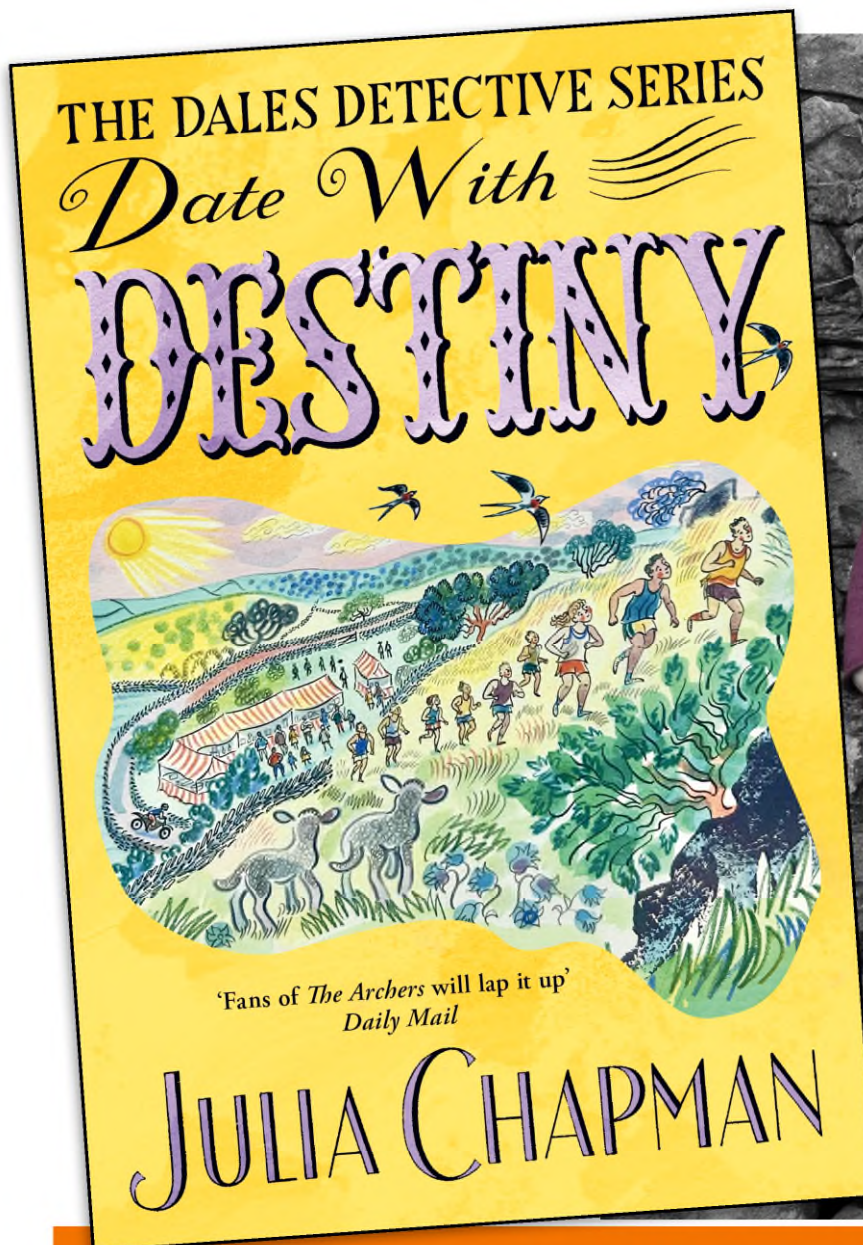


AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER

FREE
to all
residents and
visitors!

Austwick, Eldroth, Feizor, Lawkland and Wharfe
May to August 2025



JULIA'S DATE WITH DESTINY

Local author Julia Stagg reveals that she does most of her writing
'while running up on the fells'.

Read more in *Homeworkers of Austwick*, Page 15

Also inside: *It's Street Market time again! All the details, Page 11*

AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER: YOUR COMMUNITY PAPER

I am delighted that our Austwick Home Worker for this edition is author Julia Stagg (Nom de Plume Julia Chapman), she of the wonderful Dales Detective series - just as the last book in the series is published. If you haven't started book 10 yet, set some time aside as you won't be able to put it down!

YOUR SUPPORT

This Newsletter is made possible by the financial support of Austwick PCC, with valued contributions from the Parish Council and other local organisations. If you would like to help sustain the Newsletter's continuing publication by becoming a subscriber - with a suggested donation of £10 per annum - please contact Colin Renwick or transfer to the bank account: Austwick PCC, Account no. 10127671, Sort code 20-78-42.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles should be around 300 words and, if possible, accompanied by a high-resolution photo. We reserve the



Mark Robinson,
Newsletter Co-ordinator

right to edit copy as we are limited by the number of pages that we can print. Printed copies are provided to all households and a version is made available online. Please send copy to me, Mark Robinson, at: austwickparishnews@gmail.com.

ADVERTISING IN THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Advertising rates are £35 for a quarter page for the 3 issues in a year. Please send advertising queries and payments to Colin Renwick: colinrenwick@btinternet.com.

Publication of advertisements does not imply endorsement or recommendation of the products and services.

THANKS

We are very grateful to Revd John Davies for doing the page design, to Ann and Roger Moore for organising distribution, and for all those who deliver the Newsletter to each house in our area. If you would like to help with the production or distribution of the publication in any way, thank you: please contact us.

SPONSOR A MORECAMBE BAY WALKER!

On Saturday 21 June a number of local people are taking up the challenge to walk Morecambe Bay, to raise funds for our Anglican churches. The guided walk takes a route between Arnside and Grange, and is between 5.5 to 9 miles depending on the safest route. To sponsor Revd John, and Colin Renwick, who are supporting Austwick Church please go to the church's website bit.ly/austwick-church. Thank you!



EV Charging

Electrical

Battery Storage

Solar PV

James Burrow

07766 740779

Info@jburrowelectrical.co.uk

CROSSLEIGH STORES AND POST OFFICE

- Post Office
 - Postal Services
 - Banking & Cash withdrawals
 - Euros on demand
 - One4all Gift Cards
 - Phone Top-ups
 - Drop and Go mail service
- Newsagents
 - Newspapers & magazines
 - Home delivery service
- Coffee Rijo
 - Freshly ground
- General Stores and Off Licence
 - Fresh bread & pastries
 - Cheese & meats
 - Fruit & vegetables
 - Selection of wines
 - Glass hire service

National Lottery Outlet

Iain & Michelle Williams,
Main Street, Austwick 01524 251415.

<https://www.facebook.com/crossleighstores>



A BUSY TERM FOR THE CHILDREN AT AUSTWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL!

We had an incredibly busy Spring term, with many trips and exciting events. Both Class 1 and 2 enjoyed a day out in York, visiting the National Railway Museum and Yorkshire Museum, supporting their recent history topics (*pictured*). They have also had some adventurous days out caving, as well as Tag Rugby tournaments at North Ribblesdale. Parents have enjoyed coming into school to join Praise Assembly and our Science Fair where the children had designed lots of different experiments and investigations.



Austwick C.E. (VA) Primary School



Our lovely village school welcomes children from
Austwick, Clapham, Horton, Stainforth
& surrounding areas



- ✓ Around 50 children in small classes with experienced teachers & TA support
- ✓ Before & after school care
- ✓ Clubs & sports
- ✓ Outdoor activities & Forest School

Our recent inspection (2024)
"Pupils thrive in ... this small, friendly school."

"The school makes good use of its beautiful surroundings to enhance the broad & interesting curriculum. This helps pupils to rise to the school's high expectations..."

"Pupils achieve well."

'Every day is an open day - we'd love to show you round'

Beth McHardy (headteacher) 015242 51366 for our latest 
headteacher@austwick.n-yorks.sch.uk news see Facebook

We are looking forward to another busy term after Easter, with lots planned, including a trip to Edinburgh for our Year 6 children and further outdoor activity days. Our PTA will be planning summer fundraising events soon, look out for details on posters and on the PTA Facebook page. As always, we are very grateful for the support we receive from so many in the local community.

We will also start rehearsing for our Summer production, which will be taking place in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 15th July. Community tickets will be available from school closer to the time.

There will be some opportunities for local people to volunteer in school, listening to children read.

Please do get in touch if this is something which would interest you and we can explain what the requirements would be:

Beth McHardy,
headteacher@austwick.n-yorks.sch.uk,
015242 51366.



THE GAME COCK
BAR • RESTAURANT • BAKERY
& ACCOMMODATION

The restaurant offers AWARD-WINNING food in a warm and comfortable surroundings. With a range of food to suit everyone's taste, from traditional English to French and Mediterranean dishes.

Our Bakery prepares freshly baked goods; breads and patisserie lovingly crafted by Eric each day.

We sell all kinds of goodies that will make your day even better!

Fancy a stay? We have 5 Luxurious En-Suite Rooms

Bar	Restaurant	Bakery
Mon & Tues: Closed all day Wed: 12pm - 10pm Thu - Sat: 11:30am - 10pm Fri - Sat: 11:30am - 10:30pm Sun: 12pm - 7pm	Mon & Tues: Closed all day Wed - Sat: 12pm - 3pm 5pm - 8pm Sun: 12pm - 4pm	Mon & Tues: Closed all day Wed: 11am - 10pm Thu: 9am - 10pm Fri - Sat: 9am - 10:30pm Sun: 9am - 7pm

TEL: 01524 51226 EMAIL: info@thegamecockinn.co.uk
www.thegamecockinn.co.uk



DALESBRED

SOFAS • CHAIRS • CURTAINS • BLINDS
SOFT FURNISHING • INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE
BESPOKE CABINETRY



MADE BY US
FOR YOU

Don't throw it away!

