

AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER

FREE
to all
residents and
visitors!

**Austwick, Eldroth, Feizor, Lawkland and Wharfe
September - November 2025**



SUMMER FUN

Above: young runners at the
Cuckoo Festival races

Page 14

Below: checking out the
entries at the Village Show

Page 9

Also inside: Opportunities in
our Parish Council *Page 3*



AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER: YOUR COMMUNITY PAPER

Just as Austwick hit the national news with extra protection for the neolithic settlement site above the village on Dudderhouse Hill, it was lovely to receive articles to compliment Molly Preston's much-valued history notes from Jill Sykes and Pete Bailey. History is alive in Austwick!! (See Pages 16 and 17)

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 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.



Mark Robinson,
Newsletter Co-ordinator

Please send copy to me, Mark Robinson, at: austwickparishnews@gmail.com / Harden Coach House, Austwick LA2 8BQ / 07801 500352.

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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.

Thanks also to Chris and Judy Leeming for providing many of the photos in this issue, of our Austwick summer events.

If you would like to help with the production or distribution of the publication in any way, thank you: please contact us.



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THE PARISH COUNCIL PLANS AHEAD

Your Parish Council is taking action to ensure its continuity in the years to come. The four councillors currently in post – we are one short at present - have between them a combined council service of 59 years, and at least one of them is ‘not getting any younger’. We need to involve new faces and fresh ideas and energy in looking after the interests of the Austwick parish community.

The present Parish Council term ends in 18 months’ time. We are aiming to appoint several new councillors before that time, allowing one or more of the present ones to retire, and so that the new councillors gain experience of how the Parish Council works in time to achieve a smooth transition when they are reappointed for the new term in May 2027.

The Parish Council’s work is not burdensome. There are eight meetings a year, always on Monday evenings in the Parish Hall, and they usually last for less than two hours. Responsibilities are shared between councillors, so they are not onerous. Our wonderful Parish Council Clerk ensures that we are shielded from bureaucracy to the maximum extent possible; we like to think the meetings are enjoyable and we welcome Austwick residents attending and joining in the meetings and discussions.

Why is all this important? The Parish Council serves our community in three essential ways:

- **Liaising with the National Park** on planning applications. We believe we have earned respect from the Park’s planning officers for providing useful and responsible inputs – and sometimes concerns or an objection to plans!
- **Parish maintenance** - organising to keep in good order the village greens, the road verges and several locations around the village and in Feizor that are used by our residents and by visitors. This is rightly expected of us and paid for out of your council tax. There are also minor one-off tidying and repairing jobs to be done.
- **Acting for the parish community** by communicating with third parties. Examples: reporting damage to footpaths, bridleways, highways and other infrastructure and monitoring actions taken;

responding to consultations; campaigning to protect the assets, legal rights and best interests of our parishioners.

Around the time this newsletter arrives on your doormat, you will see the poster below this article appearing in Austwick village and in Feizor and Wharfe. Please read it and think about it. There are then two ways you can take the matter further:

- **Talk to one of the four councillors** - Peter, Barbara, Kate or David – their contact details are on our website and in the Parish Council’s regular article on Page 11 of this newsletter. They will readily tell you more both informally and without any commitment by you.
- **Come along to one or more of our Parish Council meetings** as a member of the public – others already do – and see how we work and how meetings are run. The remaining dates for this year are 1st September, 13th October and 1st December.

Austwick Parish Council

There is

AN OPPORTUNITY

To ensure that your village & the parish
Is managed well in the future

**RETIREMENT
IS LOOMING**

Your four present councillors have done 59 years
combined service and one or more of them
needs to hand over the task

It’s not onerous, it’s teamwork and it makes a real
contribution to the wellbeing of our community

Read more in the new edition of the Parish Newsletter,
talk to one of the Councillors – their contact details are on
the Parish Council website and in the Newsletter – and.....

**COME FORWARD TO PLAY A PART
IN THE FUTURE OF OUR VILLAGE
AND THE PARISH**

Cllr Peter Goold
Chairman, Austwick Parish Council
September 2025



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AUSTWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL - MAKING GREAT USE OF OUR INSPIRING SETTING

Last term we enjoyed outdoor activity days climbing at Storrs Common, walking up Gummars How in the Lake District, watching curlews at Lawkland Hall farm, trips to Feizor cafe and our annual Oxenber bluebell walk.

Our wonderful school playing fields hosted sports day and saw us all getting soaked at our 'water fun' afternoon. We got together with other local schools for a Mini Olympics at Bentham and rugby at Settle. Plus we had cycling lessons and a new sandpit to install!

The children also worked really hard putting on their summer play, 'Mystery at Magpie Manor'. Parents came along to our art gallery afternoon, and Design and Technology week included making bird hides and fruit kebabs.

Our Y6 leavers had opportunity to experience urban life with a trip to Edinburgh.



Austwick School climbing day at Storrs Common

We are so proud of their brilliant SATs results and wish them well at their new schools.

This September we are welcoming more new children than we have for many years, reflecting what a special place Austwick school is, and our recent 'good' Ofsted report.

Thank you to all those in the local community who have supported our PTA. In the last school year they have been able to fund over £11,000 of new computers, books, trips, play equipment, musical instruments and more.

The PTA are now organising a raffle – please get in touch if you / your business could provide prizes or other support so our children can continue access such great opportunities. You can contact us at austwickpta@hotmail.com. And watch out for tickets going on sale soon / get in touch to buy.

See our Facebook page for our latest news, and we are in the process of setting up our new website www.austwickprimary.co.uk.

If you are thinking about your child coming to Austwick just get in touch - we would love to show you round so you can experience the school in action!

Beth McHardy

headteacher@auswick.n-yorks.sch.uk

015242 51366

Austwick C.E. (VA) Primary School

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



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."

- ✓ Around 50 children in small classes with experienced teachers & TA support
- ✓ Before & after school care
- ✓ Clubs & sports
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Beth McHardy (headteacher) 015242 51366 for our latest 
headteacher@austwick.n-yorks.sch.uk news see Facebook

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LISA AND ROB MAKE A SWEEPING NEW START



Lisa Allan will be known to many in the Austwick area through her role as teacher of early years at Austwick C of E primary school; a post she has held for the last 7 years. However, at the end of the summer term, she decided to leave teaching after 25 years in the profession and become a chimney sweep! Along with her partner, Robert Johnson, a former youth charity worker for the YHA, she has set up her own business, She and He Sweeps.

“At first glance I’ll admit that moving from teaching to chimney sweeping seems like a strange move, and it certainly seems to have befuddled friends and colleagues alike,” says Lisa. “However, on closer inspection, chimney sweeping is really about serving and helping the community and keeping people safe, and these are all skills I have learnt from my career in education. I also feel that it is important that women are represented and seen to be working in roles previously dominated by men.”

Lisa and Rob are both NACS trained and DBS cleared. As well as chimney sweeping, they also offer stove maintenance, the supply and fitting of Cows and CCTV inspections. For more information about She and He Sweeps you can visit their website at she-he-sweeps.co.uk or give them a call on 07761113053.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF FEMALE SWEEPS

During war time, particularly World War I and II, women stepped into traditionally male-dominated roles such as farming, factory work and chimney sweeping!

While this wartime surge in women chimney sweeps may have only been temporary, it demonstrated their capabilities and contributed to a broader shift in societal expectations.

Today, chimney sweeping remains a male-dominated industry, however there are now signs of change on the horizon. As well as Lisa, there are also one or two other female sweeps in the North of England. These include Lady Muck, working in the Penrith area, and Katie Sweep, an all-female sweep service, near York.

RIVER WENNING POLLUTION INCREASES BY 12% IN 2024

Sewage Storm Outlet figures recently released by the Environment Agency revealed that sewage pollution into the River Wenning by the six United Utilities Waste Water Treatment Works along its length rose by over 12% in 2024 and the duration of the spills was

equivalent to one outlet discharging continuously for 24 hours for over half a year. Whilst the number of discharges reduced to 511 times the duration was 4595 hours, equivalent to 191 days! For more information on this topic, contact riverwenninggroup@gmail.com.

THIS YEAR'S AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW RESULTS

WELL DONE TO ALL WHO ENTERED - CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

Cups, Trophies and Vouchers

Bytes Challenge Cup for the best Bowl of Roses: Carol Wilkinson

Richard Wallbank Memorial Trophy for Best Pot Plant: Catherine Vaughan-Williams

Ulrich Kube Memorial Cup for best four roses: Catherine Vaughan-Williams

Winifred Mattinson Challenge Cup for most points in the Flower Section: Joint winners- Catherine Vaughan-Williams and Martin Pettiford

Chapman Trophy for the most points in the Artistic Flower Section: Carol Wilkinson.

