

AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER

Austwick, Eldroth, Feizor, Lawkland and Wharfe
January - April 2024



PARTY TIME!

*Pictures from Iain
and Michelle's
birthday party.*

Inside:

*p. 7 Rona Webster
working from home
p.21 Tennis Club sets
resurfacing target*

AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER: YOUR COMMUNITY PAPER

Many thanks for all the contributions to this Newsletter. Your Newsletter is funded by our advertisers with support from Austwick Parochial Church Council and Austwick Parish Council. The Newsletter is distributed free to the communities of Austwick, Eldroth, Feizor, Lawkland and Wharfe.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles should be around 300 words and, if possible, accompanied by a high-resolution photo. Please contact Mark if you would like to feature in the new 'Austwick Home Worker' series. We reserve the right to edit copy as we are limited by the number of pages that we can print. Please send contributions to Mark: austwickparishnews@gmail.com, Harden Coach House, Clapham Road, Austwick LA2 8BQ, 07801 500352.



Mark Robinson, coordinator

DISTRIBUTION

Printed copies are provided to all households – usually in black and white - and a colour version is made available online. We are very grateful to our editor and designer Rev'd John Davies, to Ann and Roger Moore for organising distribution, and to all our distributors.

ADVERTISING

Advertising rates start from £10. Please send advertising queries and payments to Colin Renwick at colinrenwick@btinternet.com. Publication of advertisements does not imply endorsement or recommendation of the products and services.

MAY ISSUE DEADLINE

All copy to Mark by 15th April 2024 please.

THE FUTURE: WOULD YOU BECOME A NEWSLETTER SUPPORTER?

It will come as no surprise to you to learn that, like so much else, the costs of producing the Austwick Parish Newsletter are rising significantly, to the extent that our organising group have had to address how we might continue to produce this tri-annual magazine for the community. We know it is valued by many as a useful exchange of news and information and are keen to keep it going; we value our advertisers for the income they provide, the Parish Council for a grant and the PCC (Austwick's Church Council, which is funded by local

donations) for underwriting the costs, but as these costs rise, to balance the books we now also need to invite the wider community to consider supporting us financially. The alternative would be to move to producing just two issues per year from 2025 onwards, but we think that our readers would much prefer we keep it to three. So we would like to invite you to become a Newsletter Supporter, by donating £10 annually using the Standing Order form provided on the back cover of this issue. The more Supporters we get, the more confident we will be

that we can sustain the Newsletter in its present form and frequency of publication. If you have any questions about this initiative, or any skills that you could lend to the production of or funding of the Newsletter, please contact us.

Thank you. *Mark Robinson, Colin Renwick and John Davies.*

Support our Play Area

Please help improve our Children's Play Park by making a donation from your mobile phone.

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AUSTWICK STREET MARKET AND CUCKOO FESTIVAL MONDAY 27TH MAY 2024 - SAVE THE DATE!

Planning is well underway for next year's Street Market and Cuckoo Festival – save the date for Monday 27th of May 2024.

***2024 Theme:** The theme, for cuckoos and the children's fancy dress parade, will be the Olympics, in the spirit of the 2024 Paris Games.

***Face painters:** Could you help make a child's day at the next Street Market on the Face painting stall? This was such a success last year we'd love to hear from creative volunteers who could make this happen again.

***Furniture Sales:** Once again, we'll be selling furniture and household items in advance of the day with all proceeds going to the Street Market funds. If you're having a New Year clear out, we'd really

appreciate any donations to sell. We'll be starting in February so please keep an eye out for posters going up in the New Year with all the details.

***Help with our Health & Safety:** The committee is looking for somebody with H&S experience or just someone with lots of common sense (!), to carry out basic Health & Safety duties on the day of the Street Market. If you think this could be your thing please get in touch via the contact details below.

Thank you to those who have recently joined the committee and already offered support and help.

For anyone with questions or if you'd like to get involved, please do get in touch with Janet, co-chair person, on 07709 252613 , janheap@hotmail.co.uk.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Our generous local collection box holders and donation givers have enabled me to send £409.96 to The Children's Society this year. That is a wonderful amount and will be much appreciated by the Society.

The following poem is taken from The Children's Society Autumn newsletter. It describes how valuable every donation is. It was written by Samia, a teenager who has been helped in her life by The Children's Society. She is now a member of the Young Advisory Group which advises the organisation on the specific needs of the young.

My Children's Society

A place with love and makes you forget

about your anxiety

A place where you will never get discriminated

and never hated

A place full of opportunities

and a unity of all communities

A place where equality is key,

and you can be whatever you want to be

A place with family, freedom and friends

And where the happiness never ends

If on reading this poem, you feel you would like to have a Children's Society collection box in 2024 or make a donation, please do contact me on 07746 110559 or alison.boxford@gmail.com.

Alison Boxford, Children's Society Coordinator

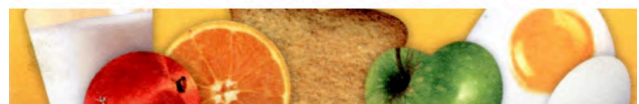
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AUSTWICK PRIMARY PTA: PLEASE SUPPORT OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL

We have had a busy start to the school year. On a very wet and wild day in September, parents volunteered at the 3 Peaks Cyclo Cross event. We received a very generous £750 from the organisers as a thank you (in addition to £500 received last year).

Our recent Christmas Fair was a busy evening, with the kids enjoying hot chocolates, tombola and games whilst the adults had mince pies and browsed stalls from local craftspeople. We would like to thank the stallholders, and local businesses who again very generously supported us with raffle prizes. We also ran a lucky dip for Children in Need, using prizes the children donated. Our Year 6 children ran their own stalls to raise money for their London trip next year. We raised £824. Many thanks to those who came along to support us on the night.

You may have seen our stall at the parish autumn fair, where we raised money from games. We would like to thank Carol Wilkinson for her generous support at this and many other events.

Christmas party, which some of you may have attended as children – 2023 is the 69th year!

We need help!

Our village school is one of the only small primaries left in our area. We are now the local school for children in Austwick, Clapham, Horton, Stainforth & surrounding areas. We are trying to raise £16,000 for new IT equipment, to make sure our children can access the new curriculum. The PTA also raises money for other items the school budget can't cover, such as coaches for trips and help for children to access outdoor activities – we want to make the children's time at school special.

Jumble sale, Ingleton Community Centre, Saturday 27th January, from 2pm. Please save any jumble you have from post-Christmas clear outs! You can drop jumble at the centre from 10am on the morning, or please get in touch with us if you need help transporting it. And please come along to support us on the day – we will also have lots of cakes, tombola and more.



The children have also been busy making Christmas artwork which we have had printed on Christmas cards, decorations and gifts. These sales have raised £188.

