tennis	Tue 10:00-11:00
8-13 years	Wed 16:45-17:45	Castle Tennis	Fri 11:00-12:00
		Adult Beginners	Fri 18:00-20:00

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We are looking forward excitedly to our first big event of the season **open to all**, on **Saturday 9 May**, an opportunity to **Play with the Pros**, ex-Davis Cup tennis professionals who are running fun sessions for all age-groups at the club alongside kids' games, fun with a speed gun, an exhibition match and a bar and BBQ. The club is working with the LTA sponsored charity Bright Ideas for Tennis to raise money to fund activities aimed at providing the opportunity to play tennis to a wider group within our local community. Book your place on the club website.

Meanwhile, our newly formed working party is researching the feasibility of bringing Padel to our local community, currently busy learning from the experience (and mistakes!) of other providers in the area.

Bowling



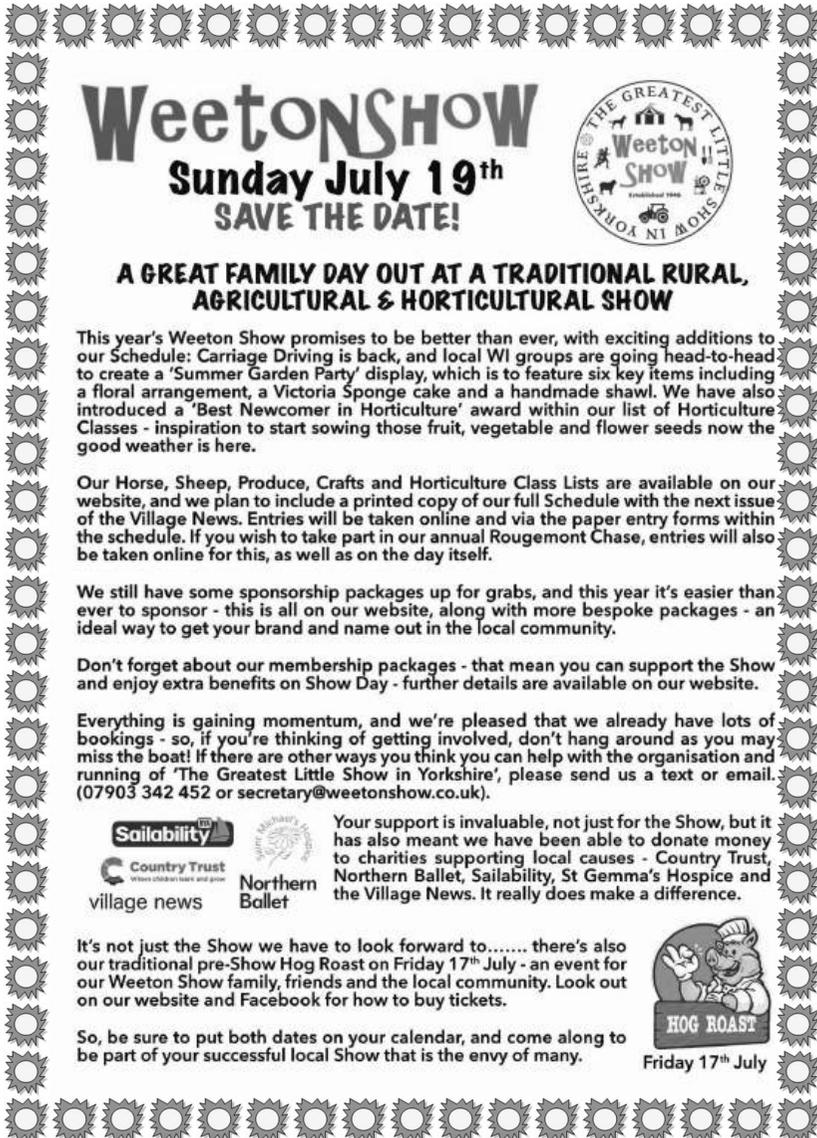
A new season is about to start. The green has been 'top dressed' and will be ready for the first match on the evening of **6 April** – Almscliffe Strollers against Boston Spa. We have four teams in the Harrogate Evening League playing on Monday and Tuesday evenings. We have one team in the Tadcaster League, who play on a Thursday evening. The Harrogate Vets league (over 60s) first match is Almscliffe C against Starbeck C at 11am on **Friday 10 April**. We have three teams in this league; some of our newer members will be playing in league teams for

the first time and we wish them well.