Fred Price Memorial Trophy for one flower and one vegetable: Catherine Vaughan-Williams

Preston Cup for tray of four distinct vegetables: Bill Procter

Tibbatts Trophy for most points in vegetable section: Bill Procter

Brook Poultry Cup for the best exhibit in the Egg Section: Catherine Vaughan-Williams

Brook Cookery Cup for most points in the cookery section: Joint winners-Marilyn Eaton and Gwen Cleverly

Foster Beaver Challenge Cup for most points in the combined produce section: Bill Procter

Glyn Jones Challenge Cup for the most points in the Handicraft Section: Sheila Gooch.

Jean Dodgson Prize (voucher) best handicraft exhibit: Sarah France

Malcolm Bowker Trophy for Photography (set subject): Doon Storey

Metcalfe Cup for the best Photographic Exhibit: Diane Storey

Brook Handwriting Cup for best handwriting 8-14 years: Walter Swinscoe

Nellie Price Memorial Cup for most points in the children's sections: Roland Todd

Sharples Cup for the best exhibit in the Children's Section: Henry Hallett

New Entrant (Voucher) for best first-time adult entrant: Sarah France

Challenge Trophy for The Best Exhibit in the Show: Sarah France

Flower Section:

4 roses: 1&2. C. Vaughan-Williams. **3 gladioli** :1. M Pettiford 2. G Cleverly. **4 garden pinks:** 1&2. M Pettiford **4 pansies or violas:** 1&2 M Pettiford. **4 pot marigolds:** 1.G Cleverly. **4 French or African marigolds:** 1&2 Carol Wilkinson. **4 dahlias:** 1. R Selling 2.M Pettiford. **4 phlox:** 1. C Lardner 2. S Goold. **3 stems of a flowering shrub:** 1. G Cleverly 2. H Brown. **9 spikes sweet peas:** 1. C Vaughan-Williams 2. Sylvia Baker.

A container of sweet peas: 1. M Barrington 2.S Dewhurst.

A vase of hardy annuals: 1. G Cleverly. **A vase of hardy perennials:** 1. H Brown 2. M Hird. **A bowl of roses:** 1. C Wilkinson 2. C Vaughan-Williams. **A bowl of nasturtiums:** 1. R Holden 2. J Garlick 2. A flowering house plant: 1. C Vaughan-Williams 2. J Heap. **A house plant grown**

for its foliage: 1 C Vaughan-Williams 2. J Garlick. **A cactus or succulent:** No entries

Best in Section: C Lardner, four flox.

Artistic Flower Section:

An arrangement of **"An English Country Garden:** 1. C Wilkinson 2. J Osborne-Tame. An arrangement of **"On the Beach":** 1. C Wilkinson 2. S Cokell. An arrangement entitled **'At the Movies':** 1.J Osborne-Tame 2D Storey. An arrangement of **"Tropical Summer"**

1.C Wilkinson 2J Osborne-Tame. An Arrangement **"In a Shoe":** 1. C Wilkinson 2. J Osborne-Tame

Best in Section: Carol Wilkinson, English Country Garden.

Vegetable and Fruit Section:

4 white potatoes: 1. D Baker 2. B Procter. **4 coloured potatoes:** 1. D Baker 2. B Procter. **3 carrots:** 1. David Baker 2. B Procter. **3 beetroot:** 1. M Pettiford 2. R Holden. **3 white onions:** 1. B Procter 2. D Baker **3 red onions:** 1. B Procter 2. C Vaughan-Williams.

7 Shallots: 1&2 B Procter. **2 leeks** 1. B Procter 2. G Cleverly. **5 bulbs of garlic**

1. B Procter 2. D Baker. **6 pods of peas:** 1. G Cleverly 2. M Pettiford.

6 pods of broad beans: 1. B Procter 2. C Wilkinson. **6 pods of French beans:** 1. S Dewhurst 2. D Baker. **6 pods Runner Beans:** 1. C Vaughan-Williams.

2 courgettes: 1, C Vaughan Williams 2. C Wilkinson. **1 cauliflower:** G Cleverly 2. B Procter. **1 cabbage:** 1.B Procter 2. K Hinds.

A trug of vegetables: 1. D Baker 2. K Hinds. **1 cucumber:** 1. D Baker 2. M Pettiford.

4 ripe tomatoes: 1&2. B Procter. **A truss of tomatoes:** 1. C Ecclestone 2. B Procter.

1 flower and 1 vegetable: 1. C Vaughan-Williams 2. B Procter. **4 distinct vegetables on a tray:** 1. B Procter 2. G Cleverly.

Up to 6 culinary herbs: 1. H Brown 2. B Procter. **A saucer of one variety soft fruit:** 1 B Procter 2. G Cleverly. **2 to 4 varieties of soft fruit:** 1. G Cleverly. **Any vegetable or fruit not included elsewhere:** 1&2 C Vaughan-Williams.

Best in Section: C Vaughan-Williams. A flower and a vegetable.

Egg Section:

3 hen eggs: 1. G Huck 2. K Hinds. **3 bantam eggs:** 1.C Vaughan-Williams 2 J Milnthorpe.

3 hen eggs including contents: 1. C Vaughan-Williams 2. C Ellison. **3 bantam egg including contents:** 1.C Vaughan-Williams 2. J Milnthorpe.

Best in Section: C Vaughan-Williams: 3 hens eggs including contents

Art, Photography & Handicraft Section:

Art
Painting in any medium: "Still Life": 1. D Storey 2. A Barton **A painting in any medium on any subject:** 1. K Parker 2. A Barton **A drawing of: A Form of Transport"** 1. J Burton 2. S Gooch. **A drawing any other subject:** 1. A Barton 2.

M Eaton. **Best in Art Section:** K Parker- Painting in any medium.

Photography

4 themed photographs: "On the Water"1. D Storey 2. J Leeming. **4 different photographs:** 1.D Storey 2. J Leeming. **A single photograph: "Light and Shade":**1. D Storey 2. N Burton. **Best in Photography section:** D Storey-Photo, light and shade

Handicraft

Papercraft: 1. P Grant 2. M Greenhalgh.

Bag, box or bowl: 1. K Ann-Hewgill 2. S Gooch **An item of interior/exterior decor:**

1. D Baker 2. S Dewhurst. **An item using embroidery thread :** 1&2 S Dewhurst. **Knitted/ crocheted item:** 1. S France 2. A Smith. **Any other needlework item:** K Ann-Hewgill 2. H Brown. **An item of felt work:** 1. S Gooch 2. P Smith. **Any other item:** 1. A Burningham 2. R Pettiford.

Best in Handicraft Section: S France, A knitted or crocheted item

Cookery Section:

4 Bread rolls: 1. N Burton 2. S Dewhurst. **4 Shrewsbury biscuits:** 1. S Goold 2. S Cokell.

4 fruit scones: 1. S Goold 2. S Dewhurst. **4 pieces of traybake:** 1. G Cleverly 2. S Dewhurst.

4 brownies: No entries. **A Victoria sandwich cake:** 1 M Hird 2. J Osborne-Tame. **Recipe item: A carrot cake:** 1. C Ecclestone 2. C Wilkinson. **Four muffins, sweet or savoury:** 1. J Butler 2. M Hird. **A Vegetarian Savoury:** 1. R Holden 2. J Leeming **A cold desert:** 1. J Leeming. **Fruit pie:** 1. J Huck 2. R Holden. **Jar of jam:** 1&2. M Eaton. **A Jar of sweet or savoury jelly** 1. G Cleverly 2. C Lardner. **A jar of marmalade:** 1. H Jempson 2. M Eaton. **Jar of lemon curd:** 1.G Cleverly 2. M Eaton. **A cordial or non-alcoholic drink:** 1.C Vaughan-Williams 2. A Barton. **A bottle of home-made wine or liqueur:** 1.C Wilkinson 2. J Huck. **A jar of pickle/ chutney:** 1. A Barton 2. R Holden. **Children only-4 decorated buns** 1. G Huck 2. E Huck

Best in Section: G Huck. 4 decorated buns.