Funds raised last year have now paid for a new smart screen in our nursery classroom. These vital screens mean our teachers show the children online content easily and use interactive activities. They cost over £2,000. We have contributed towards our Year 5 children's outdoor adventure residential trip in March and the Year 6's summer trip to London. We pay for a coach to take the children to the pantomime, and of course ice creams in the interval. We also contribute to the children's parish

Everest ... or the 3 Peaks? Last year our chair of governors, Lindsey Smith, made a fantastic contribution, raising over £2,000 via her Cotswold Way sponsored walk. If anyone might like to do anything similar the PTA would be very happy to help – setting up online donation pages, sending out press releases and advertising.

All donations are very welcome, if you would like to offer further support please get in touch; Kathryn Huck 07891 438402 (Chair), Sarah Brownlee 0797 657 4909 (Treasurer), austwickpta@hotmail.com or via our Facebook page.

Thank you! from the children & PTA Austwick (C.E.) Primary School & Nursery.

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HOMeworkERS OF AUSTWICK #2 – RONA WEBSTER

I live and work in Lawkland. This is home in all senses; my family have been farming here for 95 years and now it's our turn to steward the land and create a profitable farming business that adds value to our dairy products and reinvests in nature.

After working in Marketing for the National Trust in the Lake District for the last nine years, when we moved back here to take on the farm and after having our second child, I decided to switch to work as a freelance marketing and communications specialist.

I am very lucky to have some brilliant clients, from a variety of sectors all with aims and principles based on sustainability, climate action and/or rural business. Most are in Cumbria and Yorkshire, but I have one London-based client.

A typical working day would look something like this:

After getting the children off to school/nursery I sit down with a cup of tea at 9am and check my client's various social media channels, share any posts for that day and look over my 'to do' list.

AFTERNOON TEAS AND A LENT LUNCH

Last autumn Austwick Church began to host a series of Sunday Afternoon Teas, organised by Carol Wilkinson with the help of others. These were informal gatherings of locals and visitors including thirsty hikers and cyclists, and appreciated by all. David Wilkinson kindly provided much-appreciated live background music. We plan to revive these in the spring.

Also at Austwick Church, on Saturday 17th February, you are invited to a Lent Lunch. This will be a simple meal to mark the beginning of Lent, and all will be welcome to come.

For details about these events nearer the time, please see notices in the village shop and church or at bit.ly/churches-newsletters.

These events may or may not raise much-needed funds for Austwick Church, but their main aim is to bring people together for (that old-fashioned but still vital word) *fellowship*: ie, conversation and friendship.



This is the second in our series by local homeworkers. Please contact our co-ordinator Mark Robinson, austwickparishnews@gmail.com, if you would like to contribute an article to this series.

The morning could be spent working on a mini-marketing campaign for a media client who want to promote their climate-focused agenda or planning a photoshoot for a client who has holiday cottages in the Lake District.

I'll try to fit in a short run at 'lunchtime' or more likely, do the washing up! In the afternoon I could be joining my husband Pete, on a call to discuss our

new farm wetland project or having an online planning call with a client.

The children are home around 4pm so then it's back into mum mode. The laptop sometimes comes out again once they're in bed but that's the beauty of being self-employed, it fits around family and farm life.

ADVERTISE WITH US

The Austwick Parish Newsletter is funded by our advertisers (supported by Austwick Parochial Church Council and Austwick Parish Council).

It is freely distributed to all households in Austwick, Eldroth, Feizor, Lawkland and Wharfe. Advertising rates start from £10.

Please send advertising queries to Colin Renwick colinrenwick@btinternet.com

AUSTWICK PARISH HALL

2023 saw the addition of a new audio-visual system to the large hall. It is now up and running despite an unfortunate failure of our first new Epson projector prior to our December film night. The projector was promptly replaced with a new one by Audio Works of Bentham who supplied and installed the equipment. The system is available for use by groups, including for weddings, parties and funeral teas. The speakers can be used to play music and speech via Bluetooth and the projector can be used for presentations and showing photographs. If you want to show a film, a licence will be required to obtain permission from the copyright owners. There is an induction loop in both large and small halls for hearing aid wearers. Induction sessions explaining how to use the equipment, including the induction loops, have been provided for regular user groups. If you would like to use any of the equipment for an event or need a refresher session, please contact Kevin Hale (see *Booking the Hall*, below).

Film nights 7.30pm

Friday 12 January: Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny [PG13]

Friday 9 February: Where the Crawdads Sing [15]

Friday 8 March: The Duke [12]

Quiz nights 7.30pm

Friday 26 January, 23 February and 22 March with the quizzes produced and presented by Judy and Chris Leeming. Teams of up to four, or just come along and join a team on the night.

Tickets for film nights and quiz nights are £4.50 from the shop in the week of the event or £5 on the door on the night.

Thank you very much to all the volunteers who make the film and quiz nights happen.

Regular groups and societies include the Field and History Society, Women's Institute, Table Tennis, Afternoon Fellowship, Crafty Cuckoos, a Book Club and Doodlers.

Contact information for these groups and notices of events will be found on the Hall notice board.

Booking the Hall

For information about booking the hall please see Hall notice board, www.Austwick.org, Austwick Parish Hall Facebook page, or contact Kevin Hale on bookings@kxhale.co.uk 07545 468627.

Your Hall



needs you!

Our Village Hall is a charity managed by volunteers.

The committee has 4 meetings a year. We are currently seeking a new secretary and new treasurer as the current post holders' terms of office are due to end at our AGM in February. Do you think you might be able to help manage this village asset? If you would like to find out more please contact Lindsey Smith. lindseyinaustwick@gmail.com, 015242 51649

The Parish Hall AGM is in the hall on Monday 5 February at 7pm. All residents of Austwick Parish are welcome to come along. The hall is a charity managed by volunteers acting as trustees and the AGM is an opportunity for us to report to the local community and to listen to your views and ideas about the hall and future developments. The hall finances are buoyant, so we have an exciting opportunity to develop the hall facilities ensuring that it meets the needs of local people. We want to spend wisely, so your ideas and support are invaluable.

Are you interested in helping to make sure that our hall is well cared for and there for the village and surrounding area? Several volunteers help with events such as the film nights, quizzes and coffee mornings; others have joined us as trustees. If you would like to know more, please contact me, Lindsey Smith, for an informal chat. lindseyinaustwick@gmail.com, 015242 51649.

THE AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP WELCOMES EVERYBODY

The Afternoon Fellowship meets monthly at Austwick Parish Hall and is open to everybody in our surrounding area.

Each meeting features a guest speaker on a topic of interest, followed by a time for conversation with refreshments. There's no charge for admission: a voluntary donation of £1 at each meeting helps to support our running costs.

Everybody is welcome - come along; bring a friend; meet new friends!

Our Monthly Meeting Dates 2024: in Austwick Parish Hall (unless otherwise indicated) Wednesdays, 2.00 - 3.30pm.

Wednesday January 24th. Judy and Chris Leeming: Austwick through the seasons following our Fellowship New Year Lunch, which starts at 1.00pm for 1.15pm (booking via Sally Edwards)

Wednesday February 28th. Julia Stagg: Feeling inspired: a look at the creative process.