The Courtyard, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 9JY
dalesbred.co.uk | 01729892907

Nigel Metcalfe Ltd

Architects
Certificated Surveyors In Remedial Treatments
Timber, Damp & Condensation Specialists
General Building * Joinery * Roofing * Plastering
Property Maintenance * Subsidence
Woodworm & Dry Rot Control
Conservation / Listed Buildings
Architecture, Planning & Building Control



T: 01524 805796
E: nigelmetcalfeltd@gmail.com

**Unit 10, Ironworks House,
Warton Road, Carnforth,
Lancashire LA5 9EX**

B&W Funerals
(Brown & Whittaker)

James G Macdonald & Tara Wilson
Private Chapel of Rest



Ingleton, Burton, Bentham, Austwick,
Clapham, Settle, Wray, Hornby, Caton,
Kirkby Lonsdale & all the surrounding areas

We offer our own Funeral Plans on request

6 Chapel Lane, Ingleton, Carnforth LA6 3FX
jmfunerals@gmail.com
Tel: 015242 41293 or 61370
Mob: 07758 002260 or 07912 568672 (Tara)

24 Hour Service - call 015242 41293

Find us on Facebook

AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW 2025

The date for this year's Village Show will be Saturday August 2nd 2025.

The Show is open to all adult residents of the villages of Austwick, Eldroth, Feizor, Keasden, Lawkland and Wharfe together with members of local associations, clubs and societies within the parish of Austwick, whilst the children's classes are open to all.

The event is held every year in Austwick Parish Hall and attracts many residents and visitors in the afternoon following the judging, to view the exhibits and enjoy the delicious home-made cakes and refreshments. Items on display this year will include locally grown fruit and vegetables, artistic flowers, flowers, cookery items, eggs, handicrafts, artwork and photography.

First-time entrants - both adults and children - are especially welcome to take part in the Show this year, and the Show Committee hope that parents will encourage their children/ grandchildren to enter the Show. As introduced in the 2022 Show, there is a special prize for the best first-time adult entry again in this year's Show.

If you plan to enter the Show this year for the first time but are unsure how to go about it, the Show Schedule gives full details on how to enter. However, if you need any advice on what to do, please contact the Chairman, Graham Cleverly, email: graham.cleverly1@gmail.com or mobile: 0788 1823380, or contact one of the other Show Committee members for advice.

The 2025 Show Schedule format has had a major

makeover for this year (thanks to Doon Storey) and contains all the details of how to enter, including full details of this year's recipe item (carrot cake). The Schedule and two Entry Forms are free and will be available from Iain and Michelle at Cross Leigh Stores, or from the Chairman, Graham Cleverly, from early July, or can be downloaded from the Village Website: www.austwick.org/village-show.

All the classes for this year's Show are summarised below so you can

begin your preparations shortly. Please try and support the Village Show again this year, either by exhibiting your home-grown vegetables or soft fruit or flowers from your garden, home-made cookery items, art or photography or just by coming along in the afternoon to enjoy the refreshments, and to view all the exhibits and see which exhibits have won a cup or trophy.

*Graham Cleverly
Village Show Chair, 2025*

Austwick Village Show
Austwick Horticultural and Village Produce Association
President: Mrs Pam Smith

**Saturday
2 August
2025
2.00 pm**

**Exhibitor Information and Entry Forms
inside and on
www.austwick.org/village-show/**

**Presentation of Cups and Prizes: 3.30 pm
Refreshments and Raffle**

Admission: adults £2, children under 14 free

the TRADDock

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

Open for Lunches:- Monday to Saturday:- 12.00pm - 2.30pm

Sunday Lunch:- 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Afternoon Tea:- Served daily: 3 - 5pm* Cream Tea: 3 - 5pm

Dinner:- Everyday: from 6.30pm* (8.30pm last orders)

Tel: 01524 251224 email: info@thetraddock.co.uk

www.thetraddock.co.uk



HARRISON & CROSS LTD

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

SETTLE: 01729 823423

harrisonandcross@gmail.com

Come and visit our electrical appliance showroom

Chest freezers, larder fridges, washing machines, tumble dryers, dishwashers, cookers, microwaves and vacuum cleaners and small appliances.

Electrical contractors qualified to complete full or partial re-wires, PAT testing and installation certificates.

Unit 6, Sidings Industrial Estate, Settle

www.harrisoncross.co.uk



Jacky Hickson

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES



Confidential & affordable Bookkeeping Services which can be customised to suit your business.

Providing Bookkeeping, VAT, Payroll, & On-line Tax submission.

Jacky Hickson MIAB, Lupton Croft, Lawkland, Austwick, via Lancaster LA2 8AT

P: 01524 251182 M: 07823 331512 E: info@jackyhickson.co.uk W: www.jackyhickson.co.uk



Friendly Bike Repair Service in the Dales

Call: 07746140362

Email: dalesdoctorvelo@gmail.com

Facebook: [dalesdoctorvelo](https://www.facebook.com/dalesdoctorvelo)

AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW 2025: FULL LIST OF CLASSES

Flower Section

1. Four roses, on individual stems.
2. Three gladioli.
3. Four garden pinks of any variety.
4. Four pansies or violas.
5. Four pot marigolds (Calendula).
6. Four French or African marigolds.
7. Four dahlias.
8. Four phlox.
9. Three stems of a flowering shrub.
10. Nine spikes of sweet peas.
11. A container of sweet peas.
12. A vase of hardy annuals.
13. A vase of hardy perennials.
14. A bowl of roses.
15. A bowl of nasturtiums.
16. A flowering house plant.
17. A house plant grown for its foliage.
18. A cactus or succulent pot plant.

Artistic Flower Section

19. "English country garden"
20. An arrangement of "On the Beach"
21. An arrangement: "At the Movies"
22. An arrangement of "Tropical Summer"
23. An arrangement in "A Shoe".

Vegetable and Fruit Section

24. Four white potatoes.
25. Four coloured potatoes.
26. Three carrots.
27. Three beetroot.
28. Three white onions.
29. Three red onions.
30. Seven shallots.
31. Two leeks.
32. Five bulbs of garlic.
33. Six pods of peas (podding).
34. Six pods of broad beans.
35. Six pods of French beans.
36. Six pods of runner beans.
37. Two courgettes of any variety.
38. One cauliflower.
39. One cabbage.
40. A trug of vegetables.
41. One cucumber.
42. Four ripe tomatoes.
43. A truss of tomatoes.
44. One flower and one vegetable
45. Four distinct vegetables on a tray (max.18"x 24").
46. Up to six culinary herbs - not in flower.
47. A plate (up to 7" diam.) of one variety of soft fruit.
48. A plate (up to 7" diam.) of two to four varieties of soft fruit.
49. Any vegetable or fruit not included elsewhere.

Egg Section

50. Three hen eggs.
51. Three bantam eggs.
52. Three hen eggs (for content).
53. Three bantam eggs (for content).
54. Three eggs from any other poultry.

Cookery Section

55. Four seeded bread rolls (brown or white).
56. Four Shrewsbury biscuits (rolled and cut).
57. Four fruit scones.
58. Four pieces of tray bake.
59. Four brownies.
60. A Victoria sandwich cake.
61. Recipe Item: Carrot cake (recipe provided)
62. Four muffins, sweet or savoury.
63. A named vegetarian savoury dish.
64. An individual cold dessert.
65. A fruit pie with crust top & bottom.
66. A jar of jam (labelled).
67. A jar of sweet or savoury jelly (labelled).
68. A jar of marmalade (labelled).
69. A jar of lemon or other citrus curd (labelled).
70. A bottle of home-made cordial or non-alcoholic drink (labelled).
71. A bottle of home-made wine or liqueur (labelled).
72. A jar of pickle, relish or chutney (labelled).
73. Children only: four decorated buns (judged on decoration only)

Art Section

74. A painting in any medium: "Still Life"
75. A painting in any medium and of any other subject.
76. A drawing: "A Form of Transport".
77. A drawing of any other subject (in any medium but not using brushes).
78. Four different photographs on the theme "On the Water".

79. Four different photographs on a theme of your choice.
80. A single photograph: "Light and Shade".

Classes 74-80: Items to be titled and mounted; frames are acceptable.

Classes 78-79: Items on a single mount up to A3 size (30 x 42 cm; 11¾ x 16½ in) or equivalent area

Class 80: Item on a single mount up to A3 size (30 x 42 cm; 11¾ x 16½ in) or equivalent area.

Handicraft Section

81. A papercraft item.
82. A handmade bag, box or bowl.
83. Any item of internal or external decor.
84. Any item using embroidery thread.
85. A knitted or crocheted item.
86. An item of any other needlework (e.g. patchwork).
87. An item of felt work which may include embellishment.
88. Any other item unable to be included elsewhere.

Children's Section

89. Artwork, under 5 years.
90. Artwork, 5-8 years.
91. Handwriting: A verse of a poem or nursery rhyme
92. A painting or drawing of "A monster"
93. A poster with a theme: "Keep Austwick Tidy"
94. A photograph: "My Holiday" (taken by the exhibitor).
95. A decorated letter of the alphabet.
96. A collage on a plate of my favourite meal.
97. A vegetable/fruit animal.
98. A model made from junk.
99. A miniature garden.
100. Artwork 9-14 years.
101. Anything you like. You made it: let us see it. (No larger than you).



A Certified Level 3

Dog Groomer



Hannah Cook

07772006454

threepeaksgrooming@gmail.com

6 Bankwell Road, Giggleswick, Settle, BD24 0AN

AUSTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The first sentence of the May 2024 Parish Newsletter said: ‘After one of the wettest, greyest winters for some time, the hope will no doubt be for some warmer, drier weather in the coming months’. The last few weeks could not have been more different, with continuous blue skies and sunshine, only occasionally spoilt by some brisk Easterly winds. This prolonged spell of fine dry weather is good news for the Parish Council’s maintenance budget, because early grass growth has been relatively slow and Ben Shanks, our Parish Lengthsman, has not had to get his mower out too often!