Children's Section:

Artwork, under 5 years: 1. R Richards 2. G Dewhurst **Artwork 5-8 years** 1. H Hallett 2. H Hallett/ R Todd. **Handwriting 8-14 years:** 1. W Swinscoe 2. E Huck. **A Painting of a Monster** 1. R Todd 2. M Cleverly. **"Keep Austwick Tidy" theme poster** 1. I Pettiford. **Photo of "My Holiday":** 1.R Todd. **A Decorated Letter of the Alphabet** 1.N Webster 2. R Todd. **Collage on a plate** 1. F Pettiford 2. R Todd. **An animal made from fruit or vegetable** 1.I Pettiford/ R Todd **A Model made from Junk** 1. R Todd 2. A Hallett. **A Miniature Garden:** 1. E Huck 2. A Hallett. **Artwork 9-14 years** 1. F Pettiford 2. G Huck **Anything you like** 1. G Huck 2. I Pettiford. **Best in Section:** H Hallett. Artwork 5-8 years.

Graham Cleverly, 2025 Village Show Chair

AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW 2025



Congratulations to this year's cup trophy and voucher winners. Back row left to right: Bill Proctor, Catherine Vaughan-Williams, Carole Wilkinson, Sheila Gooch, Diane Storey, Martin Pettiford, Patrick Grant, Graham Cleverly (on behalf of Henry Hallett who won the Sharples Cup for the best children's exhibit), Doon Storey. Front row: Sarah France, Roland Todd

By general agreement amongst exhibitors and visitors, the 2025 Austwick Village Show was considered a big success, with excellent weather, bumper numbers of exhibits and visitors (despite an increase in the entry charge from £1 to £2), and significant profits from entrance charges, refreshments and the raffle. Despite the high number of exhibits and visitors, the Show continued to retained its local community roots.

Ten adults from outside the villages of Austwick and Lawkland entered the Show this year-all with eligible local association links. Only artistic flowers showed a continuing decline in numbers since 2022, although the quality of the exhibits in this section continues to be excellent.

Children's exhibit numbers are fairly stable over the last 3 years. The overall income from the Show once expenses have been taken into account is expected to be higher than both 2023 and 2024. The general standard of exhibits was high again this year and frankly amazing for a relatively small

village. There were fourteen new adult entries including this year's Best in Show (Sarah France). All the judges (nearly all of whom changed this year) worked well together and appeared to enjoy the experience and the lunch.

The extra space created in the main hall by a) using window sills, extra tables and the 3 new wooden benches was sufficient to allow all sections including the children's entries to be displayed together in the main Hall with only a small overflow into the small hall for one painting class and two artistic flower classes. Class 88 was again well supported with several high-quality joinery items (and one item of silver jewellery).

The prize-giving was held outside and Patrick Grant (the *Great British Sewing Bee* host) participated with an informal welcoming speech that was well received.

The date for the Village Show's AGM has now been confirmed as Wednesday 29th October 2025. The evening will commence at 7pm with a slide show of the 2025 Show highlights by Chris and Judy Leeming followed by the AGM from 7.30 pm.

Anyone with an interest in the future of the Society is encouraged to come to the slide show and AGM and to consider joining the Show Committee and contributing to the 2026 Show.

*Graham Cleverly
Village Show Chair, 2025*



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AUSTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on May 19th and the Parish Council Chairman, Peter Goold, reviewed the Council's business of the last twelve months and thanked Councillors Barbara Tibbatts, Kate Smith, David Dewhirst and Mark Robinson for their support and also Marijke Hill, the Parish Council Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, for all her hard work and, in particular, for her valuable advice during the year. The Parish Council meets eight times each year and with 5 Councillors and 8 meetings, that makes 40 possible attendances, with only 6 apologies for absence during the year. The Chairman informed the meeting that Mark Robinson had resigned as a Councillor in April this year and thanked Mark for his contribution to Parish Council deliberations over his 3 ½ years of service. This means that there is now a vacancy for a new Parish Councillor, which will be advertised and filled by co-option as soon as possible.

Each December, Parish Councils set a budget for the forthcoming financial year and use this as the basis for their 'precept request', being the funding the council receives, and householders pay as part of their council tax. Costs have risen once again this year, so Councillors took the decision to increase the income request by £1500 to £16,000. This means that Austwick residents will see an increase of 5.1% in the Parish Council element of their council tax and a household in Austwick paying council tax at band D will pay £61 towards Parish Council funding, which is 2½ % of the total council tax they pay for the year.

Turning to the work of the Parish Council, the Chairman explained that this can best be described under the three headings of parish maintenance; giving feedback and comments to the National Park on planning applications; and finally, acting on behalf of everyone in the parish when something needs to be done on any particular matter and being the voice of the community on consultations and when opinions are asked for.

The Parish Council's biggest single expense is in maintaining the village greens and the road verges and generally keeping the parish tidy and in good repair. As for many years past, the Chairman formally recorded the Parish Council's thanks to Ben Shanks, otherwise known as Craven Garden Care, for all the work he has done in the Parish over the last year, and for the thoughtful and responsible way he goes about planning the work and giving value for money. However, this year, Ben has decided that the time has come for him to retire from the parish lengthsman's duties in March of next year. Councillors are currently in discussion with Ben about how his work is to be done in the future.

Still on maintenance matters, the Chairman expressed his thanks to several individuals for their help during the year. Votes of thanks are due to Will Locke, the National Park's Ribblesdale Ranger, Nathan Allen, our Access Ranger and the Three Peaks Ranger Team for the work they do to keep the many rights of way that run through the parish in good order and for responding to

requests when repairs are needed. Secondly, to the Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Fund and the National Park's Wildlife Conservation Team for recently awarding us a grant to enable us to extend further the work we have done on the Clapham Road conservation verge near the burial ground with a new wildflower planting project. The conservation verges are a valuable asset to Austwick parish, both in appearance and in the part they play in encouraging wildlife and in protecting the environment.

Residents were reminded that there are now three defibrillators in the parish, one on the wall of the Parish Hall, one at Elaine's Tea Rooms in Feizor and one in the centre of Wharfe. Every week, Eddie Styles visits each location, checks the defibrillator is in good working order and reports if new pads or a new battery is needed, which is quite a time-consuming commitment and worthy of many thanks.

The Parish Council is the custodian of 14 benches in the parish, most of which have been adopted by residents, each undertaking to apply regular TLC to the bench and its immediate location. This is an invaluable service to the Parish and much appreciated by all who make use of the benches.

In concluding maintenance matters, the Chairman thanked Charlotte Wilkinson for keeping the bus shelter clean and tidy every week, as well as the people who spend their own time litter-picking around the parish and finally to Kate Vaughan-Williams for continuing to lend us a corner of her field for the composting of grass cuttings.

It has been another quiet year on the planning front, with only 10 applications and all but one were for either householder or agricultural applications or revisions to plans for projects that have already been approved. The one exception is the outstanding application, applied for last October, to build six new houses on the site of what was Towhead Garage. The Parish Council filed a formal objection to this application as it did not include any provision for affordable housing, contrary to the National Park's policy. It was also recorded that Austwick Councillors had other serious concerns about aspects of the proposals that would be raised with the Principal Planning Officer in due course.

Continued on Page 13



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AUSTWICK OPEN GARDENS 2025

Saturday 5th July was the date and yes, it rained, well it poured down most of the day. This was after weeks of glorious sunshine and hose pipes bans - challenging for gardeners.

Everyone rose to the challenge, the gardens looked wonderful, Austwickians supported the day, the visitors came and all was well. We know what they say - no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes and here in Yorkshire we know to get out the right clothes. Wellies were worn, umbrellas hoisted and we kept smiling.

The day didn't just go well, it went amazingly well! A fantastic amount of money resulted from the ticket sales and the refreshment profits. Thanks to David Ireton and the North Yorkshire Locality Budget, a £300 grant almost covered printing costs, hire of the Hall, publicity and refreshments supplies.

We have been able to donate £760 to Craven Wildlife Rescue Centre and £1515 to Austwick Nature Recovery Project, the two groups

chosen this year by the gardeners. This represents £2275 to donate from one very wet day.

Except - it wasn't just the one day's work. Many people contributed to the success of the event. Generous gardeners, having spent hours of work and quite a few moments of worry in preparing their garden for inspection, welcomed people to view the results. Cake bakers and focaccia suppliers ensured the choice of homemade delicious treats for coffee, lunch and tea. The customers' compliments recognised

the quality and the quantity on offer. The kitchen team, the serving team, the ticket sellers, all a band of cheerful volunteers, provided the efficient and friendly welcome associated with Austwick events. It was especially good to have helpers new to the village - thank you.