Saturday afternoon Social Bowling restarts in April, 2 - 4pm with a break about 3pm for tea and cakes. Come along, have a go and meet fellow club members. Bowls are available, try before you buy!

Search: Almscliffe Tennis & Bowling Club

atbcmembers@gmail.com



Weeton Show

Sunday July 19th

SAVE THE DATE!



A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT AT A TRADITIONAL RURAL, AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SHOW

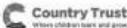
This year's Weeton Show promises to be better than ever, with exciting additions to our Schedule: Carriage Driving is back, and local WI groups are going head-to-head to create a 'Summer Garden Party' display, which is to feature six key items including a floral arrangement, a Victoria Sponge cake and a handmade shawl. We have also introduced a 'Best Newcomer in Horticulture' award within our list of Horticulture Classes - inspiration to start sowing those fruit, vegetable and flower seeds now the good weather is here.

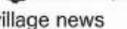
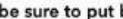
Our Horse, Sheep, Produce, Crafts and Horticulture Class Lists are available on our website, and we plan to include a printed copy of our full Schedule with the next issue of the Village News. Entries will be taken online and via the paper entry forms within the schedule. If you wish to take part in our annual Rougemont Chase, entries will also be taken online for this, as well as on the day itself.

We still have some sponsorship packages up for grabs, and this year it's easier than ever to sponsor - this is all on our website, along with more bespoke packages - an ideal way to get your brand and name out in the local community.

Don't forget about our membership packages - that mean you can support the Show and enjoy extra benefits on Show Day - further details are available on our website.

Everything is gaining momentum, and we're pleased that we already have lots of bookings - so, if you're thinking of getting involved, don't hang around as you may miss the boat! If there are other ways you think you can help with the organisation and running of 'The Greatest Little Show in Yorkshire', please send us a text or email. (07903 342 452 or secretary@weetonshow.co.uk).

   Your support is invaluable, not just for the Show, but it has also meant we have been able to donate money to charities supporting local causes - Country Trust, Northern Ballet, Sailability, St Gemma's Hospice and the Village News. It really does make a difference.

Dear friends,

As I write this, we are in the second week of Lent and the sun is shining! For our children (and teachers) mock SATS are over and World Book Day is here. There is a lot to be thankful for.

Although each season has its own appeal, I think that spring is probably my favourite time of year. New beginnings, signs of new life (I saw my first lambs yesterday) and vibrant colours from spring flowers bursting forth; sometimes in surprising places - I'm sure they move! Lent too is an opportunity for new beginnings as we reflect on our relationship with God and how we can grow closer to him, or Draw Near as our Lent course encourages us to do, preparing for the joy of Easter.

Rather than giving something up for Lent, several people I have spoken to have taken up a challenge of doing something positive, such as giving an item a day to a foodbank. I am trying to work on decluttering, which, if you know me, is no mean task for me! When you work with children, you can accumulate stuff to use as craft materials, sermon illustrations, books, toys, or 'this might come in handy'. Then there's the stuff that's just stuff that I haven't got round to sorting, and so it goes on.

I am reading a book, *Uncluttered Faith* by Joshua Becker, which is helpful and inspiring. It is challenging to realise that our 'stuff' can get in the way of our relationship with God. I am a work in progress, but every day I am doing something towards this and have had several trips to the charity shop and fuller bins each week to evidence my efforts.