As has been stated many times in this newsletter, Ben is an invaluable asset to the Parish Council and Austwick residents and has carried out grass cutting and a wide variety of maintenance work in the Parish since 2015. However, following a severe fire at his home earlier this year, together with the increasingly physical demands of the job, Ben has taken the decision to retire as our Lengthsman at the end of March 2026. Thankfully, he intends to stay at The Croft, once the rebuilding work is completed and will no doubt offer assistance and advice to his successor, once an appointment has been made.

It would be premature to say ‘goodbye and thanks’ to Ben until next spring. In the meantime, we are in discussion with him about who and how this essential work should be done in the future. We welcome inputs to this debate from any Austwick residents with ideas to contribute.

Regular readers of the Parish Newsletter may recall that, in the last edition, we reported that the national Planning Inspectorate had at long last decided Thwaite Lane would be recorded as a bridleway, which should mean that it forever remains such, all the way from St James’ Church in Clapham to Townhead and then on to ‘Slaindale’ on Wharfe Road. We said that this decision was final “subject to any last-minute objections”. Well, there were objections, four of them, but perhaps most significant is one from the Green Lane Association (known as “GLASS”), a national body promoting public motorised access (4x4s and motorbikes) and who wish to see the route be recorded as a Byway Open to All Traffic (known as a “BOAT”). This organisation is not to be confused with the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance “campaigning to free green lanes from recreational vehicles – where the tarmac stops, vehicles should stop”.

GLASS has requested a formal further Public Enquiry be held, so that evidence of driving/riding a motorcycle along Thwaite Lane can be produced, hoping thereby to reverse the decision. Objections are usually dealt with by written submissions, which incurs much less cost to

the taxpayer. The upshot of GLASS’ request is that an Enquiry will take place, in front of a Government-appointed Inspector, starting on 30th September. Requests for this to be held in either Austwick or Clapham parish hall have gone unheeded, and at the time of writing we wait to hear whether it will be held in County Hall, Northallerton, or ‘virtually’ (using ‘teams’ software, with all parties attending and participating using laptop computers, tablets or smartphones), or maybe a ‘hybrid’ of the two.

When we know the decision on this, and have more details about how the Enquiry will be organised, we will put up a poster to inform all Austwick residents. However, a final word of optimism: If the inspector accepts new evidence of the use of Thwaite Lane by public motorised vehicles, we believe and hope that legal precedent will prevent it becoming a BOAT meaning public – recreational – motorised used would not be permitted on the route (private rights would be unaffected) – and the Lane would then be a bridleway forever – fingers crossed!

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 remaining Parish Council meeting dates for 2025 are: May 19th PC Meeting, Annual Meeting of PC & Annual Parish Meeting; June 30th; September 1st; October 13th; December 1st. 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 also encourage residents who come to our meetings to participate and engage in the debate. It is a valuable contribution to our proceedings when residents attend and contribute.

We particularly invite you to come to the Annual Parish Meeting on May 19th at 7.30pm. 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 Council are:

Peter Goold, Chairman 015242 51039

Barbara Tibbatts, Vice-Chairman 01729 860240

Kate Smith 01729 860225

David Dewhirst 015242 51190

Marijke Hill, Parish Clerk 01729 823723

AUSTWICK PARISH HALL: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Can you spare 2 hours a month to help to maintain Austwick Parish Hall? Are you new to the village, would like to meet people and get involved?

We need volunteers for the following roles:

1. 'BUILDING MANAGER'

You do not need to be an expert nor do you need to be able to fix anything yourself! The role involves liaising with the caretaker and arranging the essential regular maintenance and safety checks in the hall. There is a short checklist to follow and involves booking the professional 6 monthly check of the fire alarm system and emergency lighting; a 5 yearly check of the entire electrical system and fixed electrical equipment and booking the annual service and any other maintenance of the boiler and heating system.

2. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

We are investigating the installation of solar panels and looking to the future when the hall's oil boiler may not be replaceable. We would also like to do a major improvement to the fabric of the hall. Help is needed to investigate the options, possible grant funding and to manage any project. You do not need to have previous experience, just an interest in improving the hall and making it fit for the future.

3. TRUSTEES

The hall is registered charity held in trust for local people and relies on volunteers to run it. There are



vacancies for several trustees. As a team we need a range of interests, experience and skills including health and safety, insurance, risk assessment and management, finance, administration, general management, marketing, sourcing equipment and furniture, and policies such as safeguarding. There is also plenty of scope for new ideas. We have four quarterly meetings a year lasting about 2 hours. The chair, secretary, treasurer and vice chair (currently vacant) are elected at the AGM in February.

If you think that you may be interested, or to find out more, please contact the chair, Lindsey Smith lindseyinaustwick@gmail.com; secretary, Sarah France sarahdljo@hotmail.com; or treasurer and booking secretary, Kevin Hale, bookings@kxhale.co.uk, for an informal chat.



Bespoke framing in Eldroth

Hand crafted frames for art work,
photographs & nearly anything
else that can hang on a wall

karen@blueframe.co.uk

07790 596975

www.blueframe.co.uk

AUSTWICK WI

We had a lively start to the year with our members' Pies, Peas and Poetry evening. In February we stretched our creative talents (mine well past breaking point) making our own pastels and drawing charcoal landscapes with artist Penny Hunt. Julia Piggot took us on a whistle stop tour of flowers and bees in March. She stressed how important it is to grow a diversity of flower types and to maximise the flowering season to support as many different pollinators as possible – she also reminded us that a messy garden is often a wildlife friendly garden, which is a message I've very much taken to heart. This month we had a sobering but excellent talk from Springfield Domestic Abuse Support.

Coming up we have a talk by a contestant of the Sewing Bee in May and one of our own members will be telling us all about her Adult Gap Year in June. We'll be running the Street Market teas in the Parish Hall as always and we also have visits to Parcevall Gardens and Blackwell House. Finally, in July, it's our annual garden party.

We meet in Austwick Parish Hall, at 7.30pm every second Thursday of the month and new members and visitors are very welcome. You can also find out more about us on our Austwick WI website (<https://austwickwi.wixsite.com/austwick-wi>).



Fitted Furniture

TIMBERWORKS
JOINERY

Specialist retailer of Crown Imperial Bedroom and Office Furniture

From custom wardrobe configurations to innovative drawer systems, Timberworks' design service ensure every inch of space is utilised efficiently and personalised just for you.

Imagine stepping into a room that exudes luxury and comfort, designed not just for beauty but blissful functionality.

Get in touch to book a free design appointment.

01729 823669
info@timberworksjoinery.co.uk
www.timberworksjoinery.co.uk

Timberworks Joinery Ltd
Unit 3 Seward Industrial Estate
Settle
BD24 9AF



iPrint

YOUR LOCAL DESIGN & PRINTSHOP

design/artwork colour printing digital copying business cards flyers photo printing
posters & large photo prints lamination scanning to digital media document binding canvas printing banners, signs & cut vinyl decals

20 STATION ROAD • SETTLE • BD24 9AA

TEL: 01729 823990

hello@iprintshop.co.uk
www.iprintshop.co.uk



PREMIUM COFFEE SUPPLIER
BLINDMAN COFFEE
Yorkshire Dales | England
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FLAVOUR

Austwick based online coffee and tea supplier

Premium coffee freshly roasted and dispatched rapidly across the UK

Rated 'EXCELLENT' on Trustpilot
"Excellent service as usual. Incredibly quick fulfilment and beans roasted to order."
Highly recommended"
Yorkshire Dales | England

www.blindmancoffee.co.uk

SCAN QR CODE TO GO TO BMC WEBSITE

Do You Love Cheese?

Come and visit Austwick's specialist cheese emporium!

A unique range you won't find elsewhere:

- Hand made traditional cheeses
- Cheeses made on the farm
- Raw milk cheeses

01729 823 291

Open 7 days a week

Buy online:
thecourtyarddairy.co.uk



**Visit: The Courtyard Dairy
at Crows Nest Barn,
A65 (between Settle and Austwick), LA2 8AS**

AUSTWICK STREET MARKET AND CUCKOO FESTIVAL MONDAY 26TH MAY 2025, 9.30AM – 4PM

The cuckoos are ruffling their feathers and the hunting is being ironed...it's almost Street Market time again in the village.

Highlights of the day not to be missed will be the Thwaites Dray Horses, Settle & Giggleswick Brass band, classic vehicles, jazz music, skittles, The Austwick Amble Fell Race and all the local crafts, produce, the plant stall and baking. The legendary 'spares' and bric-a-brac stalls will offer great opportunities to bargain hunters and lovers of vintage treasures. Younger visitors will enjoy the games, activities, face painting and children's entertainer – Juggling Jim!

- If you would like to adopt a ready-made wooden cuckoo, please email mark_stickland@yahoo.co.uk to register for one.
- If you already have a cuckoo please give it a Superhero glow-up, ready for the second Bank Holiday weekend.
- If you can, buy Grand Draw Tickets and sell some to your friends and family – excellent prizes up for grabs
- Bake biscuits or small cakes for the Bus Stop Cafe, scones for the Scone Stall.
- Donate plants for the Plant Stall (to Beck House).
- Buy tickets for the Bingo Night on Saturday 24th May – available in the Village Shop or via Martin Pettiford.



Pull on your capes! All villagers are invited to decorate their cuckoos in a Superhero theme this year. Please see below if you'd like a cuckoo to decorate and put up in your garden/ in the village.

All funds raised on the day are invested back into the village – the total amount is shared between the Parish Hall and the Playing Fields for the upkeep and care of our brilliant village facilities.

It would be great to see as many people getting involved and helping support the village as possible:

- Have a spring clean and donate all saleable unwanted gifts, toys, books, household items, small items of furniture and bric-a-brac: collection nights in Austwick Tuesday 20th & Thursday 22nd May.

The centre of the village (by permission of the council) will be closed to traffic on the day of the Street Market from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm between the green with the cross and the bottom of Townhead Lane. The roads in this area need to be clear of vehicles before 8am on the day please.