A happy event, even in the rain, the feedback from our visitors was very complimentary about our village and its community. Thank you to everyone who supported the day.

Gwen Cleverly



PARISH COUNCIL: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

The Chairman reminded everyone that there is a bird's eye view of which planning applications in the parish are awaiting a decision and which have recently been decided by going to the Parish Council's website and clicking on the 'planning' tab.

The Chairman then raised an important local issue which broadly comes under the heading of 'planning'. This is the campaign to keep Thwaite Lane as a bridleway and free from motorbikes and 4x4 vehicles, which has been on the agenda for every Parish Council meeting this last year. In October, Councillors believed the battle was won when, following the public enquiry, the Inspector made a favourable decision on the matter. However, last minute objections then resulted in a further public enquiry being scheduled for this September to consider new evidence of historic public vehicle use.

The third area of work of the Parish Council comes under the general heading of acting as the agent of our electorate when action needs to be taken on an issue, and keeping up to date and well-informed on matters that affect residents in and around the parish. Councillors and the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer deal with enquiries from parishioners and people outside the

parish, respond to consultations and represent the parish as trustees on several local charities, in addition to attending and contributing to the National Park's parish forum meetings, as well as reporting to the North Yorkshire Council's Highways Department when problems arise on the roads, verges and drains.

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

The remaining Parish Council meeting dates for 2025 are: 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.

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 STREET MARKET & CUCKOO FESTIVAL 2025

Superhero cuckoos landed in the village this May Bank Holiday weekend for another fun and welcoming Street Market.



Despite some heavy downpours, spirits were high with bright flowers in church, games at the school, a Bus Stop Café bursting with baking, and the cutest sheep on the green. Family favourites such as face painting, the Thwaites Dray Horses, crafts, the children's street performer and skittles went down very well.

The Austwick Amble Fell Race, which is a much-enjoyed element of the day and is now a popular event in its own right in the fell racing calendar, was well supported, with 112 runners in the adult race and 63 in the junior

races. Special mention to Rupert Allison (Dark Peak) who was once again the first male runner home in the Amble in an impressive 48.41 and his wife Lizzy Allison, who was first lady home, with a time of 1.03.

Thank yous

The organising committee would like to give a huge thank you to the main event sponsors Goad Butcher, Settle Coal, Venturi Homes and Aire Valley Glass and the many other local businesses organisations for their generous support, we know this is a whole community effort. All gifts and donations of any size are enormously appreciated and a big thanks to those who gave their time before and on the day to help make the Street Market such a success for yet another year.

Fundraising Total

In total all stalls and fundraising events once again brought in an impressive total, which after costs leaves in the region of £10,000 to be divided between the Village Hall Playing Fields. As the main fundraiser for our vital rural amenities, this is a fantastic result.

Help for 2026

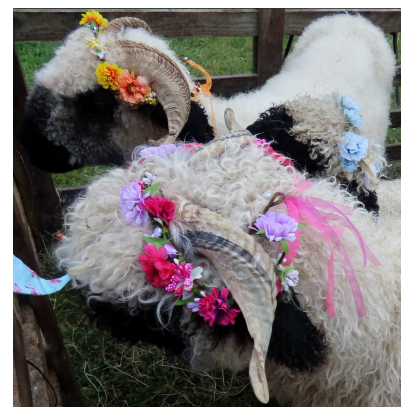
The committee is already thinking about next year's event and the Street Market AGM will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 29th September 2025 at 7.30pm.

The committee will be looking for any willing volunteers to join the team and help the Street Market effort. They would love to see any new (and old!) faces get involved - as much or as little as you'd like. If you're new to the village, it's a great way to meet people and if



you've lived here for decades, the committee would gratefully receive your local knowledge and skills...and you will still meet new people!

Anybody who's keen to find out more is invited to come along to the AGM or please get in touch with Mark Stickland on 07780 333867, mark_stickland@yahoo.co.uk or Janet Heap on 07709 252613, janheap@hotmail.co.uk



AUSTWICK PARISH HALL

Thank you to everyone involved in the Street Market this year. Despite the weather it was a busy and successful day. We rely on fund raising to meet the hall running costs and are grateful for the work of the street market committee and the many other volunteers involved. Each year it contributes some £5-6K to the hall and the same to the playing fields.

We raise further income for the hall through the autumn/winter season film and quiz nights, occasional coffee mornings and the jigsaw club. This season's events will be posted in Austwick Community Chat, the Austwick village website, the Parish Hall notice board and in the shop. Thank you to all the volunteers who make these events possible and to everyone who comes along to them.

The annual income from hall hire charges has now almost returned to pre-Covid levels at just over 5K. However, accounts submitted to the Charity Commission demonstrate the extent to which the annual

running cost of the hall in terms of rates, insurance, utilities, energy, repairs, maintenance and caretaking has increased over recent years from approx £10K to some £15K for the year ending December 2024. Within this latest figure was the essential replacement of central heating and water valves and the hot water tank, which cost over £2K. In comparison to the running cost of £15K the total the hire and rental income in 2024 was £5K.

In 1936 the hall was left in trust for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Austwick and its immediate vicinity. Since then it has been managed by local people volunteering as trustees. The trustees are responsible for ensuring the maintenance of the building and all that entails. This includes meeting health and safety and safeguarding requirements. Maintenance tasks that trustees organise include electrical and fire safety equipment checks, servicing the boiler, risk assessments and insurance. We are also responsible

for such as managing bookings, compiling the accounts and submitting an annual report to the Charity Commission. In addition to this we are currently investigating making some improvements to the building and its facilities.

Sufficient trustees are needed to manage the essential tasks that keep this wonderful facility available to local people. There are vacancies for several trustees and filling these places will enable tasks to be shared between more of us. Trustees have 4 meetings a year, no specialist knowledge or experience is required and fresh ideas are welcomed. If you think you might like to contribute to safeguarding this important village asset please contact the chair, Lindsey Smith lindseyinaustwick@gmail.com, or treasurer and booking secretary, Kevin Hale bookings@kxhale.co.uk. We can invite you as a guest to a meeting so you can find out more.

Lindsey Smith, on behalf of the Parish Hall Council.

AUSTWICK WI

Julie Osborne-Tame's talk at our June meeting encouraged us to take an Adult Gap Year. It was tempting stuff but I can confirm we haven't decamped en masse to Namibia and Austwick WI continues to function. Some of our members did venture as far as Bentham for a Treasure Hunt where I am told we triumphed. We also went to Feizor for our annual garden party and took a trip to Parcevall Hall Gardens.

In September, Alison O'Neill will be talking about her life as a Dales sheep farmer. This is an open event for the village - £5 for non members. After that, we have our

AGM in October, a crafts evening in November and our Christmas Party in December. In addition, we have lots of outings planned - daringly beyond North Yorkshire - to the Rookhow Quaker Meeting House in the Rusland Valley, Holehird Gardens, Townley Hall and Blackwell House.

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>.

AUSTWICK VILLAGE WEBSITE: AUSTWICK.ORG

At the end of last year Alec Deary stepped down from managing the Austwick website. We would like to thank him for the many years that he held this role and his efforts in keeping it updated throughout that time. Since then we have taken over as the new web editors. In April we relaunched the website with a new look, refreshed content and improved navigation. If you haven't visited the

site lately, please take a look at austwick.org.

The aim of the website is to **publicise** the main events that are taking place within the village and the surrounding hamlets of Eldroth, Feizor, Lawkland and Wharfe; **detail** the clubs and associations that are currently available to join;

provide village updates in the form of Parish Newsletters, Nature Notes etc,

and **explain** the Parish Hall facilities for hire and booking requirements.