One of the things that struck me from this book is that every choice we make comes with a cost as, in making that choice, we are also choosing not to spend our time/energy/money on something else. This is the economic principle of opportunity cost. It is the biblical principle of making the most of every opportunity (Ephesians 5: 15-16) but it is also the ethos Jesus demonstrated in the way he resisted temptation in the wilderness and faced his fears in Gethsemane, culminating in his dying on the cross. He chose to put our need of him before his own needs, and he suffered the consequences of that decision.

There is a choice for us to make; how do we respond? Perhaps in the closing words of a well-known hymn, *When I survey the wondrous cross*:

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

What would that look like for you?

Wishing you a blessed Easter,

Moir

Benefice of Lower Wharfedale Church Services

Monday March 30

North Rigton	Evening Reflection	7.00pm
Kirkby Overblow	Lent Group	7.00pm

Tuesday March 31

Weeton	Lent Reflection	7.00pm
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Wednesday 1 April

Sicklinghall	Lent Reflection	7.00pm
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Maundy Thursday 2 April

Pool	Tenebrae Service with Foot Washing	7.00pm
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GOOD FRIDAY 3 April

Kirkby Overblow	Mediations at The Cross with children's activities	10.30am
Pool	Meditations at The Cross	2.00pm

Saturday 4 April

Stainburn	Vigil of Light and Egg Hunt	2.00pm
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EASTER SUNDAY

5 April

Kirkby Overblow	Easter Day BCP Communion	8.30am
Sicklinghall	Easter Day Parish Communion	9.30am
Pool	Easter Day Parish Communion	9.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Easter Day Parish Family Communion	11.00am
Weeton	Easter Day Parish Communion	11.00am

12 April

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	08.30am
North Rigton	Parish Communion	09.30am
Pool	Family Service	09.30am
Kirkby Overblow	Family Service	11.00am

Tuesday 14 April

Sicklinghall	Community Service	
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19 April

Kirkby Overblow	BCP	08.30am
Sicklinghall	Parish Communion	09.30am
Weeton	Parish Communion	11.00am
North Rigton	Peace and Praise	6.00pm

Monday 20 April

Kirkby Overblow

Lego Church

26 April

North Rigton

Family Service

9.30am

Pool

Parish Communion

9.30am

Kirkby Overblow

Parish Communion

11.00am

With Sunday Club

27 April

Pool

Lego Church

MAY**Sunday 3 May**

Kirkby Overblow

BCP Holy Communion

8.30am

Pool

Parish Communion

9.30am

Sicklinghall

Parish Communion

9.30am

Kirkby Overblow

Celtic Service

11.00am

Weeton

Family Service

11.00am

Sunday 10 May

Kirkby Overblow

BCP Holy Communion

8.30am

North Rigton

Parish Communion

9.30am

Pool

Rob Burrow Marathon

Kirkby Overblow

Family Service

11.00am

Tuesday 12 May**Sicklinghall**

Community Service

Sunday 17 May

Kirkby Overblow

BCP Holy Communion

8.30am

Sicklinghall

Parish Communion

9.30am

Weeton

Parish communion

11.00am

North Rigton

Peace and Praise

6.00pm

Thursday 21 May

Pool

Wharfedale Court

10.30am

Sunday 24 May

Pool

Parish Communion

9.30am

North Rigton

Family Service

9.30am

Kirkby Overblow

Parish Communion

11.00am

with Sunday Club

Monday 25 May**Pool****Lego Church****31 May**

Pool

Benefice Service

10.00am

Spring Term at Sicklinghall School

Following a very busy end to last year, things have been no quieter here at Sicklinghall Primary School as we have started 2026. After what feels like a very long, wet and grey January, we have been very glad to see the sun start to come out and have been making the most of the warmer days with lots of outdoor playtimes and appreciating the beautiful flowers that are springing up all around the school grounds.