This is a huge fundraising effort for the village and run entirely by a team of volunteers. If you are willing to help with the collections, volunteer on a stall during the day or help support in any way please contact Mark Stickland mark_stickland@yahoo.co.uk 07780 333 867 or Janet Heap janheap@hotmail.co.uk 07709 252 613.

*Thank you all for your help and support,
The Street Market Committee*

°°** *Angel Dust* **°°

*Quality Local
Home Cleaning Service*

★NEW★
Ironing Service
now available

Tel: 07713 297925
015242 51228

For further information

(School Term Time Only)

○○☆☆○○☆☆○○☆☆○○☆☆○○☆☆○○☆☆○○☆☆

Duncan Robinson
FUNERAL SERVICES

For a personal and dignified service
with private Chapel of Rest

Unit 2 Kings Mill Lane,
Settle, BD24 9BS

Tel 01729 825444

24-hour service

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 



AUSTWICK CYCLES

Servicing & repair of road bikes, hybrids, MTBs by Cytec-qualified Shimano-certified mechanic. 20 years experience of hub bearing replacement, wheelbuilding, hydraulic brakes, tubeless tyres.



Fully-equipped workshop, sensible prices
Free estimates & advice
Neil Thompson (ex- Formula 1 Engine Design)
4 Hall Close, Austwick, LA2 8BX
015242 51465 or mobile 07765 129563
austwickcycles@gmail.com

AIRE VALLEY
Glass

PVC	Aluminium	Hardwood
-----	-----------	----------



A Family firm established over 35 years, we supply and install top quality windows and doors PVC and Aluminium, as well as Composite Doors, Sliding Sash Windows, Bi-Fold Doors, Roofline & Conservatory Roofs



No Pushy Salesmen | Free Quotes | Two Showrooms

Bridge Road, Sutton-in-Craven
Keighley BD20 7ES

01535 634788

enquiries@airevalleyglass.co.uk

Dalesview Business Centre
Old Road, Clapham LA2 8JH

015242 51705

www.airevalleyglass.co.uk

BEEHOLES AND ERRATICS: MOLLY PRESTON'S HISTORY NOTES

Two country terms you may not know about...

“Cripple Hole”

A small passage under a dry stone wall in a pasture field area. It enables sheep to move easily from one field to another when the grass has been eaten down. Not big enough for large animals or humans unless crouching very low (hence the name). When not in use, covered by a large slab of stone. A more extensive cripple hole is under Slaindale Lane (which leads from the crossroads and is opposite Thwaite Lane). A tunnel was made under the lane reinforced by large slates on its roof.

“Beehole”

A beehole is a hole in a garden wall large enough to accommodate a ‘shep’ which is a construction made of straw to accommodate a swarm of bees. It provided shelter from the weather before the time of wooden bee hives. Honey was at one time the main sweetener as sugar was too expensive for any but the rich. There is still some evidence of the beeholes in the village, the best example being in the garden wall at Townhead farm house.

Oxenber

Oxenber is the wooded hill southeast of the village. In the central wood entered by the gate from the lane are the remains of limestone quarries. The stone from these quarries was used for many years to build many of the older houses in the village, especially those around the greens. These houses can be recognised by the limestone corner stones - any with sandstone are later as sandstone had to be transported in from other areas. It must have been a massive task as all the stone had to be brought down the lanes by horse and carts. On the summit of the hill is an area of superb limestone pavement, locally known as the housefloor. The pavement was originally a solid mass of stone, but with limestone being porous, water drained through the cracks which eventually became deep fissures with shade-loving plants such as ferns taking root. Also on the summit is a deep, wide, hole, locally known as the Ashpot, which might have been a collapsed cave. In the more recent times, a fireplace of large stones was constructed and was the site of many a village campfire cooking session. Chris Cheetham, the local famous naturalist, found what he thought was the remains of ancient dwellings on the perimeter. Hazel trees grow in abundance, and it was a popular pastime in Autumn to gather the nuts.

Norber

Most people are aware of our famous Norber erratic boulders (the huge blocks of millstone grit perched on limestone pedestals) but we didn't realise how far was the fame. One day (probably about 20 years ago) I was chatting to my neighbour, Peter Child, in the back garden. A car stopped on the roadside and a man got out to talk to us. He said he was from Switzerland and had used our boulders as a prime example when teaching geography all his working life – and now he had retired, and had come to see them and couldn't find where they

were. Peter volunteered to drive him and myself to a suitable stopping place, then we walked to the site (the man's wife stayed in their car.) He was overjoyed to see the boulders, saying he would not be coming this way again. When we descended towards the lane, a redshank (bird) was perching on the gate, and it just added to the atmosphere. We felt so proud of our local famous area.

A recent conversation with a neighbour reminded me of the village water supply, which came out of the ground in Norber Field. The amount of water on a regular basis was enough to supply the whole



*Making use of the cripple hole.
Coxons Farm, 'X' (Twitter)*

village and replaced the reliance on the village wells. I believe it would be in Victorian times. You can still see the grates which cover the entrance to chambers. Over the years, many more houses were built in the village which meant that the supply was no longer sufficient, also the pipes had to go downhill and then up again before it entered the village; it was a leaving a build up of sediment on the lower part. The water supply then went on the national grid.

One of the superb features of Norber is Robin Proctor's Scar, a steep cliff which is best viewed from Thwaite Lane. There are all sorts of legends concerning the name. Tales were told of a man falling over and being killed. The rumour was that he was measuring the land and fell over, which seems rather careless as he knew it was there. The cliff is home to many nesting birds. At the base and towards Thwaite Lane is a flat, marshy area know as Town Waite, home to birds preferring wet areas. We may wonder why we don't find remain of ancient settlements on Norber as the hill people (iron and bronze ages) lived on other hills. The experts have come to the conclusion that they were likely to have looked at the Norber boulders as something alien and to be avoided.

ELDROTH PARISH HALL: A HUB FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Eldroth Parish Hall offers a welcoming and well-equipped space for our community. At our recent AGM, we were pleased to report a comfortable net profit, a testament to the hall's popularity and the dedication of our committee and volunteers.

With improvements, ample parking, a spacious main hall for parties and sports, and a smaller meeting room, the hall remains a top choice for both community events and private functions. Over the past 12 months, we've seen a significant increase in bookings, with regular activities such as pickleball, yoga, and badminton.

Events & Fundraising Success

The Quiz & Curry Nights in October 2024 and February 2025 were a hit, with the winning teams sharing £50 Booths vouchers. The annual Easter Bingo was a chocolate extravaganza, bringing together families and friends for a fun-filled evening.

In December 2024, we invited valued members of our community to a Christmas Lunch, showing our appreciation for their contributions. We also saw the return of our Wreath-Making Workshop, participants enjoyed mulled wine, nibbles, and a prize awarded by our guest judge. With limited spaces, this is always a sell-out event, so keep an eye out for future dates!

We're proud of our fundraising efforts. A Charity Coffee Morning, complete with bacon butties, raised an impressive £439.24, which was split between the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Settle Swimming Pool.

Looking Ahead – Join Us!

The community spirit doesn't stop! Coming up, we have our Annual Eldroth Summer Walk & BBQ on



Eldroth walk and BBQ taken in 2024

Saturday, 28th June, setting off at 11:30 am from the hall. The walk is free to all, and for those who prefer a more relaxed afternoon, you're welcome to skip the walk and join us for the BBQ and social gathering. (BBQ meals must be pre-ordered.)

Jo Airey, Chair

AUSTWICK OPEN GARDENS, SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2025

Sixteen wonderful Austwick gardens will be open between 10am - 5pm.

Some gardens you may have seen, several have developed since last seen at 2023's open garden event and some you will never have seen before!

It's going to be an impressive variety of gardens - bigger, smaller, works in progress, recently replanted, traditionally maintained, professionally redesigned, dedicated to rewilding, vegetables, relaxation... the work of keen amateurs new to gardening and of green fingered old hands.

Tickets and map: You'll be able to get your ticket from Austwick Shop or from Gwen Cleverly. Watch out for posters with the date of ticket availability. You can pick up your map with details of the gardens from the Parish Hall on the day or in advance when you buy your tickets. Buying in advance means you'll be able to plan your route. The cost is £5pp (no charge for children up to 16years) and each ticket includes offer of a free cup of tea or coffee or a cold drink at the Parish Hall.



Refreshments: With your complimentary drink, there'll be treats too - Austwick's own fantastic array of home made delicious cakes to indulge in. All available for sale all day at the Parish Hall.

I hope you are still reading because we need YOUR HELP please. We'd appreciate your offers of help now to ensure the refreshments add to the fundraising. Can't make the day a success without you!

We will need offers of cakes, offers to help serve the refreshments, offers to sell tickets in the Hall. Short time slots will be arranged so you, too, will have time to admire the gardens. Please contact me with your offer of help - thank you.

Funds: All the proceeds from the day will be donated to the Austwick Nature Recovery Programme and to the Craven Wildlife Rescue Centre.

The Open Gardens 2025 needs you! Bake, buy a ticket, help on the day. Enjoy the gardens in our beautiful village.

Please contact me, Gwen. Thank you. 07753 220042

HOMeworkERS OF AUSTWICK

#5: JULIA STAGG, AUTHOR

As an author, the requirements for a 'workspace' are pretty low! If I have pencil and paper to hand, or my laptop, I can work. So while I 'work from home', I'm fairly fluid as to where I actually sit to write. Sometimes it's in my office, looking out at the sheep. Sometimes it's in the kitchen. But what I appreciate most about living in this area is that I have easy access to the best workspace of all. The fells.

It always surprises people when I tell them that I do most of my writing while running up on the fells. But it's true. There's something about being alone up there that releases my creativity and I find I come back full of ideas for how to move my latest novel forward. So if I'm wrangling with a particular plot line, I simply pull on my running shoes and head for the hills. We're blessed with so many stunning routes around here – some of my favourites are Crummackdale and up towards Thieves Moss; over towards Feizor and Smearsett Scar; or the lovely slopes of Moughton and then the long run across the top.