March (date to be confirmed). A walk at Austwick Hall with Michael Pearson. Discovering the history of Austwick Hall wood when the wild daffodils are in bloom. A walk to the top of the wood, including the Victorian viewing platform. Please see announcements nearer the time for details.*

Wednesday March 27th. Jo Martin: Not quite the Wild Atlantic.

Wednesday April 24th. Ralph Court: Ancient treasures of Egypt.

Wednesday May 29th. Austwick Church: Flower Festival, followed by an Organ Recital by Clive Grey.

Wednesday June 26th. What catches the eye: a photographic exhibition in Austwick Church with contributions from Ian Radford, Diane and Doon Storey, Chris and Judy Leeming.

Wednesday July 24th. To be confirmed.

Wednesday August 28th. Garden tea party: details to follow.

Thursday September 12th: A coach trip to a cathedral town. Durham or York - to be agreed

Wednesday September 25th. Revd Sue McWhinney: Vocational journey. Sue is Associate Priest, St. Michael the Archangel, Kirby Malham.

Wednesday October 23rd. AGM followed by Edward Sexton: From sheep to jumper. A selection of wool products will be displayed.

Wednesday November 27th. Rob Gale: 'Twixt Alps & Dales - a life spent seeking hills, gentle



thrills and good coffee.

Wednesday December 11th. Revd Steve Rathbone: The bravest one.

* **More information about Afternoon Fellowship meetings and activities from our Churches Weekly Newsletters (published each Saturday and free to collect from church porches or online at bit.ly/churches-newsletters) or from our Secretary Catherine Menday, 01524 251787, catherine_menday@yahoo.co.uk.**

An advertisement for iPrint, a local design and print shop. The background is black. At the top, the logo 'iPrint' is in white, with the 'i' in a lowercase, rounded font. Below the logo, the text 'YOUR LOCAL DESIGN & PRINTSHOP' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. Underneath, there are two rows of icons in white boxes, each with a label: 'design/artwork', 'colour printing', 'digital copying', 'business cards', 'flyers', 'photo printing', 'posters & large photo prints', 'lamination', 'scanning to digital media', 'document binding', 'canvas printing', and 'banners, signs & cut vinyl decals'. Below the icons, the address '20 STATION ROAD • SETTLE • BD24 9AA' is written in white. At the bottom, the phone number 'TEL: 01729 823990' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below the phone number, the email address 'hello@iprintshop.co.uk' and the website 'www.iprintshop.co.uk' are written in white, bold, lowercase letters.

MOLLY PRESTON'S LOCAL HISTORY NOTES

Continued from the last issue....

Water

Towns and villages were usually built near a beck or river; a water supply for drinking and washing, a source of fish for food and a form of transport. Although Austwick is mostly half a mile from the beck, it has the hillside for shelter and a series of springs on the north side of the village. These springs, as well as providing water, also created problems at the time of heavy rain. Over the years, modern technology has cured the problem.

Austwick Beck at the Pant (French for bridge, 'le pont' probably named by the Cistercian monks who kept sheep in this area); where Pant Lane meets the beck, two bridges were constructed with a walkway in between. The beck at this point divides into two channels (was this a natural division or man-made?). When it came to the yearly sheep dipping, one channel could be blocked and the other allowed run free to allow a continued flow to the beck.

There were a series of wells throughout the village;



A Moughton Whetstone. Pic: Erica Madelin, ericamadelin.wordpress.com

if you had a big enough garden, you would have your own well – if not, you used the village wells. One we know about was the shopkeepers'; all shopkeepers had rights there, probably for a small payment.

Manor Corn Mill

Each 'manor' had its own corn mill, whose residents took their corn to be ground into flour. Austwick's mill was in the field on the left of the bridge at Silloth House (originally Mill Bridge) on the Wharfe road. A raised causeway can still be

seen crossing the field from the road gate to the mill. Several fields above the mill is the mill dam, where water was collected from the beck to provide power to the mill; a raised mill beck on stanchions took the water through the fields to the mill 'overshot' wheel on the side of the building. Unfortunately the mill is now just a pile of stones.

Austwick Moss

(South of the village, the other side of the A65)

Before the general use of coal, peat was cut to use as fuel. Each household in Austwick was entitled to a plot on Austwick Moss to dig peat – this was known as Turbary Rights. The peat was stacked in blocks to dry, then transported home by a peat barrow. Once coal had replaced peat to fuel, the pits filled with water; plants grew including sphagnum moss, which was gathered in war time for use in hospitals to replace cotton wool, no longer available as it came from America.

Oxenber

Austwick residents had* rights on Oxenber from the Lord of the Manor to collect dead wood for firewood.

Branches could be cut from hazel bushes to use as peasticks in gardens but no later than April each year

Stones could be taken from the old quarries to repair houses.

The grazing was let out to tenants known as stints. The rights of 'estovers' were to cut rushes, bracken and heather for bedding animals and thatching roofs of buildings.

Moughton Whetstones

Most people are aware of the famous Norber

boulders, but also famous in geological circles are the Moughton Whetstones – as can be seen online. They were dug out of the hillside by opencast mining. They are covered with red and green stripes in a circular pattern, the red iron ore. Whetstones are used to sharpen knives.

Molly Preston

* *Editor's Note: it is unclear whether or not these rights still exist.*

AUSTWICK WI

Austwick WI has reached its 100th year! The big party isn't until June, but before then we have a brilliant programme lined up.

In January, Jamie McEwan from Kingsdale Head will be talking about tackling 1,500 acres of upland to create a farm with rich species diversity and flourishing streams and wetlands. We know this talk is going to be of interest to everyone, so it's open to the whole community. Austwick Parish Hall, 7pm, Jan 11th.

In February we've got our member's evening of poetry and prose, where we'll be fuelling our confidence with pies and peas.

In March we'll be discussing Child Marriage in the 16thC with Dr Loretta Dolan and how this system was a 'lynchpin of the family system', necessary to advance fortunes, protect land and forge connections.

And finally in April, the wonderful Hester Cox, whose work focuses on the rhythms and cycles of nature and our relationship with the countryside, will be running a printmaking workshop.

As well as meeting in Austwick Parish Hall, at 7pm every second Thursday of the month, we also arrange trips and events throughout the year. We welcome new members and visitors, and if our fabulous programme isn't sufficiently tempting, let me throw in the words "homemade biscuits".



Sue takes over the chair from Angela!

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AUSTWICK FIELD AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Autumn 2023 and Winter 2024 Programme

The autumn season of talks by local speakers has been well attended with typically 40+ members and guests attending the talks. Recent evening events in the Austwick Parish large Hall have covered: Hen Harriers, Restoration of Peat Programme, Local Geology of the Yorkshire Dales, and by the time this article is published, a talk on the fascinating world of bees, will have rounded off our 2023 season. If you are not a member and would like to know more about our season of talks next year or to be included on our records for future meeting notices, please contact our membership secretary Tony Horsewill on tonyhorsewill@me.com.

Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 Programme

Annual membership of the Society runs from September 2023 to end

of August 2024. From January 2024 the cost is reduced from £10 to £5 per person for the five remaining evening talks in the spring of 2024. All are welcome to our meetings and the cost for non-members is £3 per person (cash only please) at the door. Refreshments available with donations welcome. Talks start at 7.30 pm in Austwick Village Hall. Members wishing to renew their membership should bring the correct cash or a cheque to one of the autumn meetings.

The evening talks programme for autumn 2024 and spring 2025 is well advanced with talks by popular speakers local on the following topics already planned (but not necessarily finalised):

Unlocking Collections at the Museum of North Craven Life, Lime kilns, Ospreys, Settle Navvies, The Settle Carlisle Railway, Bird plumage, Butterflies of the North West; plus, several

other talks still under development including an international topic, as this article is finalised in December 2023.

The talks, in Austwick Village Hall, are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month from September to the following May together with guided walks in the summer. The five spring 2024 evening talks programme comprises interesting talks on the history of Victoria Hall, field names and landscape history, a history of gaping Gill, the history of Settle hydro power and fungi.

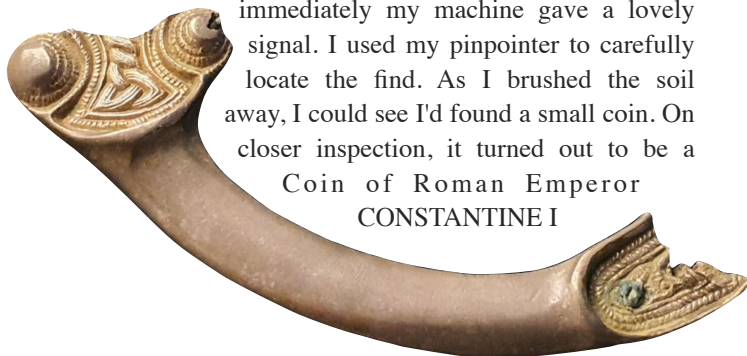
You will be pleased to know that the Parish Hall Committee has recently invested in high quality projection and sound equipment including a hearing loop for the main Hall. This new equipment has already proved its value to everyone attending recent AFLHS evening talks. *Graham Cleverly, chairman*

SETTLE HISTORY HUNTERS

Well, it's been a fantastic year for The Settle History Hunters, with some amazing finds. But never in my wildest dreams did I expect to unearth something so beautiful and regionally important. I ventured out on a lovely early June evening, the sky was blue and the air was tinged with a hint of freshly mown grass. I'd recently been granted permission to search a field that had looked very promising from ariel photographs. As I walked possibly a mile to the search area, my mind wandered. Who else's footsteps could I be walking in? And did they lose anything? Never to be seen again, for possibly 100's or even 1000's of years.

I started my search walking randomly, and almost immediately my machine gave a lovely signal. I used my pinpointter to carefully locate the find. As I brushed the soil away, I could see I'd found a small coin. On closer inspection, it turned out to be a

Coin of Roman Emperor
CONSTANTINE I



with the twins Romulus-Remus suckling on the she-wolf (pictured right). The first time this coin had seen the light of day in almost 2000 years.



Encouraged by this wonderful find, I continued and was drawn to a high point, with a commanding long-distance view. Again my detector gave out a resounding crisp signal. This time my heart fluttered slightly, the numbers indicated a possible Silver find. As I dug down, maybe 6 inches, my pinpointter once again located the find. I once more brushed the crumbly soil away and gasped in awe at what was now sitting in my hand. I instantly knew I'd located my best-ever find in 30-plus years. OMG, I'd only gone and found a fragment of what would have been a Pennannular Brooch. The brooch had been intentionally broken, into what is known as hack silver (see left).

My research, not confirmed by the museum as yet, possibly dates to the late 8th Century or early 9th, with similarities to one found on the St Ninians (Shetland Isles.) Its Celtic knot represents eternity, whether this means loyalty, faith, friendship, or love. *Chris Eccleston*

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL VILLAGE SHOW 2023

The Austwick Village Show 2023 held on 5th August 2023 in the Village Hall was judged to have been a huge success and was once again back to full strength after the fallow Covid years. This was despite the less than satisfactory weather conditions in preceding weeks which added an air of uncertainty as to whether any garden produce would be ready in time.

The 2023 show drew in more adult visitors than ever before (173) with a total of 518 entries (children and adults) compared to a total of 423 entries (children and adults) in 2022. The success of the show was wholly due to the hard work of the organising committee, stewards, judges, participants, refreshments team and the record-breaking numbers of visitors.

The Hall was set up on the Thursday afternoon by the organising committee and helpers. The event started promptly on Saturday at 8.30am with a surge of activity from hopeful entrants who were directed to their allotted places by the ever-helpful stewards who were on hand with tape, stickers, hooks etc. The hall was then cleared at 11 am for the independent judges who awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each class with a small financial reward, as well as the winners of various trophies, cups and vouchers including the Best in section, Best in Show and Best new first-time adult entrant.

The afternoon event was then fully opened to the public at 2pm to view entries and winners in each category. The hall rapidly became a melee of noisy activity and thronging crowds as people jostled around the tables and display boards. Then when they had finished viewing, they were able to sample the delicious locally baked goodies available on the refreshments stall coordinated by Gwen Cleverly and Alison Boxford and their merry band of volunteers.

At 3.30 pm, Margaret Hird the Society's President welcomed all the visitors to the 2023 Show, and then the various cups and trophies and raffle prizes were announced and the cups and trophies were

presented to the winners. The overall Best Winner of the 2023 show was David Baker who deservedly secured his first place with his exceptionally talented wooden scale model of a tank and transporter. The full list of class and trophy winners is too long to be noted here but is available on request from the Committee Secretary.

Tables and boards were quickly cleared and within an hour of closing, the hall was fully cleared as if the show had never happened. However it was captured in its full glory via the sterling efforts of Chris and Judy Leeming in their stunning slideshow presented at the AGM on 1st November.



Best in Show 2023: David Baker's model tank and transporter

The Organising Committee have since met and agreed new award categories and themes for 2024, focusing on the 2024 Olympics where relevant to ensure the 2024 show is even more successful. The date for the 2024 Show has been agreed as 3rd August (first Saturday). The full updated list of categories and classes will be publicised in the spring Parish Newsletter and via the Austwick Facebook page. The Committee is always welcoming of new faces and new ideas for future shows.

As is usual in this edition of the Newsletter, the new classes are shown on the following page, in order to allow exhibitors to begin preparing for the 2024 Show.