Dance Competition: All the children recently attended a local dance competition hosted at Ashville College. There was a large stage for the children to utilise and they all did wonderfully well at filling the space, delivering amazing moves and synchronicity and showing great determination in completing their part. They also made us very proud with their fabulous respect for all of the other participating schools and the support for their own classmates. The pathway to success is not always smooth and, all the way from Early Years to Year 6, the children have shown our school values so well – especially their great perseverance in learning the dance moves, practising hard and showing true pride in their performances.

Science Day: We recently had a whole Federation Science Day where the children spent a full day questioning, hypothesising, exploring and experimenting. The children in Cherry Blossom looked at sand timers and milk painting and designed umbrellas for Incy Wincy Spider. KS2 children looked at reactions between materials with individual volcanoes, dissolving and separating different substances with filtration. Willow also designed and made their own lava lamps and investigated chromatography by separating inks with different liquids.

Swimming: Key Stage Two have been enjoying their weekly swimming lessons at Knaresborough pool with their friends across the Federation, developing their skills and confidence!

Cherry Blossom Class have been out of this world recently as they have learnt all about the moon landings with Neil Armstrong, and more recently the adventures of Tim Peake and his visit to the International Space Station and being the first ever Englishman to complete a spacewalk.

They have also been looking at farming, the differences between arable and livestock farms and the importance of farming for everyone in our country. They visited their friends at Admiral Long for a day of Forest School along with their friends from Goldsborough.

Willow Class have been diligent scientists studying states of matter this term. This has led to some really fun and practical sessions where the children moved as gas, liquid and solid molecules, and then applied this knowledge to sorting items. They have also investigated how some changes can be made to alter the states, and how some can be reversed.

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Willow Class have also been working on some fabulous creative alien adventure sci-fi writing, building on their cosmic topic. They each wrote a fabulous story which they then shared with the children in Cherry Blossom. As part of the same topic, they also looked at phases of the moon, using biscuits to look at each distinct shape.

In January the whole school took part in the RSPB's Great British Birdwatch, where over a weekend we all logged which birds, and how many of each, we saw in our gardens. This information was then compiled and shared with the RSPB who will be using it to update their current records, watchlists and conservation plans. The children are now very knowledgeable about many of our native birds, and why it can be important to leave certain foods outside for them during these colder months.

World Book Day: On Friday 6 March saw the school celebrate World Book Day with lots of amazing animal themed costumes linked to their favourite animal characters in popular books. We also shared our favourite stories and spent time reading in cosy nooks, and even tried our own creative writing.

Ash Randall: Ash Randall is a British professional freestyle footballer and Guinness World Record holder recognized for achieving over 25 world records. Known for his incredible ball control, some of his most notable records include juggling a football for 13.1 miles during a half marathon and controlling a ball on the roof of a moving car. The children enjoyed an assembly with him and asked some questions before enjoying a freestyle football skills workshop with him too!

We look forward to another busy term, which will include a trip for the children of Cherry Blossom to a working farm, a visit to our partner school in Keighley for the children in Willow, and our annual residential trip to Carlton Lodge for those in Willow.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter from the whole team at Sicklinghall Community Primary School.

News from Sicklinghall Village Hall

The spring has brought new life to the hall with an increased number of children's parties able to enjoy the outside space, which looks beautiful at this time of year with the blossom on the trees.

Regular classes continue to do well and are happy to welcome new members. We would also like to hear from you if you have an idea for a community activity or new class.

For information about booking the hall, contact the booking secretary via the website sicklinghallvillagehall.co.uk or on 07761 207141.

For regular classes contact:

Yoga: Suzanne 07762 541083 **Zumba Gold:** Jacqui 07974 330725
Pilates: Tracy 07500 909638 **Art:** Mary 01423 439289
Number Train: numbertrainwetherby.classforkids.io

Community events in North Rigton

Village Community Association

At our recent open meeting, the Association decided that they would plan to hold a series of events for the village and the community to run through the year 2026.

Lots of ideas were discussed and teams of volunteers have set out a pattern of events for the year. To date, these are our plans, but with lots more ideas still in the planning stages we hope to be able to offer a full calendar of events to suit all ages and enable our community spirit to thrive.