We hope you find the new website useful and will help us keep it up to date, so that it contains up to date, relevant and interesting information. To request changes to content, provide new content or raise any website issues please contact us at austwick.web@gmail.com

Diane Storey and Kevin Hale

PIANISTS AND PAUPERS: MOLLY PRESTON'S HISTORY NOTES



THE GAME COCK INN

Dick Young was Licensee of the Game Cock Inn in the 1930s and 40s, his wife Lena and daughter Mary provided meals for guests. Mary married Harry Howarth who had been stationed in the village with the "Reccies" (Reconnaissance Troop) in wartime. Harry was a superb pianist and we often used to sit on the Green in Summer on our way back from Settle school, listening to him playing the Game Cock piano. Dick Young kept hens (you are now supposed to call them chickens) in a pen in the Game Cock back garden. We always kept hens in our hen-pen in the orchard at Leigh House where we lived for many years. I loved to hatch out chickens when one of our hens went broody, but our eggs couldn't be used as we had no cockerel to fertilise them. I went to the Game Cock for a clutch of eggs as I knew they had a cockerel. When the chicks hatched it became obvious that one of them was a game cockerel. (Where Dick had acquired the eggs I had no idea.) It was a beautiful bird, multi-coloured feathers but fierce by nature. (Obviously that was why they were bred for fighting cocks.) It would fight to the death with any cockerel it came in sight of when it raided the nearby hen-pens in other properties. We unfortunately had to get rid of him quickly and quietly!

The name "Game Cock" became used when there was a secret cockfighting pit in use at Austwick Hall. The inn was originally known as the Cock Inn. The local men had a secret route to the Hall to watch the fights, placing bets on the outcome.

LAWKLAND POOR HOUSE

Before 1834 when the old Poor Law was in force, money was handed out to the poor in their own homes. This was obtained by taxing the middle and upper classes. This caused resentment and in 1834 a new Poor Law was introduced which meant that anyone needing help had to go into the Workhouse. Conditions were mostly fairly grim to discourage people, but there was no

alternative. Many people researching their family tree are shocked to find that some of their forebears had spent time in the Poor House. The 1841 census labelled them as "Pauper". The local Workhouse was at Lawkland, now the terrace of houses to the right by the phone box. There are detailed records of the establishment. The inmates were put to some sort of work if they were capable. The Lawkland Workhouse was open for 14 years during which 357 paupers were recorded with a governor in charge. An overseer was appointed to check it was run correctly. Eventually a large Workhouse was opened at Giggleswick, now Castleberg hospital, replacing all the small Workhouses. The 1823 records listed 4 residents from Lawkland, 3 from Austwick and 7 from Horton. The records are now on-line.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

Near the Lawkland Poor House was a Roman Catholic Chapel including a home for the Priest. It had connections with Lawkland Hall where there was a Priest-hole to hide the Priest if the Hall was searched, when Catholicism was banned. There was a rumour of a passage from Hall to Chapel but there is no evidence of one being found.

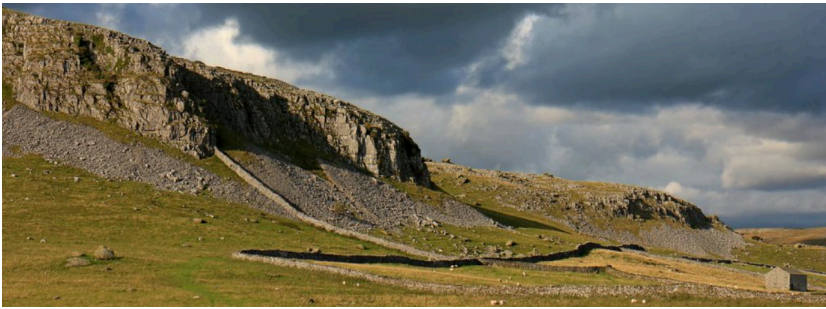
SLATE FLOORING

The large slate slab from gate to porch at Austwick Church enables anyone to enter on a flat smooth surface. These slabs were excavated from the quarries at Helwith Bridge then brought to the cutting mill at Silloth House on the Wharfe road, then known as Mill Bridge. The flat stone quarries were Dry Rigg (Ridge), starting in 1739 and then Foredale and Arcow from later 18th and 19th centuries. These slabs were put to many uses around the village both inside and outside. Kitchen slab floors were easy to keep clean and dry. Pantries, usually at the north side of a house had large slab shelves to keep milk, butter and other foods cool, no fridges then. For the kitchen, the family used to make rag rugs as slate floors were cold and hard. The rugs were made on a canvas base with cut strips of old clothes worked into them. Outside, slates made a dry path to the door. Before dust bin wagons, a family collected rubbish in what was known as an ash pit, a square enclosure made of slate slabs. A farmer collected the contents from time to time with a horse and cart and tipped it on the village bridlevays! Large slabs were used in farm shippens to separate the cows when being milked. I can remember a huge slate water tank on the gable end of Hobbs Gate farmhouse at the junction of Main Street and Town Head Lane. Slate slabs were eventually replaced by tarmac, concrete and gravel with wood floors in houses.

Molly Preston

MORE LOCAL HISTORY PROMPTED BY MOLLY'S NOTES IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER

ROBIN PROCTOR'S SCAR



Robert Proctor really did exist, although it was a fairly common name. Parish Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials were made by the parish priest from the 16th century. Many have been lost over the years. The original Parish Registers for Clapham St. James from 1596 to 1837 are in archive collections transcribed by Wharfedale Family History Group in 2010 and put on CD.

There is a burial registered on "12th August 1677, PROCTOR, Robert, of Heslehaw", (now Hazle Hall near Clapham Station). Proof is in the 'Comments' column where the priest wrote in Latin, "e rupe Norber cadens" translated in the transcript, "fell from a cliff in Norber".

From the Registers, the likely baptism of our Robert Proctor was registered on "3rd May 1646,

PROCTOR, Robert, son of Thomas of Heslehaw".

One story of this fatal happening from my husband's family who lived in Austwick in the 1940s is that Robert (Robin, common diminutive) was courting a young woman from Crummack and had ridden up Long Lane to the farm to ask her to marry him, but had been refused. Riding back at speed, sad and dejected, he missed his way and rode over the scar.

Another story is of a Robin Proctor, who liked his beer, and frequently rode between Crummack and Austwick on his trusted mare which knew the way, but one day Robin in a drunken state got on the wrong horse which just took the shortest route... over the edge. *Jill Sykes*

INSCRIPTION ON THE ROCK FACE

At the base of the Scar an intriguing inscription has been carefully carved. This looks to read "RWD 4 May 1893 93FT" Having named a route that starts beside this inscription "Tombstone Blues", some rock climbers think this could be a memorial to another tragic fall. However, this seems rather macabre and given the height detail, could it refer to one of the OS Surveyors working at that time?

Robin Proctor's Scar began to attract the



climbing community as early as 1948 with an ascent of the crag's central gully but was followed by only spasmodic interest in the 1980s and 90s. Because of loose friable rock it was not for the faint hearted.

It wasn't until 2003 following a fatal fall from the top, that Alan Steele, the then owner of Inglesport and Ingleton Climbing Wall, equipped the Scar with fixed protection to greatly improve safety. This was controversial at the time but is now widely accepted as the right thing and has seen a huge surge in the crag's popularity.

Robin Proctor's Scar still sees its share of accidents as the CRO will testify, although it's hoped they won't be called on to rescue lovelorn or drunken horsemen!

Pete Bailey

AUSTWICK CRAFTY CUCKOOS CRAFT GROUP

Members of the Crafty Cuckoos craft group worked hard over the winter making the prizes for this year's raffle which they organise as an additional fundraiser for the Street Market.

After collaborative agreement on colour schemes and fabrics, sections of these stunning items were sewn and the cushions completed by individual members; and the foot stool was assembled into the finished article by Eve Cox and Jackie Smith (pictured).

The group meet monthly on the third Thursday in the Parish Hall and anyone interested in crafting (sewing, knitting, crochet, card making, felting etc, etc) are more than welcome to join. Please contact Sheila Gooch on sheilagooch@hotmail.com for more information.



ELDROTH PARISH HALL: A HEARTBEAT OF THE COMMUNITY

Tucked in the heart of our beautiful countryside, Eldroth Parish Hall continues to serve as a vibrant and welcoming space for the local community. Whether you're planning a lively celebration, a sports session, or a quiet meeting, the hall offers facilities to suit a wide range of events.

The building boasts a spacious sports hall perfect for exercise classes, indoor games, or large gatherings. There's also a smaller meeting room ideal for group discussions, workshops, or private bookings. Our well-equipped kitchen makes catering a breeze, and with ample free parking, attending events couldn't be more convenient.

June saw the return of our Annual Community Walk, always held on the last Saturday of the month. Walkers of all ages enjoyed the beautiful local countryside, and the event concluded with a delicious BBQ—a perfect reward and a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends.