Julia Garlick, Secretary

THE AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW 2024 LIST OF CLASSES

Section & class number, followed by the 2024 agreed change:

Flowers

- 2 3 gladioli instead of 3 roses
Artistic flowers
19 Arrangement of 'Where have all the flowers gone' – home grown garden foliage with no flowers
20 Arrangement of a 'Nursery rhyme'
21 Arrangement of 'Burst of orange'
22 Arrangement of 'Taste of Asia '
23 Arrangement in 'An Unusual container'

Cookery

- 55 Four bread rolls (brown or white)
56 Four ginger biscuits
57 Four cheese scones
58 Four pieces of flapjack
59 Four jam tarts
60 My favourite cake
61 Banana loaf – recipe to be provided by Judy
62 No change - Four muffins sweet or savoury
63 No change – A named vegetarian savoury dish
64 An individual cold dessert
65 Fruit pie with crust top and bottom
66 No change - A jar of jam
67 No change - A jar of sweet or savoury jelly
68 No change - A jar of marmalade

- 69 No change - A jar of lemon or other citrus fruit
70 No change - A bottle of home-made cordial or non-alcoholic drink
71 No change - A bottle of home made wine or liqueur
72 No change – A jar of pickle, relish, or chutney
73 Moved to Children's class. 4 decorated buns

Arts

- 74 Painting of a North Yorkshire landmark
75 No change – A painting in any medium and of any subject
76 A drawing of 'A bridge'
77 No change – A drawing of any other subject
78 Four different photographs of 'Wild flowers of the Yorkshire Dales'
79 No change- Four different photographs on a theme of your choice
80 A single photograph titled 'Open doors'
81 No change- A papercraft item
82 No change - A handmade bag, box, or bowl
83 No change - Any item of internal or external décor

- 84 No change - Any item using embroidery thread
85 No change - A knitted or crocheted item
86 No change - An item of any other needlework
87 No change - An item of felt work which may include embellishment
88 No change -Any other item unable to be included elsewhere in this section

Childrens

- 89 No change - Artwork under 5 years
90 No change - Artwork 5-8 years
91 No change - Handwriting 8-14 years 'A verse or a poem'
92 A painting or drawing of a monster
93 A poster with an Olympic theme
94 A photograph of 'An insect'
95 No change - A decorated letter of the alphabet
96 A collage on a plate of "My favourite meal"
97 No change - A vegetable /fruit animal
98 A model made from junk
99 No change - A miniature garden
100 Artwork 9-14 years
101 No change - Anything you like: You made it, let us see it (No larger than yourself)
73 Refer to Children only section in Cookery – 4 decorated buns

FINANCIAL HELP FOR THE ILL OR IMMOBILE

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 the Settle Parish and all the 11 parishes that surround Settle.

Examples of the kinds of help available are towards the costs of travel to hospital for both patient 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.

Applications 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 there can be no commitment to recurring gifts.

If you think the Settle and District Aid in Sickness Fund can help, give me a ring or send me an email.

Janet Heap

SHEILA OFFERS CARE

From Sheila Buss: "I am a very experienced carer, looking after people with dementia. If you have a friend or relation who is suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia who is dependent on you, rather than putting them in a home, or contacting a company, you can contact me and I would look after them for up to 24 hour shifts. I can do one day a week, or possibly more if needed. I do personal care, which includes medication, keeping them stimulated, and taking them out in my own car for appointments etc. I do light housework, cooking from scratch, laundry etc. I am insured to give people medication. I can give references if required." If interested, please 'phone Sheila on 07841 472033.

ELDROTH CHURCH

During August we hosted a combined service where members from each of the 4 churches in our benefice were invited. We had a great turnout and even the sun made an appearance after a largely wet July and August. Thanks to the Rev'd Steve Rathbone for conducting a very thoughtful service, we also thank Thomas Parker for stepping in to play for us so beautifully on the organ. There was a great community atmosphere and feeling of coming-together as people stayed to enjoy refreshments, chatting long after the service had finished.

At our Harvest Festival Service, the sunshine continued, and we were blessed with another lovely day. The Church was dressed for the occasion, full of fresh produce and flowers and, with another good turnout, harvest hymns and the sunshine it was another memorable service. During a domino drive a week later the sale of the produce contributed to our continuous fundraising efforts.

In October one of our well known and much respected members of the congregation, Anne Read, celebrated a 'milestone' birthday. At the service following her birthday, Anne gave thanks for the many cards and gifts she had received from friends and neighbours to mark this special occasion. She went on to note the spirit of community that is alive and well in Eldroth Church today, reflecting on the Church's beginnings, founded circa 1627, to save the people of the hamlet having to travel 2-3 miles to the Parish Church. Gyles Moore and John Radcliffe built the Chapel/School house in order that "prayers can be read and children

taught" and the funding for the work was a gift from Gyles Moore of the money from the rent of cattle gaits. In an account written by the late Rev'd John Dalby, visitors to Eldroth Church can find more details of this on the wall just inside the door.

We held our usual services of remembrance during November, including a visual reminder with our external poppy display for all the community to share and appreciate. The Taizé service in particular was very poignant, focusing on current world troubles and the resulting sadness and loss, as readings and prayers were offered in this quiet, candlelit service.

This year our Nativity was delivered in rhyme,

*Some speaking, some singing,
some acting in mime.*

It was standing room only – no room at the inn!

With 21 children we were ready to begin.

*As we travelled through Bethlehem,
we watched the story unfold,
A beautiful, heartening sight to behold.*

*During mince pies and mulled wine,
the prize raffle was drawn
Where we'd all come to celebrate
when Jesus was born.*

As we bid farewell to one year and welcome in another, we inevitably reflect on times gone by - we also look forward and it is this spirit of generosity that will enable us to look to the future of Eldroth Church. To everyone who has supported us, in so many different ways throughout 2023.....THANK YOU!



JOHN'S NOTES: PRACTICING PEACE IN PALESTINE AND HERE

It was noticeable how many people came to our services and events over Christmas, more than for quite some years. Was this a sign of a resurgent desire for getting-together with friends and family post-pandemic? I did also wonder if, after a bruising year in the world, people were being drawn by the ages-old message of 'peace on earth, goodwill to all', beginning, of all places, in Palestine. Whilst much violence has been done in the name of Christ over the centuries, and militarism is still sanctified by today's Church, there is also a strong tradition of pacifism in Christianity. Peacemaking in the real world is complicated and messy: as the late Head of the British Army, General Sir Richard Dannatt has said, 'Neither brute violence nor naïve forms of pacifism on their own can tackle the toughest issues of our times. We must cultivate empathy with something far bigger than ourselves, something bigger and deeper than we can imagine or rationalise for ourselves.'