All the events will be raising funds for our community. We will be using different venues: the Village Garden, The Square & Compass, St John's Church and the homes of volunteers. Advertising for the events will be via *Village News*, our Community Facebook page and posters on the village notice board.

If you have signed up to the Community List, managed by The Square & Compass, we will also use that to keep you informed. If you haven't signed up, please do, to ensure you know what events are planned with you in mind!

Reminder

January to December: Clare is creating a village calendar, please send your contributions to northrigtonevents@gmail.com for the attention of Clare.

Dates for your diaries:

17 April **Fun Darts evening – in the back bar of The Square & Compass**
£5 per person including bar snacks.

Book your tickets at: contact@thesquareandcompass.com

1 May	Terrace Party at The Square & Compass
5 June	Fish & Chip Supper at The Square & Compass
20 June	Village Gala and Fun Sports in the Village Garden and Church Hill playing field
17 July	School's out! Family fun event at The Square & Compass
September	Wine tasting Evening – private home
October	Auction – St John's Church
November	Dancing through the eras! Watch this space!
4 December	Village Christmas Party at The Square & Compass

We hope we'll see you soon.

Mary Hopkins

Bullseye at The Square and Compass! A Community Event



Friday 17 April at 7-9pm

£5 per person and including bar snacks

Come along for a fun-filled night at The Square and Compass based on the TV programme *Bullseye*.

Teams of up to 6 people will take part in a fun-filled evening of darts challenges and quiz questions.

Beginners and non-darts players are welcome. Prizes throughout and an overall prize for the winning team.

Spaces limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

All proceeds go to the village charity.

Book your tickets at:

contact@thesquareandcompass.com

Robin & Angela Llewellyn

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Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Parochial Church Council, PCC, invite all members of the communities of North Rigton, Weeton and Huby to attend the Annual Parochial Meeting of the churches.

This will be held at St Barnabas' Church, Weeton, on **Tuesday 26 May at 7.00 pm.**

Mary Hopkins
PCC Secretary

Ladies Lunch at The Square & Compass

A group of ladies meet once a month at The Square & Compass for a light lunch every third Monday of the month.

We meet at 12.15 pm. Please join us, you would be most welcome.

Future Dates: 20 April 18 May 15 June 20 July

Mary Hopkins

A thank you to our North Rigton community



Carers' Resource is an independent charity supporting adults, children and families who care for someone in Bradford, Craven, Harrogate and Selby. Our Young Carers service offers mentoring, youth clubs, trips, activities and a chance to meet other young carers.

Donations like this one from AVCA, targeted at the Harrogate Branch, help to fund fun trips - from farm trips to theatre performances.

Because of donations like this, it gives young carers a chance to get away from their caring responsibilities and enjoy being a child/young person for a couple of hours.

Thank you.

Bethan

North Rigton Parish Council

High Moor Road

At last, after almost incessant requests for action from the Parish Council, NYC is 'pricing up a plan' for the complete resurfacing of the road out of the village towards Beckwithshaw. The condition of this road has been appalling for many months, finally recognised by Highways with the installation of cones and traffic lights to avoid collisions of vehicles manoeuvring to avoid the deep potholes. Hopefully repairs will be effected in early April (2026!!!).

Hall Green Lane/A658 junction – further public meeting

Following the well-attended meeting in November, a further meeting is being arranged in April. Representatives from NYC, Network Rail and NY Police are being contacted to arrange a mutually convenient date. When arranged, details will be posted on the website, Facebook page and village notice board.

Parish Council vacancy

As reported in the January News, following the resignation of Barbara Massey who has left the village, a vacancy has occurred on the Parish Council. Any resident who has the interests of the parish at heart and who is willing to devote a small amount of time to the role, is encouraged to put their name forward, either by emailing the clerk (as below) or contacting any parish councillor, where further information will be made available. This is your chance to take part in decision making on matters which affect the whole parish.