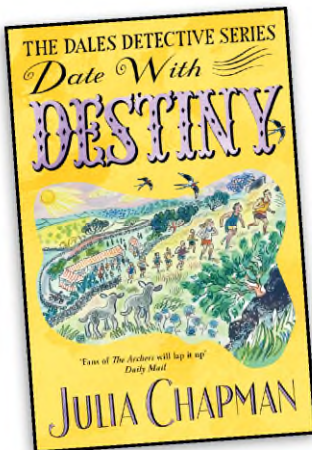
All of them involve a bit of effort but I think it's that effort which releases my thoughts. By the time I'm onto the tops, I'm relaxed and my ideas are firing. Of course, the trick is to remember it all when I arrive back home all hot and tired! Sometimes I'll make frantic notes as soon as I get in the door. Other times the images are so vivid, I know I won't forget them.

Then it's simply a matter of putting the kettle on, opening up the laptop and



turning those ideas into words with a cuppa to hand. I say simply. There's many a day when the long slog up the fellside seems like the easiest part in the process!

Book cover artwork credit: Emily Sutton



opening up the laptop and

POEMS BY MOLLY PRESTON

Where's my breakfast – said the birds

You're supposed to be a wild bird finding your own food – worms, grubs,
seeds – said the humans

But you have started feeding us, you can't blame us for taking the easy
way – said the birds

But we have been told to feed you, we are told
you aren't managing to cope – said the humans

and we do like to hear you singing
and watch your funny little ways
so perhaps we'd better carry on



Nature

The supreme showman
puts on her spectacular display
thunder roll, lightening flash
the moon through each phrase
glides through wispy clouds
on nightly journey
water
tides, cascades, whirlpools
movement
frozen water, patterns, shapes, forms
snowflakes, each one unique
rocks
water formed, strange shapes
trees
wind blown, twisted, bent

ELDROTH CHURCH

In 2024 it was good to see the church being used for other things as well as worship. The Parish Choir started using the church for rehearsals, the Doodlers art group used it as a place for artistic inspiration and a local walking group used the church grounds to do their warm-up and cool-down routines.

The Parish Choir

Although known as the Parish Choir it actually serves all 4 churches in our Benefice, Austwick, Eldroth, Clapham and Keasden. In early summer 2024 Roland Fudge took on the role as Musical Director and “got going” at the end of August. Speaking to Roland recently he explained that initially one of the main tasks was finding suitable music that worked well for everyone. Working together, learning and adjusting as they go, the group have taken on new challenges as well as featuring some of the more familiar items. They began meeting in Eldroth Church when Roland became involved. There is a slightly flexible core of about 12 members, who are committed to the weekly rehearsals needed for each of the services involving the choir. When asking Roland how it was going and how he would sum it all up, he answered with a smile “It’s lovely!”

The Doodlers

A little later in the year we were contacted by the ‘Doodlers’ - a small group of local artists who were interested in drawing aspects of the church and its surroundings. A visit was arranged and they attended on a sunny afternoon in September. Following this, we received a kind

message from the group thanking us and saying that they had really enjoyed themselves, were all “delighted with this lovely church” and also reading about its history. We look forward to welcoming them back. *(Below: a sketch of the church from that visit).*

Cream Teas, Harvest Dominos and a Harvest Ploughman’s Lunch

It’s great to see the church is being used in different ways like this. As we look forward to the coming months, we invite you to join in with our community events – Cream Teas, 5th July, Harvest Dominos and light supper 7th October and Harvest Ploughman’s Lunch 11th October, to name a few. Look out for further details nearer the time. Everyone is welcome – and as well as having a great time, your support helps us to keep this special little church at the heart of our community.

Julie Greenwood, Churchwarden



SUPPORTING CHILDREN’S CHARITIES

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) and The Children’s Society will now both have Collection Boxes in and around the parish.

After a somewhat bumpy start, I am delighted to announce that we’re finally off the starting blocks with the two charities running in tandem.

Please accept my apologies, those of you who were left wondering what was happening to the 2024 Children’s Society collection, and thank you for your patience and understanding. With the magnificent offer of help from Pam Smith, most of the boxes have been collected and I will soon be able to send a cheque for several hundred pounds to The Children’s Society, with Austwick PCC being informed of the final amount. So, very many thanks to all those who

faithfully popped the pennies into their boxes in 2024 to help support needy children. As soon as the receipt is received from the Society, I will post copies in the village and environs.

As those of you with whom I met know, in 2025/26 I will personally be helping to raise support in a variety of ways for the charity, Transforming Lives for Good (TLG), which helps children in the locality with educational, emotional and nutritional support. Watch out for more on this in the near future.

The original intention was that while collecting the 2024 Children’s Society boxes, I would explain to box holders that I would be organising collection boxes for TLG for 2025/26 and that I would invite holders to

collect for this charity *if* they were happy to switch. While everyone I spoke with was happy to change, since then, Pam has very kindly offered to continue the Children’s Society collection, so we are now working together with both charities - which is perfect. However, it is only fair to offer a switch-back option to anyone who kindly took a box for TLG prior to the recent re-institution of The Children’s Society collection. So please don’t hesitate if you’d like to do this - just let me know next Spring when I collect; it is not a problem – your valued contributions will absolutely go to the Society of your choice!

*Many thanks to all,
Liz Hampton*

JOHN'S NOTES: IN THE ABSENCES OF OUR WORLD, A PRESENCE

The one person who is missing from Luke's description of the events at the tomb on Easter morning is Jesus himself. We never see him.

We witness his faithful group of women friends carrying their precious burial spices; we see them at the open tomb shocked to find two men in dazzling clothes speaking mysterious words; and later we watch Peter getting up and running to the tomb, but finding nothing but discarded burial cloths. We may share these people's perplexity, their terror, their amazement, as with them, it dawns on us, that in the tomb where Jesus had been laid, *there is no body*.

There is no body. The absence of God is something you and I may sometimes ourselves experience. We ask, *Where is God when it hurts? Where is God when there is so much suffering?* We ask, *When I pray, is anybody there?*

These questions have been a recurring theme of art and literature through the ages. The great Welsh 20th Century priest and poet R.S. Thomas was very concerned with the absence of God. His poem *In Church* opens with this question: "Is *this* where God hides / From my searching?"

In the deadly silence of a country church Thomas "nails his questions One by one to an untenanted cross." He's doing just what Jesus did on that very cross, when he cried to the darkening skies, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

An awareness of absence can feel *eerie*. The writer Mark Fisher said that things feel *eerie* "if there is *nothing* present when there should be *something*". It's the feeling you may get when visiting a ruined ancient monument, like, say, Castlerigg stone circle, and you sense the absence of the people who created these structures, which makes the atmosphere in the stones strange, unsettling.

On a more commonplace level, we may encounter a sense of *the eerie* when we're moving house, standing in an empty building which yesterday was home to us, full of familiar objects, our words now oddly echoing through the abandoned rooms.

At the edge of a wide open field a farmer described to me *the eerie* absence of insect, bird, and animal life which he said once teemed through the hedgerows. And at the water's edge a fisherman lamented *the eerie* lack of life in a once-thriving river.

This sense of their being *nothing present when there should be something* can extend to our wider society. What would a time-traveller from a century ago returning home, make of their village today, the hustle and bustle of everyday rustic activity around the green now replaced by an eerie calm, the sundry busy small businesses they'd have known, now become private dwellings, with their occupants lying low behind locked doors.

We may feel that *we're living in an era of absence*. In our lifetimes we have witnessed the steady dismantling of the post-war settlement so that the doctor, the policeman, the bank manager, even the shopkeeper, once so present and available to us, are now remote, accessed digitally; they may even be a *chatbot*, not a human. Many lament a growing *absence of moral leadership* corresponding to the rise of the technocratic elites: an absence of trustworthiness, of empathy, of care. When we sense these

things *lacking* in society when we feel they should be *there*, then our world starts seeming eerie.

The Easter story invites us to pay attention to Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, the other women, and to Peter, and what they did on that odd morning, in response to the absence of Jesus.

"They remembered his words," Luke records. "That the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." *They remembered his words*, and this set them running, running to tell the others *what they hadn't seen* - and what that must mean.

In another of R. S. Thomas's spiritual poems, *The Absence*, he wrote: "It is this great absence / that is like a presence, that compels / me to address it without hope/ of a reply."

"It is this great absence that is like a presence." It may sound incongruous, but maybe not to those who are bereaved, who have experienced those moments of remembering that our loved one is no longer here, but somehow, in that same instant, we've felt that loved one as close to us as ever. As Oscar Romero said, "There are many things that can only be seen through eyes that have cried."

"It is this great absence that is like a presence." This is the inverse of *eerie*: for whilst there is *nothing* present, there

is *also something*. For R. S. Thomas that *something* is the God who hides from his searching. For Jesus' friends that *something* is their resurrected Lord: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" asked the shining men in the tomb. So they ran back home, confidently assured that they would find him among the living. Which, in time, of course, they did.

In the terrifying *absences* of our world there is a *presence* which offers healing, comfort, and hope. It is a *presence* which is never extinguished. All spiritualities sense this, and express it in various complementary ways.

The Hindu *Chandogya Upanishad* says, "There is a light that shines beyond all things on earth, beyond us all, beyond the heavens, beyond the highest, the very highest heavens. This is the radiant light that shines in our heart"; whilst the Gospel of John speaks of the One "In [whom] was light, and that light was the light of humankind". This is the Word who was with God at the beginning, who *was* God; this is the Word who became flesh and came to live among us.

In the terrifying *darknesses* of our world there is a *light*, which is the source of our life and its fulfilment. It is a light which never goes out.

We have seen what Jesus' friends did on that oddest of mornings, in response to the absence which they had found. Easter invites us to join our spirits with theirs, and with sombre old R. S. Thomas, in seeking for the understanding that *what we haven't seen* could be, for us, *the most substantial thing we have*.