August marked a major milestone: the 25th anniversary of Eldroth Parish Hall. The whole community came out to celebrate with a delicious afternoon tea, a glass of fizz, and plenty of laughter and memories. It was a wonderful way to honour a quarter-century of shared experiences in this special place.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce the return of our popular Quiz and Curry Nights. These evenings are always full of friendly competition, hearty food, and great community spirit—so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming dates.



In recent months, the hall has also made a practical improvement: we've invested in brand new tables, which are lighter and easier to move, making set-up and clear-up for events quicker and easier for everyone.

Whether you're a regular visitor or haven't stopped by in a while, Eldroth Parish Hall is here for you. It's your space—come and make the most of it!

To stay up to date with what's happening, visit www.eldroth.info, where you'll also find a link to our Facebook page for the latest news and events.

Jo Airey, Chair

AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP GARDEN PARTY

Rain on a late August Wednesday forced the Afternoon Fellowship to hold our Garden Party indoors, but it did not dampen the spirits of those who attended for a cream tea and an afternoon of good conversation. Thanks to our catering team of Celia, Pat, Margaret, Margery and Judith; to

Maria Farrer for the loan of the bunting, Olivia Hawkins for the lovely table flowers, and Margaret Hird for preparing an enjoyable tabletop quiz. The Fellowship meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month in Austwick Parish Hall, 2.00-3.30, with a guest speaker and time for refreshments.

Forthcoming speakers: Wednesday September 24th, Maria Farrer, The history of Clapham Sawmill and the Old Sawmill Cafe; Wednesday October 22nd, Hilary Fenton, Snapshot in time: How people connect to the land and its communities (also our brief AGM). All welcome!



ELDROTH CHURCH



It wouldn't be summer without Cream Teas on the lawn at Eldroth Church. This event, in our annual fundraising calendar, never fails to be a firm favourite with everyone and this year was no exception. We were again blessed with wonderful weather and the gazebo in the grounds offered welcome shade from the sun - rather than a place to dodge the showers!

It was lovely to hear the laughter and chatter both inside the church and outside as families, friends and neighbours enjoyed this lovely community get-together.

We are truly thankful to everyone involved, those who came along to support us, including a few new faces from our surrounding villages, and those who worked so hard to make it all happen beforehand and on the day. Thank you everyone – we couldn't do it without you!!



Jessica and Jack

As we plan for the autumn and winter months, we're looking forward to celebrating harvest, a time for us to again be thankful for the beautiful and safe place in which we live. Look out for Harvest Dominos and light supper on the 7th October. We'll also be hosting our usual Taize service in November and planning for our

Christmas schedule of events - all are welcome!

Finally, space did not permit us to publish a picture of our **Parish Choir in full voice at Eldroth** at Easter, in the last Newsletter, but here it is, below. The choir will feature in our special festival services this autumn and winter: please do come along!



George and Kate

Julie Greenwood, Churchwarden

Wedding Celebrations

On Friday 15th August, with Eldroth Church packed to the rafters full of family and friends, Jessica Strickland and Jack Harrison were married.

At the end of the month, on Saturday 30th August, Kate Cartmell Done and George Mackay were also married in a full and happy Eldroth Church. Our best wishes go out to both couples and their families as they come together to celebrate the start of this new chapter in their lives together.



ALL YOUR CHURCH SERVICES THIS AUTUMN....

14 September Trinity 13

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

21 September Trinity 14

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

28 September Trinity 15

(Services led by Revd Steve Rathbone)
9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
7.00 Keasden Harvest Festival

5 October Trinity 16

9.30 Eldroth Harvest Festival
11.00 Clapham Harvest Festival
6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church

12 October Trinity 17

9.30 Austwick Harvest Festival
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

19 October Trinity 18

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

26 October Last after Trinity

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
6.30 Keasden Saints Sausages and Sparklers

2 November All Saints' Sunday

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
4.00 Austwick All Saints Service
6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church

9 November Remembrance

9.30 Austwick Remembrance
10.45 Clapham Remembrance
2.00 Keasden Remembrance

16 November 2 before Advent

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
6.30 Eldroth Taizé

23 November Christ the King

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

Also, each Wednesday:

10.30 Austwick Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

... AND PLEASE COME ALONG TO THESE HARVEST-TIME EVENTS...

Everybody's welcome. For details of these and all our events see <https://bit.ly/churches-newsletters>, updated weekly

Keasden Harvest Supper and Domino Drive: *Eldroth Village Hall, Saturday 27th September, 7.00pm*

Eldroth Harvest Dominoes and light supper: *Eldroth Church, Tuesday 7th October, 7.00pm*

Austwick Harvest Supper and Auction: *Austwick Parish Hall, Sunday 12th October, 6.45 for 7.00*
(funds raised from the auction will support the Farming Community Network, fcn.org.uk)

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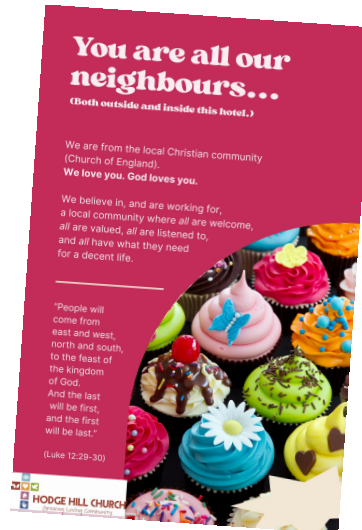
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JOHN'S NOTES: THE FLAG OF ST GEORGE IS A WELCOME SIGN

When Revd Al Barratt, vicar of Hodge Hill, Birmingham, heard that a protest was planned outside a local hotel accommodating asylum seekers, he said, "My first, bodily, response was to feel sick. My second response that closely followed, in my guts but also in my head, was that we, the local church, needed to do something."

In his Substack, 'Loving our Neighbours when the Flags have Gone Up', Revd Al describes, with refreshing honesty, his congregation's modest attempt to respond with care and solidarity for to the hotel staff and residents; to offer their church as a place of welcome and sanctuary; and to engage positively with the protesters ("some of them local people... under whose anger lay just the kind of struggles and fragilities that we knew all too well from our community-building work... People feeling deeply unsettled by a world changing around them, and with little agency or power to do anything about it.") Wearing hi-viz jackets with 'Peace Chaplain' on their back, the church volunteers walked among them offering them colourful cupcakes and flowers, and flyers saying, "You are all our neighbours (Both outside and inside this hotel.) We are from the local Christian community (Church of England).



We love you. God loves you. We believe in, and are working for, a local community where all are welcome, all are valued, all are listened to, and all have what they need for a decent life."

Revd Al's article is a fascinating read (<https://substack.com/home/post/p-172087759>): and it illustrates a truth that The Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Revd Stephen Croft describes in his 'Open Letter to Nigel Farage', published at the end of August: "The British people, as I understand them, want public policies founded on the deeply British and Christian values of compassion and care for those in need...."

I'd recommend Bishop Stephen's full letter. It is a thoughtful and clearly stated affirmation of positive Christian values brought to bear on the complex issue of immigration (<https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/an-open-letter-to-nigel-farage>).

I'd also recommend Horatio Clare's 'We Came By Sea: Stories of a Greater Britain' (Little Toller, 2025), "an untold story of the small boats crisis, a story which shows the best of us. It is

the story of the volunteers who help thousands of refugees in Calais, of the lifeboat crews mounting one of the great search and rescue operations of all time, of an unrecognised, uncelebrated, all but unknown Britain which is giving its all to help the vulnerable and desperate. It is a journey through an unexamined nation, a nation which is as truly great and good as the people in the dinghies believe Britain to be. It is not the story we have been told, and it is a true story." (Publisher's introduction).

Through reading Clare's book I've realised that new arrivals in the country regard the flags of St George and the Union Flag as signs of welcome, friendship, new beginnings. Those nearing the end of their precarious journey across the Channel, increasingly fearful of their boat capsizing, delight to see that flag on the Dover rescue boat because they know that means they'll make it safely to land. Beneath that flag they are welcomed with a generous sausage fry-up by volunteers at the reception centre; to those seeking safety that flag represents a country which, they believe, will receive them with kindness. Which, on the whole, it does. For when push comes to shove the refugees believe, and we know, that the majority of people will show "the deeply British and Christian values of compassion and care for those in need" which Stephen Croft described in his letter.

The flag of St George flown from our churches is a sign of welcome. At its heart is a cross, which is the sign of sacrificial self-giving for the sake of others, a commitment to love and care for all, without fear or favour.