20mph speed zones

NYC Highways has now confirmed that, following Parish Council requests, the implementation of 20mph speed limits on Church Hill (from the mini-roundabout down to the school play area) and on Rigton Hill (from the roundabout to the Village Garden) is now included on the NYC plan. (Although it may take some time to action!)

Mike Richards

Parish Clerk

Contact via northrigtonparishcouncil@gmail.com



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- To help run hall fundraising events
- With social media, and redesigning our website
- Join the hall committee and help shape the future
- Or offer your support on an as needs basis

If you have a little time to help out in support of your village hall, can offer your skills to help maintain or advertise the hall, or would like to join the committee, we need your help and would love to hear from you. Please contact Charlotte Owers on 07597 630653 or email: almscliffehall@gmail.com

Farnley Estate WI

Our second social venture provided our members with the opportunity to visit the Harrogate Club at 36, Victoria Avenue, in the centre of Harrogate. The Club, founded in 1857, is a private members' club for men and women. We were given a tour of the magnificent building, its renovated interior and art work. This was a very successful visit to somewhere our members have never had access to before and we were provided with refreshments at the end of our visit.

At our monthly meeting in April, we are having a talk about the value of exercise to keep our members fit and well. Our May meeting is a visit from two of the original Calendar Girls who have raised £5,000,000 for Leukaemia research. Most people, I am sure, remember their unconventional WI calendar, the film and the musical of their journey, which began in 1999. This will be an open meeting to enable our members to bring guests.

To view our programme for 2026, please visit <https://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/farnley-estate>.

All our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at Leathley Village Hall at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated. In addition, on the fourth Wednesday of the month our new social events begin and these have been chosen by our members.

If you would like to come to any of the events above or want to know more about our WI, please contact our president, Diane Hanline, by email to farnleyestatewi@gmail.com.



Joining your local u3a is a great way to find and develop new interests and make friends in a relaxed environment.

There are many reasons to join:

- make a difference, stay active, keep learning and have fun
- get out to meet face to face – learning together and making the most of life
- access online learning, training and resources to inspire you. Members can attend learning events and talks for free
- meet other people with similar interests; learn new things and share your skills.

Harrogate u3a has over 1,000 members and 70 various interest groups. We host a 'drop-in' session for non-members who would like more information on the second Saturday of every month at 'The Place', Crown

Hotel in Harrogate, between 10.30 and 12noon. Please do call in to meet us.

Our member's talks are monthly. This year we've been pleased to welcome back Paul Hudson from BBC Look North and we are looking forward to a variety of speakers and subjects in the next few months.

For more information, please check out our website:

<https://harrogate.u3asite.uk/welcome>

Harrogateu3a



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have just celebrated one of their most important days of the guiding calendar, World Thinking Day. We're part of a bigger movement - the World Association of Girl Guides and

Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) - and World Thinking Day is a chance for us to connect with eleven million Girl Guides and Scouts across the globe. And to shout about the amazing things we do.

World Thinking Day has a different theme every year for all the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world to celebrate together. This year's theme for World Thinking Day is 'Our Friendship', and it's particularly special as it marks 100 years of World Thinking Day! Rainbows, Brownies and Guides were invited to wear their guiding uniforms to school and share with their friends the fun they have every week.



All of our units are run by a dedicated team of volunteers, who do an amazing job, but their time isn't infinite and as such we're looking for help throughout the area. Not only would we like to welcome in new volunteers who would be happy to lead units, but we also need regular weekly helpers and administrators. The waiting list for girls to join grows daily, so if you can help please do get in touch.

www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-your-interest

Care for a Cuppa Café: a memory café in Bramhope

Care for a Cuppa Café is a memory café primarily for people living with dementia accompanied by their carers. It was set up by a group of volunteers in 2019 and, after a short break due to the pandemic, we opened our doors again in September 2021. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month in Bramhope Village Hall on Old Lane, between 1:30 and 3:30pm and charge £2 per person. This gives visitors an endless supply of tea/coffee and homemade cakes!