I've been sharing with congregations what many have been doing throughout the decades-long conflict in Palestine. *The Parents' Circle Families Forum*, comprised of Israelis and Palestinians who have lost children, or family members, in the ongoing violence, continue to come together 'to do the slow, deep, necessary work of talking, listening and building relationships - in order to get to know the personal and national narrative of the 'other' as an important step on the way to reconciliation'. In Jerusalem and Haifa, Jaffa and Kfar Saba, in Wadi Ara and Galilee, the *Hand in Hand Schools* teach Israeli and Arab pupils together, studying in both Hebrew and Arabic in classrooms where two teachers - one Arab, and one Jewish - each teach in their mother tongue, developing bilingualism, immersing students in the stories, songs, and symbols of the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian traditions. All work of this kind requires courage and commitment, and will

often begin with a change of heart. The Northern Irish Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mairead Corrigan Maguire said that 'The spirit of nonviolence begins within us and moves out from there. As our hearts are disarmed by God of our inner violence, they become God's instruments for the disarmament of the world'. My friend Joe Campbell, who for years worked as a mediator in Northern Ireland's conflicts, says that 'Jesus invites us to pray for enemies. Usually we pray that the other person will change, and usually over time they do. But I understand Jesus to mean also to pray about my attitude towards them, asking for grace and strength every day to love more and more.' Peace on earth, goodwill to all - the One born in Bethlehem, and others there today, show us the way this can be done, how *peace on earth starts within*. In 2024, peace is possible; it's in our power and in our hands to fulfil it. *Shalom!*

Revd John; 01524 805928
john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

CHURCH SERVICES: FROM NOW UNTIL EASTER

21 January
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion (Revd Mark Evans)
11.00 Clapham Easy Church
28 January
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
2.00 Keasden Afternoon Prayer
4 February
9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
6.30 Newby Easy Evening Church
11 February
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Revd Steve Rathbone)
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion (Revd Steve Rathbone)
18 February
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion (Revd Mark Evans)
11.00 Clapham Easy Church
25 February
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
2.00 Keasden Pancake Praise
3 March
9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion (TBC)

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
6.30 Newby Easy Evening Church
10 March
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion
7.00 Clapham New Inn Church in the Pub (TBC)
17 March
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Easy Church
6.30 Eldroth Taizé Service
24 March Palm Sunday
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
7.00 Keasden Evening Service
28 March Maundy Thursday
6.30 Eldroth Maundy Thursday Last Supper
29 March Good Friday
2.00 Austwick Good Friday Devotions
31 March Easter Day
9.30 Austwick Easter Day Holy Communion
9.30 Eldroth Easter Day Holy Communion (TBC)
11.00 Clapham Easter Day Holy Communion
4.00 Keasden Short Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt

And each Wednesday:
10.30 Austwick Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer

AUSTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Having considered the Parish Council's budget for the 2024-25 financial year and in the light of expected future increases in costs, Councillors resolved to increase the Parish Precept for 2024-25 by 7.4% to £14500, which equates to approximately £54 of Council Tax for a Band D household (or £78 for Band F). Nearly half of the Parish Council's annual expenditure is spent on maintenance, including cutting the village greens and verges, in addition to general work such as tree pruning and drain clearing, and while this portion of the annual budget has remained unchanged for a number of years past, current circumstances demand that an increase is now required. The remainder of the increase relates to the predicted rise in other Parish Council costs, in line with inflation, for the next financial year.

For a number of years, Austwick has benefitted from funding received from the Yorkshire Dales National Park's Parish Wildlife Project, to develop and maintain the conservation verges on Graystonber Lane and Clapham Road. This funding stream has now been exhausted and there are currently no new sources of

revenue from the National Park that can be used on existing projects. This means that the maintenance cost of these two verges will now have to come out of the Council's annual budget. While this can be limited to a regular one metre cut on the road side and a total scalping in the autumn, to encourage wild flower growth, it is nevertheless another additional cost. Parish Councillors are actively seeking new sources of funding for conservation and environmental projects in the Parish and will keep everyone informed of progress in this regard.

Readers of the Newsletter may recall that back in 2018 we were able to report success in our appeal to persuade Historic England to designate our red 'K6' telephone kiosk as grade II listed street furniture, meaning that it must be properly maintained in good condition by BT and it can never be removed. Residents may have also noticed that the kiosk is now looking rather 'tired' having not received any attention in the last five years. We are pleased to report that, at the Parish Council's request, BT has undertaken to refurbish and repaint it this coming spring.

The minutes and agendas of all Parish Council meetings, together with links to relevant planning and local government web sites can be found on the Parish Council web site at www.austwickparishcouncil.org.uk or copies can be obtained from the Clerk.

The Parish Council meeting dates for 2024 are: January 15th, February 26th, April 15th, May 20th, PC Meeting, Annual Meeting of PC & Annual Parish Meeting July 1st, September 2nd, October 14th, December 2nd. All meetings are held in the Parish Hall and start at 7.30pm.

Time is given at the start of every meeting for electors to ask questions or make statements that relate to the work of the Council.

We particularly invite you to come to the Annual Parish Meeting on May 20th. This is your chance to hear what the Parish Council is doing, and to hear from our County Councillor and from the National Park. We also invite local community organisations to come and give us an update on their activities. The contact details for your Parish Councillors are as follows:

Peter Goold, Chairman, 015242 51039

Barbara Tibbatts, Vice-Chairman, 01729 860240

Kate Smith, 01729 860225

David Dewhirst, 015242 51190

Mark Robinson, 07801 500352

Marijke Hill, Parish Clerk, 01729 823723



Our Parish Choir all smiles after December's popular Community Christmas Carol Service at Austwick Church

PLAYING FIELDS NEWS

We are delighted to announce that Simon Brownlee was elected to the committee at the AGM back in November and he has agreed to be our Treasurer. Our thanks go again to Anne Morton who has been Treasurer for a number of years & done a wonderful job. We are inching forward with our playground plans & have had multiple quotes to enable us to make the best decision on a new adventure trail & team swing, hopefully this will all be happening early in the New Year.

AUSTWICK BOWLING CLUB

Where has the time gone - we have now reached the end of yet another year and are now planning what we hope will be another happy bowling season. We are not a club that takes part in league matches but we thoroughly enjoy our friendlies with other clubs as far away as Hornby and Slaidburn as well as clubs more local to us namely Burton-in-Lonsdale, Bentham, Ingleton and Kirkby Lonsdale. We also run our own club competitions which give us plenty of banter and happy rivalry!

The new year 2024 will see Austwick Bowling Club hosting the Home Guard Cup to be held in June - this is an all day annual event hosted in turn by Ingleton, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Bentham and of course Austwick. It is a great occasion to meet up with fellow bowlers and enjoy the friendly rivalry. All are welcome to come and watch and enjoy a cuppa!

During the latter part of the year, we sadly lost one of our most loyal and long standing members, Barbara Denne. Like a number of us age, aches and pains catch up on us. Barbara will be sadly missed by us all.

To complete the season a very enjoyable lunch was held at the Knights Table, Stainforth and was attended by twenty members. As usual Knights Table did us proud.

The Club House and green have now been put under wraps for the winter and hopefully we will be starting

again in the Spring next year. More later! In conclusion, if in between times you have any questions about the Club or indeed about bowling generally please do not hesitate to contact either John Jebson our Captain on 01729 825786 or Di Rees our Vice Captain on 01729 824077 who will be more than happy to help.

Sally Robinson (Hon sec)



GJ SPORTS THERAPY

relieve • recover • rehabilitate

Grace Jeffrey , MSc in Sports Therapy

Flexible appointments available in Settle

for all musculoskeletal injuries, sports massage, kinesiology taping and sports taping.