Revd John Davies

01524 805928;

john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

Churches website:

bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick

John's talks: bit.ly/johndavies-talks



Jigsaw Exchange

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 and borrow one. Bring a friend, stop for a coffee and a chat, join in with an ongoing jigsaw.

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

FROM A DORMITORY WINDOW

Ian McCart, a new resident of Austwick, having moved across from a village between York and Thirsk during last winter, is in the throes of publishing the last of a trilogy of memoirs.

His first book, *From a Dormitory Window*, published in 2022, provided a sometimes-scurrilous insight into life as a boarding pupil at Bentham Grammar School during the period from 1966 – 1973, including a chapter on the [for boarders] compulsory Sunday service at the adjacent church, St. John the Baptist. The book also combines his fond

memories of growing up in Aden and in Tehran (Iran) during school holidays.

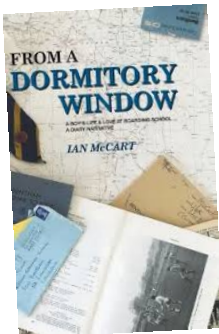
Ian's *Dormitory Window* book proved popular with a great many ex-pupils and residents of Low and High Bentham, leading to a request for a

sequel. In 2024, therefore, Ian published *Beyond the Dormitory Window*, covering the years 1973 – 1975 and the commencement of a banking career with Lloyds Bank in Lancaster. The book also describes an increasing fondness for the Yorkshire Dales with chapters on Dentdale, the Settle-Carlisle Railway, and living in the Wenning Valley – even Austwick gets a mention!

To complete the trilogy, this coming Autumn sees the publication of *A Decade after the Dormitory*, reminiscing about living and working in York during the late 1970s and through the 1980s. In the book, the Yorkshire Dales again feature strongly, with holidays spent in Dentdale, Gawthrop, and Grassington.

The germ of the idea to write his memoirs came from Ian's late wife, Barbara. She was born in Low Bentham, and they met at school and married in 1975. It was whilst Barbara was terminally ill with cancer in 2018 that she suggested to Ian that he should write about his time at boarding school – and an idea was born!

All proceeds from the book sales are given to the York Against Cancer charity. They are available on the Internet via Amazon or from Ian directly [at Garden Cottage], retailing at £15 (via the author).





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SETTLE ORCHESTRA: 2025 / 2026 SEASON

Settle Orchestra are looking forward to another enjoyable season, including a further collaboration with Langeliffe Singers after our very successful performance of Brahms' Requiem in 2023.

The conductor for this season will be Andre Chan, another graduate student of the Masters course at Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music. A native of Hong Kong, Andre has assisted world-class orchestras like the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the BBC Philharmonic, and conducted the Hallé, Manchester Camerata, and MAV Symphony (Budapest) in masterclasses. He is excited to be bringing music close to his heart to audiences in the Yorkshire Dales.

For the joint concert Andre has chosen Beethoven's Mass in C, a wonderfully tender and personal interpretation of the Latin mass which is not performed nearly as often as it should be. Other highlights for the year include Dvorak's lyrical and nostalgic cello concerto, with our own Bob Buller as soloist, and a French-inspired concert with music by Debussy, Ravel, Poulenc – and Mozart. (OK, so Mozart wasn't French but we are playing his Paris Symphony!)

We always welcome applications to join the orchestra, especially from younger players and from string and brass players. We would also be very interested to hear from any composers who would like to write music for the orchestra.

We give two concerts each term, one in Settle and one in Skipton; this year the dates are 22 and 29 November 2025 and 21 and 29 March and 20 and 27 June 2026. Full details at www.settleorchestra.org.uk. Do please come and support us and keep music live in the Dales!



Autumn Concert

Sat 22nd Nov, 3.30pm
Settle Parish Church

Sat 29th Nov, 3.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

Bruckner
Overture in G minor

Sibelius
Spring Song

Dvořák
Legends Nos.9 & 10

Dvořák
Cello Concerto
Soloist - Bob Buller

Conductor - **Andre Chan**
Leader - **Anne Heaton**

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SEWING BEE'S PATRICK GRANT A BIG HIT AT TENNIS CLUB

The recently resurfaced tennis courts at Austwick Playing Fields have now been officially re-opened. The celebration in late July was led by Great British Sewing Bee judge Patrick Grant, who lives locally and describes himself as 'keen on a game of tennis'.

The event showed the playing fields at their best. As tennis club members assembled for Pimm's with strawberries and cream, the bowlers were just finishing an afternoon's play. Meanwhile cricketers were gathering for an evening match. On a fine warm evening with views the envy of many a sports club what more could anyone want?

Before joining club members for a few sets of men's and mixed doubles, Patrick, who is the founder of ethical British clothing brand Community Clothing, declared the courts re-opened and made a point about his principal interest saying that his tennis kit: sweater, shorts and socks were all made in Britain by companies committed to sustainable and ethical production. Also present at the event were representatives of the Yorkshire

Dales Millennium Trust and the Craven Trust, two of the charities that helped fund the £32,000 resurfacing project, along with the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund and club members.

On court, the club's mixed doubles teams have been fairing reasonably



well in the Wharfedale League with the A team topping division two and the B and C teams well placed in divisions three and four

respectively. At the time of writing the ladies are however battling to hold on to their place in the first division of the Bradford Parks League.

Our summer tournament, held in memory of founder member Sheila Barraclough, was won by men's captain Marco Frik, with the ladies' side shared by club secretary Jo Martin and newcomer to the competition Debbie Elliot. The coaching sessions, run throughout the summer for adults and juniors, have generated a lot of interest and potentially some new members.

The club continues to be open to new members of any standard including beginners. Full details, including court booking arrangements for visitors are on our new website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AustwickTennisClub>.

The photograph shows (left to right) Jenny Thistlethwaite of the Craven Trust, Tennis Club chairman Robert Bellfield, Patrick Grant and Fiona Ross of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

AUSTWICK BOWLING CLUB

Where has the year gone? With regard to bowling we have been blessed with either extremely hot days or other days where there has been two to three inches of rain when bowling was completely out of the question. I find it hard to believe there is a hosepipe ban!

Anyway we have carried on regardless taking part in our usual busy calendar including the Home Guard Cup (held in June when we compete against Ingleton, Burton and Benthams); each year one of the clubs take it in turns to act as hosts for the day organizing matches and refreshments - a great day for competing and catching up with old friends.

We have had both Home and Away fixtures with all the aforementioned clubs plus Kirkby Lonsdale, Hornby and Slaidburn. We don't play in league matches but thoroughly enjoy the Friendlies. We also have our own club competitions.

Our friendly club is always looking for new members, everyone is made most welcome, whether you are completely new or would just like a roll up so do just come along. Open sessions are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Saturdays are reserved for Friendlies and club competitions. We have also had invites to play Friendlies at other clubs as far away as Shipley.

We have a great team of club organisers, too many to mention here, but they keep Austwick Bowling Club in good order - the green, refreshments, stall at the Cuckoo Festival, club raffle to say but a few, a very big thank you to you all. Should you need any more information please contact our Captain John Jebson on 01729 851806 he is more than willing to advise - thank you John.

"Happy bowling to everyone."

AUSTWICK PICCALILLIS PICKLEBALL CLUB SUMMER 2025

The Piccalillis have had a busy few months with coaching, social & competitive play with opportunities to compete in a variety of leagues & tournaments. Players have enjoyed Open & Graded sessions & organising their own sessions to meet up in small groups.

The English National Singles Event was first on the agenda with a number of players involved & medals for Caroline, Silver in the 3.5 60+ & Jill, Bronze in the 70+. Heather & Jill travelled to Gloucester for a competition & Hayley was successful in the draft for the Premier League Pickleball for PRO & played in her first league. This is a fantastic achievement & an honour for our club.

A number of players competed in the Nantwich Team Event with Hayley & Susie winning Gold with their team Vanilla Slices & Jem & Jane's team winning Bronze.

Next was the NW Restricted Team Event at Lancaster with further successes for Jem, Gold in the Men's Doubles 50+ 4.0, Kath, Bronze in the Mixed Doubles 50+ 3.5 & Jem & Caroline, Bronze in the Mixed Doubles 50+ 4.0. Susan & Carole won Gold at the South Lakes Tournament in Barrow in the up to 3.5 category.

In the Liverpool Summer Tournament, Karen won Bronze in the 50+ 4.0 & Gordon & Karen won Silver in the Mixed Doubles 50+ 4.0.