Luke 24:12 "But Peter arose and ran to the tomb" bible art

This was John's Easter Day message, preached at Austwick Church on 20 April. Revd John Davies, 01524 805928; john.davies@leeds.anglican.org Churches website: bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick John's talks: bit.ly/johndavies-talks

ALL YOUR CHURCH SERVICES THIS SPRING AND SUMMER

4 May Easter 3
9.30 **Eldroth** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion
6.30 **Newby Chapel** Evening Easy
Church: Ephesians

11 May Easter 4
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Keasden** Holy Communion

18 May Easter 5
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Easy Church
7.00 **Keasden** Lambing Service

25 May Easter 6
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion
6.30 **Eldroth** Evening Prayer
Thursday 29 May Ascension Day
10.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
(replaces Wednesday service*)

1 June Easter 7
9.30 **Eldroth** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion
6.30 **Newby Chapel** Evening Easy
Church: Ephesians

8 June Pentecost
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Keasden** Holy Communion

15 June Trinity Sunday
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Easy Church
6.30 **Eldroth** Evening Prayer

22 June Trinity 1
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion
7.00 **Keasden** Community Worship:
Beer and Hymns

29 June Trinity 2
10.30 **Eldroth** Benefice joint Holy
Communion

7.00 **Clapham New Inn** Church in
the Pub

6 July Trinity 3
9.30 **Eldroth** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion
6.30 **Newby Chapel** Evening Easy
Church: Ephesians

13 July Trinity 4
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Keasden** Holy Communion
6.30 **Clapham** Evensong with the
Choir of St Oswald's, Guiseley

20 July Trinity 5
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Easy Church
6.30 **Eldroth** Evening Prayer

27 July Trinity 6
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion
3 August Trinity 7

9.30 **Eldroth** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion
6.30 **Newby Chapel** Evening Easy
Church: Ephesians

10 August Trinity 8
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Keasden** Holy Communion
17 August Trinity 9

9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Easy Church
6.30 **Eldroth** Evening Prayer

24 August Trinity 10
9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion
Time TBC: Keasden Summer Walk
31 August Trinity 11

10.30 **Keasden** Benefice Holy
Communion (Rev'd Steve Rathbone)
7.00 **Clapham New Inn** Church in
the Pub

Also, each Wednesday:
10.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer) *except
28 May, transferred to Thursday 29th

AUSTWICK TENNIS CLUB: PAINTING THE COURTS GREEN

Things are looking good at the tennis club right now: not least because our two main courts have just had a fresh coat of paint, completing the resurfacing work that was started last autumn.

Hard courts like ours need to be resurfaced every twenty years or so to prevent cracks developing. It is a big job and a costly one. But thanks to grants from Tarmac, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the Craven Trust, plus some generous donations from members and club reserves, we have managed to get the job done without going into the red.

We're planning to celebrate shortly with an official 're-opening' event led by TV Sewing Bee presenter Patrick Grant, who is both a local resident and keen tennis player. We also aim to follow that up with an open day, to give local residents a chance to enjoy the sport we love and

hopefully encourage more of you to join our club. Look out for details.

Our regular summer coaching sessions are due to start on Tuesday 22 April and run through every Tuesday until September. To sign up and for more details contact Robert Bellfield on robertbellfieldcraven@gmail.com or phone 07912565466.

Meanwhile our teams have enjoyed a comparatively successful winter in the Lancaster and Morecambe League: our first team, the Curlews,

finished second in the top division; our second team, the Cuckoos, retained their place in the second division; and our third team, the Chiffchaffs, finished a respectable third in the third division.

We are now looking forward to our summer season of evening matches in the Wharfedale League and all three teams are keen to recruit new members, as are the ladies, who play in the Bradford Parks League. You can find all the details and team contacts on our new website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AustwickTennisClub>

Finally, on a sad note, this winter saw the death of three club members, Kath Gerrard, Anne Ellison and most recently Richard Michaelas, who before his retirement, together with his wife Frances, ran the Traddock. We will miss them all and offer our condolences to their families.



AUSTWICK PICCALILLIS PICKLEBALL CLUB SPRING 2025



Since the last newsletter, we have been very busy enjoying our pickleball. We have had social play, graded play, private groups & coaching sessions every week to improve our skills & most importantly, have fun!

In November players went to the pre European Championships Competition. Congratulations to Gordon who won a silver medal in the Men's Doubles & to Karen & Gordon for reaching the quarter finals in the Mixed Doubles. Karen also narrowly missed out on reaching the Knock Out Round in the Ladies Doubles.

Players have also taken part in several Festivals & we had a Jacob's Join Christmas Social with some great costumes! There were numerous Father Christmas outfits that proved quite warm to wear! A Christmas Festival down at Whalley was also great fun! We had players who travelled to Leeds for the Game, Set & Match Competition. Pam collected a Gold Medal whilst Jill,



Heather, Ann, Clare & Kath collected Bronze Medals.

Karen played in the PPL for Wimbledon Royales, taking part in competitions around the country & playing against some of the top players in the country. Hayley & Susie collected Silver Medals at the Cambridge International Team Tournament, Michael competed in the Telford Doubles Tournament & Pam,

Ann & Clare competed in the Cardiff Open. Congratulations to all our players for representing our club & promoting Pickleball around the country.

NW League has expanded to 18 courts playing monthly & we have 2 teams in the NW Team League. We are looking forward to the English Open & the English Singles Competition as well as the English Nationals later in the year.

The popularity of Pickleball has meant that we have reluctantly decided to close our membership temporarily & instigate a waiting list. If you are interested in playing Pickleball, please email us at austwickpickleball@gmail.com for further information.



Jigsaw Exchange

We are taking a break for the summer.

We will resume our monthly coffee morning and jigsaw exchange in Austwick Parish Hall between 10.00 and 12.00 on the second Wednesday of each month, from October 2025 to March 2026.

Donate a jigsaw, borrow one or complete one.
Stop for a coffee and a chat.

Our next session will be 8 October 2025 at 10.00.
We look forward to seeing you then.

AUSTWICK BOWLING CLUB

April sees the beginning of the new bowling season - the green has been well maintained over the winter, the club house has been spruced up and all in all we are ready to go - a big thank you to all concerned.

Our first club game was on 19 April and we welcome any new members of all abilities - please do come along either to watch or even join in. We hold open sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday; Saturdays are club matches and friendlies are with other clubs.

For more information, please contact John Jebson on 01729 825786 or Di Rees on 0759 928 2533 you will be most welcome.

SETTLE POOL AT 50

This summer sees the 50th anniversary of the official opening of the Settle Area Swimming Pool and there are plans for a big celebration to mark the occasion.

The highlight will be a carnival to be held at the pool on Saturday 21st June. There will be entertainment and stalls in the carpark. Settle College have let the pool make use of the playing field behind the building. There will also be events in the pool itself.

The organisers have taken their lead from Austwick's own Cuckoo Festival with a similar mixture of activities – though without the fell race. One

familiar feature will be the presence of the Giggleswick and Settle brass band were who were among the first to sign up for the event. Events will start at 10am and run through to 4pm. In



advance of carnival there will be an auction and social evening at the North

Ribblesdale Rugby Club on Friday 6 June starting at 7pm. Further details of both the carnival and rugby club event will be publicised nearer the time.

In order to provide a lasting record of the pool's first 50 years and how the community came together to build the pool, the Museum of North Craven Life, based at the Folly in Settle has agreed to work with the pool to create a permanent on line exhibition. If you have materials or photographs that you would like to feature in the exhibition or have memories that you would be happy for us to record for the project do get in touch again through info@settle swimmingpool.co.uk.

SETTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY'S HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

A free service for people of all ages who are unable to get to the library or carry books for themselves.

"Having been a library member for 80+ years, it's sad when a decrease in mobility or lack of means to actually get to a library takes away that pleasure of an hour spent browsing the shelves and coming home with a bagful of books. So when a friend who is a user of the Home library Service contacted them for me, suddenly a whole

new world opened up - a fortnightly visit from a friendly volunteer who discussed my likes and dislikes, favourite authors etc. now, less TV, more enjoyment of a good book! So I thank the organisers and volunteers of this brilliant service and long may it last." - a customer's view of Settle Community Library's Home Library Service.

We look forward to hearing from you. Tel: 01609 534535, email: homelibraryservice@settlelibrary.org.uk.

ABBAY SLATING & TILING

**Traditional Roofing Contractor
Austwick**

- Roofing Contractor to Local Authorities and Charities
- No job too small and no call-out charges
- Over 30 years experience

**Safe Trader
Scheme**

Tel: 07934 802046

NORTH CRAVEN HERITAGE TRUST - TALKS 2025

Thursday 15th May @ 7.30 Michael Pearson on 'The Ecology of Dry Stone Walls' @ Austwick Village Hall.

Wednesday 4th June @ 10.00 am or 14.00pm Andrew Jarman of Ingleborough estate to arrange a walk/talk on 'Reginald Farrer – Rhododendrons of Ingleborough', with a possible Cave walk extension.

Thursday 10th July @ 2.30 pm David Johnson walk talk at Mealbank Quarry, Ingleton subject to permission.

Thursday 14th August @ 2.00pm. Heather Lane; walk/talk on NCBPT starting at the Folly, then Dr Buck's House and Zion (with an option to drop out after Dr Buck's for the less fit). Presentation at the Folly as an inclement weather option.

Tuesday 9th September @ 7.30 'Underground and Overground – the archaeological caves and landscapes of Ingleborough Common' by Rick Peterson @ Rathmell Reading Room.

Monday 6th October @7.00 John Hartshorn speaking about 'Rewilding' @ Settle Quaker Meeting House.

Tuesday 18th November @2.30 Martin Lunn on 'The Great Northern Eclipse' @ Long Preston Village Hall.

December – possible interactive as 2024 or talk TBA.