Please contact me on 07521308619 to arrange an appointment.

Or follow on Facebook: GJ Sports therapy-MSc

Instagram: @gjsportstherapy



AUSTWICK PICCALILLIS

We have continued to be busy with coaching sessions, open & advanced playing sessions, tournaments & leagues.

In October a large contingent represented Austwick Piccalillis at the English Nationals in Bolton. There were some excellent games & we came away with a total of 12 medals, 6 Gold, 5 Silver & 1 Bronze. Austwick residents secured medals. Gold for Carole Scurr in the Women's Doubles 65+, Silver for Steve & Jan Heap in the Mixed Doubles 65+, Silver for Carol Crooks & Jan



Heap in the Women's Doubles 65+ & Gold for Carol Crooks in the Mixed Doubles 70+. All the players were a credit to the club.

We have continued to play in the NW League down in Whalley & also a mini festival also at Whalley. The weekend visit from the Norfolk players was a great chance to play with new players & we also hosted a number of players from Eden Valley. The social afterwards at the Old Sawmill was a great success!

Austwick players have also competed in the Gladiator Games & enjoyed a visit to the group at Arkholme to play against their players & eat cake! Then the Christmas Social with a pickleball festival, lunch & Christmas fun!

SETTLE POOL: SIGN UP TO SWIM

Swimming can be great fun as well as a life-saving skill. That is why many years ago the people of this area did an awful lot of fund raising and built a community pool in Settle to ensure local youngsters had somewhere safe to learn to swim rather than having to take their chances in the Dales' streams and rivers. The covid pandemic and storm damage to the roof meant school swimming lessons at Settle Pool had to be cancelled for much of 2020.

A long waiting list for lessons built up but now at last the backlog has been cleared and, as well as offering school swimming sessions, Settle pool is encouraging local parents to sign up their children for group and individual lessons. You can do so by phoning phone 01729 8 2 3 6 2 6 , or emailing swimlessons@settlewimmingpool.co.uk.

www.settlewimmingpool.co.uk. There are lessons for children from three months old and also for non-swimming adults. Following the major redevelopment, the pool is also able to offer a wide variety of keep fit sessions both in the water and in the new dryspace – fitSpace, so lots for parents too. Full details are on www.settlewimmingpool.co.uk Despite all this Settle Pool is facing big financial problems. Utility bills have rocketed over the past two years; with costs going from just over £1,000 a month to around £7,000. There were hopes that help would come from the £20m Swimming Pool Support Fund set up by the government in 2023 to deal with rising costs , but surprisingly none of the 18 pools in North Yorkshire were given a grant from the fund, despite appearing to meet the three key qualifications, of

being well used; facing threat of closure; and offering the only swimming facilities in their area.

The pool's charity shop set up in 2017 is doing a great job in making a major financial contribution towards keeping the pool afloat. Thanks to the generous donations given by the people of this area the shop, now including a new 'pop-up shop' next to the Royal Oak just off Settle market place and on line sales, brings in around £70,000 a year. But that is still not enough to cover the day-to-day costs and so reluctantly the pool trustees have had to put up costs from December 2023. At the same time they have however set up a new membership scheme that allows regular users to pay for sessions at a reduced rate. So the pool is still keeping afloat but it is now very much a case of use it or potentially lose it.

AUSTWICK TENNIS CLUB SETS RESURFACING TARGET

The Tennis Club is continuing to make progress towards our goal of resurfacing our two main courts in the spring of 2025.

The club annual meeting held in November agreed changes to our constitution which means that we should now become recognised by the tax authorities as a community amateur sports club. That will allow us to claim gift aid on individual donations – adding 25 percent to their value in most cases. Over the next year we will be seeking to raise funds both from our own members and from various grant giving bodies, including the National Lottery and the Lawn Tennis Association. We need to raise a total of around £30,000 so it is a big ask, but we are committed to getting there.

Meanwhile on court, despite an earlier postponement due to bad weather, we were eventually able to complete our annual Sheila Barraclough tournament in early September. The new winners were Jo and Jonathan Voss, who received the trophy from Sheila's husband – Bernard Barraclough, and as the winners were a married couple this year there were no problems in them having to keep the trophy for half a year each.

The winter vets season saw the introduction of our new third team – the Chiffchaffs – to complement our two established teams – the Curlews in division one of the Lancaster and Morecombe League and the Cuckoos in division two. With two teams in the second division, for the first time we are able to play local derbies.

The welcome growth in membership, in part due to the coaching sessions we were able to hold last summer, means that we now hope to return to having three teams in the Wharfedale League next summer.

For the second year running the annual meeting agreed to increase membership fees which from April will stand at £60 for individual members with reductions for families and youngsters. But despite increase

we still charge less than other clubs in our respective leagues and offer social and competitive tennis suitable for most levels from beginners to league standard.

New members are most definitely very welcome – see our website <https://www.austwicktennisclub.co.uk> for details.



Winners of the Sheila Barraclough tournament Jo and Jonathan Voss receive the trophy from Sheila's husband, Bernard Barraclough

CARERS RETREAT

**Friday, June 7, 4pm to Sunday,
June 9, 3pm**

Parcevall Hall, BD23 6DG

Run by the Church of England Diocese of Leeds, this retreat is especially for those who live with or care for loved ones who struggle

with physical or mental health challenges. There will be space to rest and time to receive from God, and opportunities to learn from Scripture and other spiritual resources about compassion and love for those who care deeply for others. The retreat is led by Revd

Henriette Howarth. For more information please contact henriette.howarth@leeds.anglican.org.

More details and booking information can be found at learning.leeds.anglican.org/event/carers-retreat.

POETRY PAGE: YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME
(Your own poems, or ones written by others which you'd like to share)

WINTER TIME

Here I sit upon my sofa, disinclined to move
It's so dark and dreary, there's never any sun
It's too wet to work on the garden
It's too windy to ride my horse
So should I take up knitting or try an online course?
No! I need to get outside, get some air, get energised
But wait, what do I hear?
The wind is getting stronger, the rain is pouring down

Rattling on the roof tops and thudding on the ground
So what am I to do? I'll keep the status quo
Keep sitting on my sofa with another mug of tea
I'll need a chocolate biscuit or maybe two or three
I know one thing for certain by the time it gets to Spring
I'll be like a Telly Tubby, with wide behind and double chin
Oh dear.

Helen Thompson

NORBER STREAMS

Still silent streams
Hidden by flower and fern
Rain fills your banks silently, softly
Disturbing no lush foliage
Your noisy neighbour rants and roars o'er rocks
Carving a path where it will
Creating a myriad shower of droplets
Catching the sun in rainbow hues
Deep eddying pools break the pattern
Pour over, gathering pace once more
No plants resist your flow
Some put down roots, only to be swept on
by your full spate power.

Molly Preston

WINDS OF TIME

An eerie wind came whistling through the trees
A thousand souls that whispered from the past
What was their message?
Telling of days gone by
Wisdom gained through life's experiences
Days to celebrate, bountiful harvests
Lean years, difficult times, Achievements or sorrows,
Part of life's pattern
Should we pause and ponder
Heed their calls?
Or was it just the wind
Whistling though the trees?

Molly Preston

ASYLUM SEEKER

I do not understand
Back home
Talk flowed
Like mountain streams
I can't communicate
Back home I belonged,
Family, friends,
Familiar faces
Tall rugged hills
Beamed benignly
On that small dwelling
We called home
Back home, sunshine
Here, sullen skies
Squeeze out yet more rain
Is this the promised land?

Molly Preston

DEREK COULTHERD 'JOKES'

*The elephant is a pretty bird
It flits from bow to bow
It builds it's nest in a rhubarb tree
And whistles like a cow*

Small children in school doing English.
A little girl puts her hand up to attract teacher,
and says "Please Miss, Jonny Sutton's gone and
putt'n putt'n when he should have putt'n put"



**ONLINE TALK:
ACCESS THE
DALES**

**Wednesday 17 January,
4.30pm**

Since becoming a wheelchair user in 2011, Debbie North has campaigned tirelessly to break down barriers and promote countryside accessibility for all. Founding the charity, Access the Dales, whose motto is 'making the inaccessible accessible', there are now nine 'free to borrow' all terrain wheelchairs available from designated sites across the Dales.

Debbie was also appointed Cabinet Office Disability and Access ambassador for the Countryside in 2022. This talk offers a unique opportunity to learn about the successes and improvements Debbie's campaigning has achieved, along with the challenges still to surmount.

<https://friendsofthedales.org.uk>

**FRIENDS OF THE
DALES - BOOKING
ONLINE TALKS**

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

The talk can be booked via our Events page:
friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Or via:

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



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NATURE NOTES JANUARY 2024



This time last year, I was remarking in these notes on the remarkable fungi arc which had appeared on the Clapham Road verge. They were Trooping funnels or Monk's head mushrooms I was informed by a mycologist, smell of almonds and edible and delicious.... but please don't take my word for it in case they are toadstools in disguise and potentially very poisonous! Anyone travelling along the road will have seen them appear again this autumn in the same spot in a graceful arc and another group (this time in a straight line) further along the road.

Another natural phenomenon to watch out for this winter are the wonderful waxwings which come to Western Europe including UK in large groups searching for berries every few years when their Scandinavian food sources are exhausted. This year is supposed to be a good year for seeing flocks of these beautiful birds stripping berries on trees here in the North. The last time this took place was in the autumn 5 or 6 years ago when they were spotted stripping a Cotoneaster bush of its berries on Clapham Road.

Sticking with berries, I stumbled across an excellent book called "Discover your Woods-Trees of the Dales" by David Joy via the YDMT

office in Clapham a month or so ago, which included an interesting section on rowan trees. Rowan trees were commonly planted near houses and farms to ward off evil spirits and were thought to protect milk and were thus often found near milking sheds. The second part of its name *sorbus aucuparia*, derives from the Latin for catching birds and the berries were used by wildfowlers for attracting their prey. And contrary to popular belief, the berries are not poisonous to humans and the book provided a traditional recipe for rowan jelly. Sadly, by the time I read the book the two rowan trees in our garden had been stripped of berries and the trees are now bare. I was therefore thwarted in my effort to produce a prize-winning jelly in next year's Village Show! Anyway, here is a traditional recipe from the 1940s for anyone still with a rowan tree with berries (and plenty of sugar to hand):

Take 2lbs of berries (stalked); 2 lbs of apples cut up but not peeled or cored; juice and rind of one lemon; 1 teaspoon of cloves. Cover with water, boil to a pulp, strain through a bad all night, boil up to a jelly the next day, allowing 1lb of sugar to each pint of juice. Pot and cover and leave for a month before using.

I visit the Archimedean screw hydro scheme at Settle Mill weir fairly regularly and it is well worth a visit to see the water thundering over the weir and the screw turning and generating green energy. And just upstream of the weir a family of otters were observed one afternoon in September by a friend of



mine, enjoying the still water behind the weir. At times of modest flows over the weir a heron can often be seen at close quarters and if you are really lucky, a handsome dipper is also sometimes present, both birds watching out for food on the rocky outcrop just downstream of the weir.

I was pleased to be asked to talk to the Afternoon Fellowship group in September and took the opportunity to speak about a beautiful and very rare wild flower with pink or white flowers called Meadow Saffron aka: "The Naked Lady", which flowers (without any leaves) in September/ October, in a remote part of Lawkland Moss.

The main topic of my talk to the Fellowship however was the amazing variety of wild flowers in local verges and embankments around Austwick as well as on Oxenber. The past year seems to have been a bumper year for the wild



flowers; the embankments on the A65 Settle bypass as well as the bridleway from Austwick to Feizor were a blaze of colour for many months. I managed (with help from excellent photographer Chris Leeming) to photograph the wide variety of flowers on our doorstep from January right through to



September, even finding 21 different flowers still in bloom in Oxenber Woods in late September.

If you see any interesting birds, animals or plants in the Austwick area this Spring please let me know.

Graham Cleverly
graham@cleverly.co.uk



**OUR LIFE IS LOVE:
REFLECTIONS ON HEALTH,
AGEING, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND
WELLBEING, IN OUR PLACE
AND TIME**

**The Bowland and Ewecross Deanery Churches
series of Lent Meetings 2024**

A series of discussions on Health, Ageing, Young People, and Wellbeing, with speakers working in each of those fields talking about the particular circumstances of their practice at this time. With bible reflections and prayer, each session will give us the opportunity to explore the challenges of our times. The final session will be a plenary led by Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, the new Bishop of Ripon, who will help us reflect on how Christians in our area might engage more fully with these issues. Everybody is welcome.

Five Wednesday evenings at Settle Parish Church 7.00-9.00pm

21 February *Health* with speaker Dr Colin Renwick, local retired GP

continued on next page...



THE FOLLY

Museum of North Craven Life
& Coffee House

The Museum is currently closed for building work, due to be completed by Easter 2024. Please check our website's *What's On* page for updates: thefolly.org.uk. The Folly Coffee House is open as usual.

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... continued...

28 February Ageing with speaker Jonathan Kerr, chief officer for Age UK North Craven

6 March Young People with speaker Gareth Whitaker, Headteacher at Settle College, with a group of Sixth Formers
13 March Wellbeing with speaker Leon Fijalkowski, Strategic Director at Pioneer Projects, Looking Well Studios, Bentham

20 March Plenary Session - how the Church and others in our communities support each other with all our previous weeks' speakers; chaired by,

and including an address by Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon. Refreshments served on arrival. Parking available at car park opposite the Parish Church Holy Ascension, Church Street, Settle BD24 9JA.

Enquiries: Revd John Davies, john.davies@leeds.anglican.org, 01524 805928

'Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.' Isaac Pennington, 1667

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