Our latest tournament was the English Open down in Telford. This is one of the largest tournaments outside North America with over 2300 competitors, 40 courts & 38 countries

represented. Having had a gruelling few days of competition, Piccalillis brought home medals! Susan & Carole won Silver in the Women's Doubles 65+ 3.5 & Caroline & Karen won Bronze in the Women's Doubles 60+ 4.0. Caroline then went



on to win Gold in the Mixed Doubles 60+ 4.0 & Gold in the Singles 60+ 3.5. An amazing achievement after long days of competition.

Congratulations to all the competitors who put in long hours & for the fantastic support from all the Piccalillis who competed & also supported their team mates.

Austwick Piccalillis continues to thrive with interest in Pickleball growing rapidly. The Committee works hard to ensure that players have as many opportunities as possible to enjoy playing Pickleball. We are grateful to the coaches who work so hard to help us improve our skills.

If you are interested in Pickleball, please contact us at austwickpickleball@gmail.com.

Please be aware that at present we are operating a waiting list due to demand!

AUSTWICK PLAYING FIELDS NEWS

As a result of this year's Street market we are hopeful that we will be able to add £5,000 to our funds. This is our main source of income which just about covers our annual running costs which are in the region of £5,700 pa. This is before we carry out any further playground improvements. At the moment we are taking advantage of the dry spell to empty the septic tank & check it for leaks/maintenance which if found necessary will be a cost on top of our usual running costs. We are extremely lucky to have such amazing facilities in our village, our AGM is in November please watch out for the posters and do come along if you think you can help with fundraising ideas or would like to join the committee, we are super friendly and don't bite!!

Sally Robinson (Hon Sec)
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Queries: Austwickplayingfields@gmail.com

**AUSTWICK
PLAYING FIELDS**

AUSTWICK FIELD AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Summer 2025 Programme of Talks and Walks

The summer season of talks by local speakers has been well attended with typically 40-50 members and guests attending the talks. Recent evening events in the Austwick Parish large Hall have covered a talk by Alastair McKee from the RSPB on ospreys, and a talk by Gail Armstrong on bats. The Society's members have also enjoyed two excellent guided walks in July: a visit to the Hoffmann kiln with David Johnson and a visit to Foulshaw Moss with Alastair McKee to see the ospreys. If you are not a member and would like to know more about our season of talks this autumn or to receive future meeting notices, please contact our membership secretary Tony Horsewill on tonyhorsewill@me.com.

Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026 Programme of Talks

Annual membership of the Society runs from September 2024 and costs £12 per person. All are welcome to our meetings and the cost for non-members is £3 per person (cash only please) at the door. Refreshments will also be available. Talks start at 7.30 pm in Austwick Village (large) Hall. Members wishing to renew their membership should send their fee to the Society's bank account by BACS or bring cash or a cheque to one of the autumn meetings. If possible please pay membership fees for 25/26 season by BACS to Austwick Field and Local History Society, Lloyds Bank, Lancaster Branch, Sort code 30-14-60, Account No 01521471. Please include your full name in the BACS payment details.

The evening talks programme for autumn 2025 and spring 2026 is now finalised and a free printed programme will be available at the autumn meetings from September 2025. Details of all the summer 2025/ spring 2026 evening programme talks are also displayed on the Austwick Village website and the notice board next to Cross Leigh Stores in Austwick and elsewhere in Settle and surrounding villages. The talks will as usual be in Austwick village (large) hall and are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month from September 2025. (Please note the altered timing of the December 2025 talk which is on the second Wednesday of December).

The topics of the forthcoming Wednesday evening talks during autumn 2025/ spring 2026 are as follows: Craven Place Names, Edward Elgar's links to Giggleswick,

Sustainable Farming in the Dales and the Clapham Wader Monitoring Project, Droving, Wild Ingleborough, RSPB Bird Investigations, Geology Giants, Common Land, The Work of the Craven Wildlife Rescue Centre, and Fossils and Fossil Hunters in the Yorkshire Dales. The first autumn talk by Mike Spence on Craven Place Names is on Wednesday 17th September 2025 from 7.30 pm. The talk will examine the history of Craven and its towns and villages, by looking at the names assigned to

them long ago by the people who lived in or controlled the area. Most names still in use today will be seen to have originated around a thousand years ago, and in some cases, several centuries earlier. The talk is expected to be very interesting and informative, so do come along if you can and enjoy the evening.

Possible Speakers for the 2026/2027 Season of Talks

Would anyone with a suggestion for an interesting speaker-ideally someone in the North Craven area-to give a talk to the Society in the autumn 2026/spring 2027 season on a suitable field or local history topic kindly contact me at graham.cleverly1@gmail.com. Please include contact details of the speaker and where you found out about them.

Nature Recovery Update

The Society has undertaken several conservation schemes over the past few months in line with its revised constitution. See details elsewhere in this Newsletter of the sand martin artificial nest box which is now completed and installed. Our thanks to David Baker who built the box

using a grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The restoration of the Feizor hay meadow is the biggest ongoing project and to date the existing stone wall has been repaired and re-fencing of the northern perimeter is expected to start shortly. Strimming and clearance of brambles will commence in early September once the bird nesting season is over followed by removal of bramble roots and sowing of wild flower seeds. Volunteer help will be needed for this exercise-please contact Alex Pilkington (alexpilk@msn.com) if you are interested.

The Society received a generous grant from the Austwick Open Gardens event recently and the money will go towards funding current and future nature recovery schemes. If you have identified a possible nature recovery scheme in your neighbourhood please let me know.

Graham Cleverly, AFLHS Chairman



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POEMS BY MOLLY PRESTON

THE HUMAN LAUGH

What is a laugh
an explosion of sound
born from hearing a joke
seeing a funny act
a tinkling sound like bells
or a mountain stream
but sadly not always so
sometimes a "guffaw"
like a donkey braying
but still stems from that
moment of pleasure.

MUSIC

Only so many notes on the
musical scale
A composer works his magic
writes tunes to thrill us, to
sooth us
to gladden our hearts,
writes lyrics for the voice to
perform
solos and for choirs
the joy of singing together
with one voice.

GAPING GHYLL POTHOLE

A gaping hole
a bridge slung over a chasm
a chair lowered down
into the bowels of the earth
into that vast underground
space
water worn
over centuries
no climate down here
no weather
everything stays the same
for thousands of years
unknown
to many who walk above,
known only to those who
venture down
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forgotten.

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NATURE NOTES

Adult sand martins (*Riparia riparia*) are one of the earliest migrants to return to Britain, visiting the UK between March and September. Adults are sandy brown above with whitish underparts and the characteristic brown band across the chest.



Sand martins typically reconnoitre their next year's nest site in the autumn, before they migrate to Africa for the winter.

If the conditions are right they may return next spring and colonise the nest and lay eggs. Their natural nest sites in the banks of streams and rivers and increasingly vulnerable to flooding - particularly flood flows in summer which are becoming more common due to the effects of global warming.

Local Austwick resident David Baker (with a bit of help from myself), recently built an artificial sand martin nesting box-measuring 8 ft long. The project was supported by a cash grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust to the Austwick Field and Local History Society.



The box's design was based on a version developed by Flinn Hitchcock based in the Scottish Borders. It provides 12 removable nest boxes, with further provision for another 6 boxes under a possible Phase 2. Each box contains a 100 mm diameter pipe with sand inside (to mimic a natural site in a sand cliff) and is surrounded with sand for sound insulation. Flinn has kindly allowed us to adopt his basic design, with several changes. The completed structure was recently installed permanently in position on the bank of Austwick Beck with help from eight local residents.

A permanent oak plaque will shortly be finalised and fixed to the box with the following message:

Funded by grants from Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust and managed by the Austwick Field and Local History Society, and with thanks to the landowner, the craftsman who constructed the box and to the Austwick volunteers who installed the box on its current site next to Austwick Beck.



A recent BBC CountryFile programme featured a bigger artificial box in East Devon that waited 10 years before the sand martins decided to adopt the boxes, but which are now proving very popular.

The installed box can be observed from the footpath that runs from the Little Bridges clapper bridge to the A65, on the opposite side of Austwick Beck. Watch out for sand martins next spring-they are frequent visitors to the Beck and they now have a secure dry place to nest.

Thanks to David Baker, for building the box, Alec Rigby, Trevor Brown, Ronny Lardner, Stephen Wright, George Gooch, and Alex Pilkington for the heavy lifting work and to Judy Leeming for taking the photos.

Graham Cleverly