AUSTWICK FIELD AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Spring and Summer 2025 Programme of Talks

The spring season of talks by local speakers has been well attended and the society now has more than 80 paid-up members including residents of Settle, Clapham, Giggleswick and Bentham as well as local members from Austwick and Lawkland. The two most recent evening meetings attracted over 60 members and guests. Recent interesting talks have covered various field and local history-related topics including Limekilns, Yorkshire Navvies, Ospreys, Archaeology of Saudi Arabia, Butterflies and Bats. By the time you read this, the two remaining society evening talks this spring season will be: Wednesday 21st May: An illustrated talk by Bob Swallow on the Settle-Carlisle Railway; Wednesday 18th June: An illustrated talk by Sam Lewsey from the Yorkshire Peat Partnership on the Swarth Moor Restoration project. All are welcome and the cost for non-members is £3 per person (cash only please) at the door. Refreshments will be available. Talks start at 7.30 pm in Austwick Village (large) Hall.

This summer the society has organised two field visits: The first is to Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust and located near Levens in Cumbria, to see the nesting Ospreys, accompanied by Alastair McKee from the RSPB/ Cumbria Wildlife Trust. This visit will be on Wednesday evening 25th June 2025, and starting at the reserve car park at 7 pm. No dogs please! The second visit is a guided tour of the Hoffman Kiln on Wednesday 9th July, led by David Johnson, starting at 6.30 pm from the car park near the Kiln in Langcliffe. Again, no dogs please. More details to follow to AFLHS members shortly and please note numbers are limited to 20 in each case on a first come first served basis. Both visits are free to members. If you are not currently a member and would like know more about our talks and summer visits or to be included on our records for future meeting notices, please contact our membership secretary Tony Horsewill on tonyhorsewill@me.com.

Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026 Programme of Talks

Evening talks during autumn 2025 and spring 2026 will as usual be in Austwick village (large) hall on the third Wednesday of each month from September 2025. The evening meetings programme is now virtually finalised for 2025/26 and will comprise talks on: RSPB bird investigations/ prosecutions, Edward Elgar's links to Giggleswick, The Clapham Wader Monitoring programme and 2025 results, Drovers, Wild Ingleborough, Craven Place Names, Geology Giants, Common Land, the work of the Craven Animal Wildlife Rescue Centre, and Palaeontology (Sharks in the Dales). Details to follow.

Nature Recovery Schemes: Update

The current status of several "Nature Recovery" schemes for which funding and volunteer support through AFLHS grant applications is either ongoing or planned.

Schemes adjacent to the public footpath in Austwick: Both the landowners adjacent to the public footpath agreed in the autumn to take part in a scheme to prepare and sow wild flowers on their land adjacent to the the public footpath. The first section (owned by Pip and Alec Rigby) has been sown with EM3 wild flower seeds and yellow rattle seed in the spring. These seeds were paid for by money advanced from the Open Gardens event this summer. Some plug plants have also been provided more recently by volunteers comprising primroses, ox-eye daisies, knapweed and melancholy thistle. It is likely that the yellow rattle and plug plants will flower this year, but the EM3 seed is more likely to appear next spring (2026). The land owner (Kath Hartley) of the woodland area adjacent to the footpath meanwhile developed a plan of action through landscape designer Margaret Wilding for the adjoining plot and the work is now virtually complete including substantial wall repairs, tree felling adjacent to overhead power cables, ground preparation and planting of plug plants, shrubs and trees and sowing woodland seeds. As above, the woodland seeds including bluebells and snowdrops are likely to germinate this spring but not begin to flower until at least next spring (2026). Volunteers undertook the ground preparation and provided plug plants (primroses and snowdrops).

The procedure for sowing wild flower seed has been informed by the experiences of developing the hay meadow at Austwick cemetery. The first season following seed sowing is typically disappointing and flowers only begin to make a significant showing in the second and subsequent seasons. But it is well worth the wait and everyone is encouraged to visit the cemetery wild flower hay meadow this spring.

Hay meadow restoration scheme

A large grant application was submitted by AFLHS in March to the Dry Rigg Environmental Fund in order to allow



Cantores Salicium & Camerata Salicium

Spring Concert

Sunday May 11th 2025 at 4.30 pm

Christ Church Skipton, BD23 2AH

Mozart Requiem

Beethoven Romance in F for violin & orchestra

Works for unaccompanied choir

Leader & soloist: Christopher Karwacinski Conductor: Lindy Williams

Soloists: Jennie Marsden, Sophie Clarke, Oliver Heath, Jonny Hill

Tickets £15. Students and benefits claimants £7.50. 18 and under free.

Reserve via choir website or from choir members or on the door.

Image: Mozart circa 1780,
Posthumous painting by Barbara
Krafft 1819 (Public domain)

www.cantores-salicium.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1194200





WAYNE DUNN HOMETECH
T: 07817 256 290
E: Wayne@WDHomeTech.co.uk
f @WDHomeTech

- ✈ AERIAL & SATELLITE
- 📶 WIFI & NETWORKING
- 📹 IP/HD CCTV SYSTEMS
- 🔒 HOME SECURITY
- 📺 TV & AUDIO
- 🔥 SMART HOME CONTROLS

SETTLE COAL CO. LTD.

STATION ROAD, SETTLE, NORTH YORKSHIRE BD24 9AB
PHONE: (01729) 822534 / 823372 FAX: 823077

**Coal Merchants - Builders Merchants
General Hardware - Work clothing & Boots
Calor & BOC Gases & Equipment**

**Hire: Small tools, Skips (mini to 20 cu.m.)
Cranes, Hiab and wagons**

**Car & commercial road springs - trailer spares
Bearings - Oil seals - V-belts**

NEW SHOP OPEN FOR TRADE AND DIY

MARTIN PETTIFORD

All types of building work undertaken:

- GENERAL REPAIRS/ALTERATIONS
 - NEW BUILDINGS
 - EXTENSIONS
 - FIREPLACES
 - ROOF REPAIRS
 - TILING
 - POINTING

Telephone: 015242 51677

martinpettifordbuilding@gmail.com

the restoration of a traditional hay meadow near Feizor, adjacent to the public footpath. The two farming families who own the field/ wall boundaries have kindly given approval to the scheme which will comprise strimming of encroaching brambles on one side of the field by a local contractor, followed by sowing a wild meadow seed mix by volunteers. The half of the field with an existing hay meadow (the Feizor side) will also be strimmed and additional wild flowers sown or plug-planted. The scheme also includes substantial repairs to the dry-stone wall and new fencing to keep stock out of the field, and strimming over the next 3 years each autumn by a contractor to maintain the hay meadow sward. Unfortunately during the consultation stage a single objection has been lodged by Natural England because (unknown to us) part of the site is in the Oxenber wood SSSI, and discussions are ongoing on how this issue can be addressed.

Sand Martin Nest Box

This scheme comprises a 12-bird artificial nest box to be made by local volunteers (timber and accessories cost c.£450) and located in a field adjacent to Austwick Beck with the land owner's permission. Sand martins typically reconnoitre new nests in the first season and will hopefully occupy the nests the following season.

A small grant application for the timber and other materials for this scheme was approved by YDMT in April and work on constructing the nest is expected to start as soon as possible. Volunteers will be needed to move and locate the box on the edge of Austwick Beck once the nesting box is constructed.

Gardening Questionnaire

Members of AFLHS were recently sent a questionnaire on Nature Friendly Gardening. Thank you to all those who responded. Results of the survey will be published soon.

Further Schemes

All AFLHS members are invited to suggest further local Nature Recovery Schemes for consideration by the AFLHS sub-committee, especially in Wharfe, Eldroth and Lawkland.

Graham Cleverly, AFLHS Chair

SETTLE ORCHESTRA SUMMER CONCERTS

After two hugely successful performances of our Spring programme in March, we are looking forward to our Summer concerts on 21st and 28th June at Settle Parish Church and Christ Church, Skipton when we will play Mendelssohn's overture *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, Schubert's *Symphony No. 3*, and then Ewan Hudson, a regular member of our horn section and one of our younger players, will be the soloist in Weber's breathtaking *Concertino*.

After graduating from Leeds College of Music in 2017 Ewan went on to study for his Undergraduate Degree in Music at the University of Liverpool, where he achieved the highest recital mark of the academic year for his performance of Strauss' 1st Horn Concerto in 2022. Ewan then completed his Masters in Classical Performance and became the first recipient of the Sarah Barrow Excellence in Music Bursary. Ewan's time in Liverpool would see him join the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra in 2021, briefly returning for the orchestra's 2025 tour of Tuscany as part of the Florence Youth Orchestra Festival. Now back in Yorkshire, Ewan performs regularly with multiple orchestras across the North-West, both as a soloist and principal horn.

Thanks to a generous legacy from a former member of the orchestra – Dorothy Wrathall who played the violin with us for many years – admission to these two concerts will be free. Donations will be welcome and will be split between the Orchestra and Jessie's Fund www.jessiesfund.org.uk, a charity which helps children with serious illness, complex needs, and communication difficulties through the therapeutic use of music.

Given the success of our previous concerts, we recommend that you book your tickets in advance. These will be available from Forage & Feast in Settle, orchestra members and online at www.settleorchestra.org.uk. They will also be available on the door, subject to availability after advance bookings for which seats will be held until 15 minutes before the performances start at 15:30 and then released for general admission. We look forward to seeing you!



Summer Concert

Sat 21st June, 3.30pm
Settle Parish Church

Sat 28th June, 3.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

Mendelssohn
Overture, 'Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage'

Weber
Horn Concertino
Soloist - Ewan Hudson

Schubert
Symphony No.3

Conductor - **Harry Lai**
Leader - **Anne Heaton**

Free admission, thanks to a generous legacy from Dorothy Wrathall. Donations welcome: these will be split between Settle Orchestra and Jessie's Fund - www.jessiesfund.org.uk

Tickets available from Forage & Feast, Settle, Orchestra members and online at settleorchestra.org.uk. Also on the door subject to availability.

 jessiesfund.org.uk

Settle Orchestra reg. charity 1025554



THE FOLLY

Museum of North Craven Life
& Coffee House

Come and see what's
new at your
museum...