Each of our cafés is different, as we have activities, games, visitors, entertainers and lots of chat. The café aims to support those living with dementia and other memory related conditions, as well as supporting their carers. There is always a Memory Support Worker present for people to speak to in confidence if they wish. It's a lovely welcoming place.

If you know of anyone living with memory loss who might be interested, please contact:

catherinebirkby@outlook.com or just come along to the next café on **7 April**.

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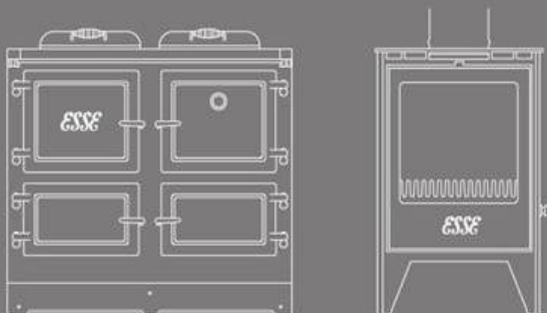
Visit our website poolvillagehall.org.uk where you can book online or contact the Booking Secretary on 07541 019495 or email poolvhall@gmail.com

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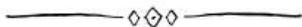
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for tea, cakes, activities and support

When: First Tuesday of each month

Time: 1:30-3:30pm

Where: Bramhope Village Hall,
Old Lane, LS16 9AZ

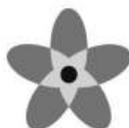
Cost: £2 per person



For further information, please contact:



catherinebirkby@outlook.com



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Location of public access defibrillators (PADS) in the benefice

Sicklinghall	Attached to the outside wall of the school on Main Street (visible from the road)
Kirkby Overblow	Attached to the wall on the left of the entrance to the Shoulder of Mutton carpark (visible from the road)
Kearby with Netherby	Attached to the outside wall (to the left) of the Family Room at Maustin Park
North Rigton	Attached to the side wall of The Square & Compass on Rigton Hill
Huby	In the doorway of Almscliffe Hall
Pool	On the wall outside Pool Post Office Outside Pool Sports and Social Club On the wall adjacent to the main entrance of Old Pool Bank village hall on Quarry Farm Road
Weeton	Phone box opposite village green
Castley	Next to the seat on Castley Lane at the junction of Chapel Hill Lane
Dunkeswick	On the side of Sturdy's Cottage
Wharfedale Grange	In the lobby of the barn Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

Village News Business

Village News AGM

This will take place on Wednesday 6 May at All Saints' Church, Kirkby Overblow at 11.30am. This follows on from the village coffee morning, so drop in for homemade cake and a coffee to fortify yourself first. Anyone is most welcome to attend and if you would like to get involved with the Village News we would love to talk to you or see you there.

The Editors

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

We are grateful to those who advertise in the business directory and ask our readers to support them whenever possible. Notice to advertisers - The charge per line for advertisements is £5.00 for a year's (6) issues, payable in advance.

To place an advert contact Sarah Coughlan 0113 288 6310
sarahcoughlan58@gmail.com

CHARGES FOR BLOCK ADVERTISEMENTS PAYMENT IN ADVANCE PLEASE

<u>SIZE</u>	<u>PRICE FOR ONE ISSUE</u>	<u>PRICE FOR YEAR (FOR SIX ISSUES)</u>
eighth page	£12.00	£60.00
quarter page	£23.00	£115.00
half page	£43.00	£215.00
full page	£82.00	£410.00

1/4 Page

1/8 Page

**1/2 Page
(dotted
outline)**

THE CLERGY AND SUNDAY WORSHIP

RECTOR: The Revd Stroma McDermott
Hayfield House, Strait Lane, Huby, LS17 0EA
Tel: 01423 806878 email: stroma.mcdermott@leeds.anglican.org

CURATE: Emma James
Tel: 07856 198293 email: emma.james@leeds.anglican.org

READER: Moira Keith
3 Park Way, Pool in Wharfedale, Otley, LS21 1LD
Tel: 07794 488706
email: moirakeith2@gmail.com