Free Entry

Find us on Victoria Street in Settle

www.thefolly.org.uk
01729 825185

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 505438



LEKKER WINES
DRINK BETTER - THINK LEKKER



MIXED WINE
CASES

Town End, Clapham Road,
Austwick, LA2 8BQ
telephone: **07775 957 499**
email: info@lekkerwines.co.uk



WINES FOR
WEDDINGS & EVENTS

WINE ADVICE, TASTINGS & FREE LOCAL DELIVERY*

Free local delivery within a 25 mile radius of Austwick. Free Delivery applies to orders of 6 bottles or more

www.lekkerwines.co.uk

PICTURES THROUGH THE SEASONS

SNOW AND FLOOD: WINTER PHOTOGRAPHS FROM CHRIS LEEMING...



... AND SPRINGTIME FLOWERS PHOTOGRAPHS FROM FRIENDS OF THE DALES

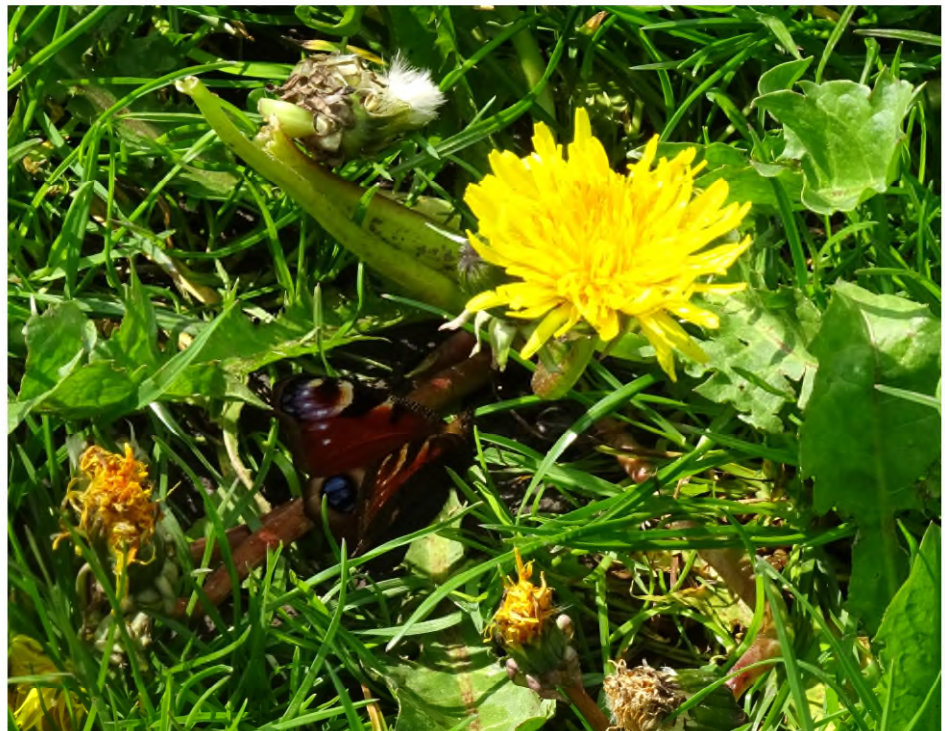


LEFT: RED CAMPION
APRIL 2020
BY ANN SHADRAKE


Friends of the
DALES
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY

friendsofthedailes.org.uk

RIGHT: UNMOWN
VERGE AND
PEACOCK
BUTTERFLY
COURTESY OF
TONY SMITH,
VOLUNTEER WITH
FRIENDS OF THE
DALES



MUSIC FOR TWO SUMMER EVENINGS

Local resident Benjamin Saunders, concert organist and classical accordionist, will be performing at St James' Church, Clapham on Saturday 14th June, 7.30pm. Benjamin is Director of Music for the RC Diocese of Leeds, on the Board of Directors at Leeds College of Music and Visiting Professor of Music at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. His performances are acclaimed. Joe Riley, in Organists Review, wrote: "Revolutionary work... the mixture of adventurism and self-discipline brings dividends... that's why they call him a breath of fresh air."



Read more about Ben and his work at benjaminsaunders.org.

All are welcome to this repeat performance at St James's Church, an organ which Ben considers to be excellent. There will be a bar for refreshments. Tickets £10 (accompanied children free) are available from Clapham Village Store or Sue Mann 015242 51792, and at the door.

St James' Church is also hosting a 50th Anniversary concert by the Lancaster Singers on Saturday 7th June, 7.30pm. The Lancaster Singers are a well established vibrant auditioned choir based in Lancaster, UK with over 50 members. This is one of two summer dates celebrating their half-century of performances, directed by Nathan Smith and featuring pianist Ian Tate. Tickets, £12, are available online at www.lancastersingers.org.

Support our Play Area

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

Scan the QR code to donate £3

or

Text **AUSTWICK** and the amount
in pounds you wish to donate to **70085**

For example:

To donate £5 text AUSTWICK 5 to 70085



Texts will be charged at your standard network amount plus your donation amount. The Austwick Jubilee Recreation Committee is a registered charity (Ref: 508379).

Queries: Austwickplayingfields@gmail.com

**AUSTWICK
PLAYING FIELDS**



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

Barn conversions

New builds

Renovations



BLAITHWAITE
DEVELOPMENTS

Sustainable energy solutions
and
sewage treatment plants

www.blaithwaitedevelopments.com www.blaithwaitehomes.com

charles@blaithwaitedevelopments.com 07958 215639

lauren@blaithwaitedevelopments.com 07946 011026



Margaret Wilding
Garden Designer

* Layout plans * Planting schemes
* Garden advice

5 Townhead Lane, Austwick

07816 166340

www.margaretwildinggardens.co.uk

POEM BY
MOLLY
PRESTON

Flight

The miracle of bird flight
each feather in place
gliding on an updraft of air
twisting, turning, diving
a body streamlined
catching food in flight

Man longed to fly
to mimic the birds
- no wings
first an idea
then a plan
try a model
work it out
will it fly
yes it will
need to modify
too clumsy
adapt,
streamline
to lessen wind
resistance
persevere
Hurray, we've
achieved it
no stopping us now!

Peter Allen
FLOOR COVERINGS LTD

UNIT 2, NEW ROAD, SOWARTH FIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, SETTLE, BD24 9AG

01729 825122

7 DUKE STREET, SETTLE, BD24 9DU

info@peterallenflooring.co.uk

www.peterallenflooring.co.uk



WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE.

- ♦ All types of Floor Coverings.
- ♦ Amtico Design Showroom.
- ♦ Ted Todd Showroom.
- ♦ Made to Measure Blinds and Curtains.
- ♦ Settle's largest Bed and Mattresses Display.
- ♦ A wide selection of Furniture.
- ♦ Rugs.
- ♦ Gifts for the Home.

Amtico
One
Exclusive
Retail
Partner

T
TED TODD

YOUR **CONTRIBUTIONS** **WELCOME**

Whether you have a photograph
or artwork, a poem or article, an
idea for a piece of writing,
anything of interest to our
readers, your offer to contribute
to the Parish Newsletter will be
warmly received. Items for our
September - November 2025
issue will be gratefully received
at any time up to 15 August,
to Mark Robinson at
austwickparishnews@gmail.com
Thank you!

NATURE NOTES

We have had a week of glorious weather already and on this beautiful April morning the fields are full of ewes and new lambs. A trio of swallows arrived yesterday (9th April) and have been roosting high in the sycamore trees and are already checking out suitable nest sites. This is two weeks earlier than last year and lifts the spirits. I hope there are enough insects about for them to survive the next few weeks. It never ceases to amaze me that these fragile birds can fly all the way from Africa to Austwick and miraculously remember where there is a suitable nest site in our garage. I am guessing they are two adults and a juvenile.

Last November my previous article on hedgehogs for the Newsletter unfortunately included two errors. Hedgehogs need to weigh 700gms or more to survive the winter hibernation stage (not 250gms) and hedgehogs should not be fed peanuts which they love but which are bad for them.

I have lost track of all the comings and goings of sick/recovered hedgehogs in the last few months. Those originating from our garden are all named after soup manufacturers. Blackwell, Heinz and Baxter have all returned to our garden following treatment and weight-gain at the brilliant Craven Wildlife Rescue Centre, whilst poor Cross sadly died. Meanwhile further new arrivals (Roxanne and Barnaby) have settled in and are eating the kitten biscuits and drinking much needed water each night. They are an unpredictable but welcome sight in the evening when I lock up the chickens. Unfortunately our chickens have developed a taste for kitten biscuits as have our two cats so it is touch and go whether the hedgehogs get to enjoy them. An infra-red camera set up in the winter near one of the feeding stations to check who was emptying the bowls of



biscuits each night confirmed it was mainly the hedgehogs closely followed by the cats.

My guess is there are about six adult healthy hedgehogs in the garden, including one or two still hibernating (or sadly dead). I plan to keep feeding and giving them fresh water for the next few months to help them put on weight and survive and then hopefully they will do me the favour of consuming all the slugs in the vegetable garden. One or two seem to like the customised shelters provided by the Craven Wildlife Rescue Centre and after ignoring them initially they seem at last to be occupied.

I have a spare box for anyone who wants one and has a suitably overgrown garden. If you think you may have hedgehogs in your garden already put out food and water each night. You can easily tell if hedgehogs are present by the liquorice-like poo they leave near the feeding stations.

I have now met all the Craven Wildlife Rescue Centre volunteers and they do a brilliant job for all wildlife in need of help-especially hedgehogs which are in National decline through habitat loss and road kill. The Centre in the old school house in Horton-in-Ribblesdale is well worth a visit by prior appointment (but take a nose peg). Our grandchildren loved it.

Graham Cleverly