READER: Jan Ali
Tel: 07554 458131 email: jan.ali@leeds.anglican.org

READER EMERITUS: Lois Plows
Ryeland House, Back Lane, Sicklinghall, Wetherby LS22 4BQ
Tel: 01937 580632

BENEFACTRESS: Davina Tyler
email: lowerwharfedalebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

Methodist Church at Kearby 3pm Sunday

PASTOR: The Rev Gillian Robertson,
10 Whitsundale Close, Knaresborough HG5 0HX
Tel: 01423 869730 email: rev.g.r.robertson@btinternet.com

MINISTER: The Rev Gordon Hay
1, York Road, Knaresborough HG5 0AF
Tel: 01423 863298 / 07852817475 email: gordon.hay@methodist.org.uk

Methodist Church and Rainbow Centre in Pool

MINISTER: The Rev Wendy Walker
Circuit office: 07482 717810
email: wendy.walker@methodist.org.uk

Roman Catholic Church

Church of the Immaculate Conception administered by the Peter Middleton Trust
Tel: 01937 581744

CHURCHWARDENS

Kirkby Overblow

Jim Bennett 07970 374658
Jeremy Cross 01423 879066

Pool with Arthington

Sue Ford 01132 842386

Sicklinghall

Liz Boyd 01937 583893

North Rigton

Michael Bartlett 07740 741509

Weeton

vacant

Kearby Methodist Chapel

Chapel Steward

Ivy Rogers 01423 869861

village news

Donations Thanks to all those who have sent donations towards the cost of production. Such contributions are most welcome and should be sent to:

Mrs Vanda McKenzie
The Old Rectory
Kirkby Overblow
Harrogate HG3 1HD
Email: vandamckenzie@gmail.com

Adverts If you would like to place an advert in the magazine please contact:

Mrs Sarah Coughlan

Mobile: 07890 039150

Email: sarahecoughlan58@gmail.com

Or simply use our QR code to make donations more easily.



Please make cheques payable to:
Lower Wharfedale Village News

Payments by BACS to:
Lower Wharfedale Village News
Sort code: 05 04 54
Account Number: 16787531

Deadline: Material for the June/July issue by Thursday 7 May
Please email: lwparishnews@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council Clerks

Sicklinghall
Julie Clegg
Tel: 07719 463328
clerk@sicklinghallparishcouncil.org.uk

North Rigton
Mike Richards
Tel: 07885 768787
northrigtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Kearby with Netherby
Julie Clegg
Tel: 07719 463328
clerk@kearbynetherbypc.org.uk

Weeton
Situation Vacant
clerk@weetonparish.gov.uk

Kirkby Overblow
Mike Richards
Tel: 07885 768787
clerk@kirkbyoverblowpc.org.uk

Pool in Wharfedale
John Ryan
Tel: 07766 547651
clerk@poolparishcouncil.gov.uk

Arthington
Mags Smith
Tel: 07505 142383
arthingtonparish@live.co.uk

North Yorkshire Councillors

Andrew Paraskos
c/o Democratic Services
County Hall
Northallerton DL7 8AD
Tel: 07808 803667
clfr.andy.paraskos@northyorks.gov.uk

Nathan Hull
Quarry Farm Barn
Pye Lane
Burnt Yates, HG3 3EH
Tel: 07577 031582
clfr.nathan.hull@northyorks.gov.uk

Leeds City Councillor

Billy Flynn
31 East Causeway Vale
Adel
Leeds, LS16 8LG
Tel: 0113 469 4785
billy.flynn@leeds.gov.uk

Local Councillors

MPs

Sir Alec Shelbrooke MP
(Wetherby & Easingwold)
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 0207 219 3000
alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Katie White MP
(Leeds North West)
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
Tel:
katie.white.mp@parliament.uk

Sir Julian Smith MP
(Skipton & Ripon)
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
Tel 0207 219 7145
julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk