

AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER

FREE
to all
residents and
visitors!

Austwick, Eldroth, Feizor, Lawkland and Wharfe
May - August 2026



IT'S CUCKOO TIME AGAIN!

Austwick Street Market and Cuckoo Festival is on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May. All the details about what there will be for you to enjoy, and how you can help to make this day a success: *Page 3*

ALSO THIS ISSUE:

Do you know your birds? Have a go at the Austwick School PTA Bird Quiz
For details see the Back Cover and Page 2

AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER: YOUR COMMUNITY PAPER

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.

Please send copy to me, Mark Robinson, by 15th August. Contact details: austwickparishnews@gmail.com, Harden Coach House, Austwick, LA2 8BQ, 07801 500352.



*Mark Robinson,
Newsletter Co-ordinator*

ADVERTISING IN THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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THANKS

Printed copies of the Newsletter are provided to all households and a version is made available online. We are very grateful to all those who deliver the Newsletter to each house in our area. Thanks especially to Anne Moore for organising the distribution, and to John Davies for doing the page design. If you would like to help with the production or distribution of the publication in any way, thank you: please contact us.



AUSTWICK SCHOOL PTA BIRDS QUIZ

Can you solve the clues to identify 50 birds? We are selling a quiz sheet - good entertainment for a rainy day! It's £2 per sheet, and you can win a Booths voucher (£20 first prize, £10 second prize). Please support our lovely village primary school - all profits will be used for resources and activities for the children. We will be selling them at our street market stand or they can be picked up at Austwick shop or the Game Cock Inn. Or contact us to pick up / we can drop off: austwickpta@hotmail.com / Rebecca Wallbank 07803 042846.

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AUSTWICK STREET MARKET AND CUCKOO FESTIVAL MONDAY 25TH MAY 2026, 9.30AM – 4PM

A popular fixture in the village calendar for over forty years, the Street Market is back again. There will be some new highlights this year that we hope you'll enjoy, along with the old favourites. You won't want to miss a Yorkshire 'Unicorn', and a fun Dog Show for your four-legged friends!

The Thwaites Dray Horses will be back, there'll be music from Settle & Giggleswick Brass band, classic vehicles, jazz music, 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 Punch & Judy, activities, face painting and children's entertainer – Juggling Jim!

All villagers are invited to decorate their cuckoos in a way that celebrates the village – what do you love about Austwick – walking, tennis, school or maybe the pub?! We have a few spare Cuckoos if anyone would like a wooden one to decorate or we'd love to see households creating their own.

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 event 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 will be Tuesday 19th & Thursday 21st May.
- Please decorate your cuckoo in a way that celebrates what you love about Austwick and display it 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 Cake Stall, please contact Eilish Askew on 07581 482423 if you plan to bake.
- Donate plants for the Plant Stall – please leave at Beck House
- Buy tickets for the Games Night on Saturday 23rd May – available via email from Ronny Lardner, ronnylardner@hotmail.com, or the Village Shop.



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 small 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 Rona Webster, 07967 598981, ronajwebster@gmail.com, or Joanna Townley, 07587 742389, joanna.wilson2016@outlook.com, would love to hear from you.

Thank you all for your help and support. Here's to another great day for our community.

The Friends of the Street Market

Austwick Summer. Photo: Chris Leeming



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So, if you have difficulty getting to the library or know of anyone, friend, a relative who really enjoys reading and would like to make use of this invaluable service then please get in touch.

As one customer put it: "I thank the organisers and volunteers of this brilliant service and long may it last."

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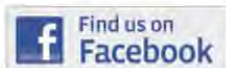
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A NEW HEADTEACHER FOR OUR THRIVING SCHOOL



Here at Austwick Primary School we are celebrating the appointment of Mrs Beth McHardy as headteacher. Our Chair of Governors, Lindsey Smith said, “The governors, supported by the local authority and the Diocese, are delighted to be able to appoint such an inspirational headteacher to lead our school forwards and retain Austwick’s distinctiveness as a small rural school.”

While Mrs McHardy has been in position as interim head, our school has welcomed more new children than for many years. We attribute this to our welcoming family atmosphere, as well as being able to support parents by offering breakfast and after school care.

Mrs McHardy said, “Our school is a very special place, and that is in no small part due to the strong partnership between staff, families and our wider community. I am excited to continue working together to ensure our children thrive, feel valued and enjoy every opportunity to learn, grow and achieve their best.

“I’ve been teaching for 15 years, but my love for working with young people began before that, when I started out as a teaching assistant and children’s fitness coach. Those early experiences inspired me to complete my PGCE. My career in teaching began in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, where I worked in a range of large, busy primary schools. Eventually, my family and I returned home to the North West - where I feel my heart belongs, surrounded by the hills and the beautiful landscape.”

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Austwick is the only small village school left in the area but is going from strength to strength. Our school’s broad curriculum and personalised support helps every child to flourish and offers rich learning experiences for

all. As well as a recent ‘good’ Ofsted rating we are very proud of our strong academic results, with children making excellent progress across core subjects. Mrs McHardy has been busy introducing running, Spanish and chess clubs as well as balance bike training sessions. She plans for the children to participate in the ‘Green Tree’ award for outdoor learning and ‘Young Voices’ children’s choir concerts. During the spring term the children also enjoyed a World Book Day trip to Settle library (dressed as their favourite book characters of course!), Forest School sessions and a swimming gala with other local schools. Our Y6 children have been focusing on SATs preparation at a weekly breakfast club.

PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Our PTA would like to thank the local community for supporting their jumble sale, they raised an amazing £970! They look forward to seeing you at the street market – come down to school for hot drinks, sandwiches, quiches and plenty of delicious cakes.

COME AND VISIT AUSTWICK SCHOOL

Every day is an open day – if you might be interested in your child coming to Austwick just get in touch and we would be delighted to show you around. See more on our school website, www.austwickprimary.co.uk, and all our latest news on our Facebook page. *Beth McHardy: admin@austwick.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
- ✓ Outdoor activities & Forest School

“Every day is an open day - we’d love to show you round”

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

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AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW

The date for this year's Village Show will be **Saturday August 1st 2026.**

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 (graham.cleverly1@gmail.com or 0788 1823380), or the Secretary, Judy Leeming (j.leeming@talk21.com or 07968739666) or contact one of the other Show Committee members for advice.

The 2026 Show Schedule format has been further improved this year with thanks to Doon Storey. It contains all the details of how to enter, including full details of this year's recipe item (Yorkshire Parkin). The Schedule and two

Entry Forms are free and will be available from Cross Leigh Stores, or from the Chairman, Graham Cleverly, from late June, 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.

*Judy Leeming, 2026 Village Show Secretary
See the next page for full list of show classes.*



**SATURDAY
1
AUGUST
2026
2.00 PM
Austwick
Parish
Hall**

AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW
Austwick Horticultural and Village Produce Association
President: Pam Smith

Exhibitor Information and Entry Forms
inside and on:
www.austwick.org/village-show/
Go behind the scenes and find out more about the Show
watch the YouTube video:
Austwick Village Show 2024
Doors Open: 2.00 pm
Presentation of Cups, Trophies and Prizes: 3.30 pm
Refreshments and Raffle
ADMISSION: adults £2, children under 14 FREE

AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW 2026: 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 (maximum height 20cms/8").
12. A container of hardy annuals.
13. A container 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. "Home Grown" using anything grown in your garden
20. An arrangement of "A Book Title"

45. Four distinct vegetables on a tray (max. 45.5cms x 61cms/18"x 24").
46. Up to six culinary herbs - not in flower.
47. A plate (up to 18cms/7" diam.) of one variety of soft fruit.
48. A plate (up to 18cms/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 contents).
53. Three bantam eggs (for contents).
54. Three eggs (for contents) from any other poultry.

Cookery Section

55. A plaited loaf
56. Four savoury biscuits (rolled and cut).
57. Four cherry scones.
58. Four date slices.
59. A Tea Loaf.
60. A gluten free cake.
61. Recipe Item: A Yorkshire Parkin (recipe

81. A single photograph: "Misty Morning".
Classes 79 -81: items on a single or multiple mount must not exceed A3 size (29.7cms x 42cms/11¾" x 16½"); items in ratios other than A3 are allowed, such as square, panorama and other photographic sizes but must not exceed A3 dimensions (29.7cms x 42cms/11¾" x 16½"). Items must NOT be framed. Full rules for Photograph entries will be provided in the schedule.

Handicraft Section

82. A papercraft item.
83. A handmade bag, box or bowl.
84. Any item of internal or external decor.
85. Any item of upcycled clothing.
86. A knitted or crocheted item.
87. An item of any other needlework (e.g. patchwork).
88. An item of felt work which may include embellishment.
89. A woodwork item up to maximum dimensions of 100cms x 100cms x 100cms/39" x 39" x 39".
90. Any other item unable to be included



21. An arrangement using only foliage "Not a Flower in Sight"
22. An arrangement of "Rustic Charm"
23. A "Miniature Arrangement" not exceeding 30cms/12" height x 15cms/6" deep x 15cms/6" width.

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 basket or trug of vegetable produce from your garden or greenhouse – up to a maximum of 6 different vegetables.
41. One cucumber.
42. A plate (up to 18cms/7" diameter) of four ripe tomatoes.
43. A truss of tomatoes.
44. One flower and one vegetable

- 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

Art Section

74. A painting of "My Garden"
75. A painting of any other subject.
76. A drawing: "A Tree".
77. A drawing of any other subject
78. A Mixed Media piece of artwork based on any subject.
- Classes 74 – 78: finished work including mount, if desired, must not exceed A3 size (29.7cms x 42cms/11¾" x 16½"). Items must NOT be framed. Full rules for artwork entries will be provided in the schedule.*
79. Four different photographs on the theme "Windows".
80. Four different photographs on a theme of your choice.

elsewhere in this section.

Note: upcycled means transforming waste or unwanted products into new items of higher value or usefulness rather than throwing them away or recycling. Full rules for the handicraft sections will be provided in the schedule.

Children's Section

91. Under 5 years: any artwork
 92. 5-8 years: any artwork
 93. 9-14 years: Handwriting: "A verse of a poem"
 94. 9-14 years: any artwork
 95. A poster "Sports Day"
 96. A photograph: "Something I found on my walk" (taken by the exhibitor).
 97. An illustrated invitation to a party.
 98. A painted pebble design.
 99. A collage on a plate: "My favourite meal".
 100. An animal made from a vegetable/fruit.
 101. A model made from junk.
 102. A miniature garden.
 103. Anything you like. You made it: let us see it. (No larger than you).
- Entries in the children's section will be accepted from children up to and including the age of 14 years. Entries must be solely the children's own work. Rules for the photography are the same as for the adult section. Full rules for the children's section will be provided in the schedule.*

AUSTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A cursory glance at the opening paragraph of previous May newsletters will invariably give an indication of the kind of start to the year that we have had, or suffered and predictably, this year is no different! Although few residents can recall a longer, greyer or more miserable start to the New Year, the general consensus is that we have got off lightly, compared to other parts of the country. With some areas having 300 per cent, or more, of the average monthly rainfall, causing widespread flooding for prolonged periods, we have just been depressingly grey and damp. At the time of writing, these conditions prevail, but hopefully, by the time of reading we will be enjoying the warmest, sunniest spring on record!

This will undoubtedly be welcome news for our new Parish Lengthsman, Rob Davidson, as he took over the role from Ben Shanks at the beginning of April. Rob will work differently to Ben and have his own way of doing things, which should be accepted and hopefully Austwick's residents will welcome him to the village and make allowances for the change in style.

In addition to having a new Lengthsman in Austwick, we also have a new Parish Councillor in Martyn Fryer, who lives in Feizor with his wife Sue and joined the PC in January. Martyn has a wealth of experience in both the public and commercial sectors, including Data Process Management and setting up an architectural business in the Ecclesiastical and Automotive sectors. He also served as a Parish Councillor and Village Hall Chairman for many years at Saxton, near Tadcaster. His knowledge of Parish Council procedures, together with his experience in architectural and local planning matters will be invaluable and we are delighted that he has joined us.

The wild flower planting project on the Clapham Road conservation verge is now virtually complete, thanks to the efforts of Graham Cleverly, Ben Shanks, Margaret Wilding, Alex Pilkington and Olivia Hawkins. The grant from the Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Fund and the National Park's Wildlife Conservation Team has been put to good use in purchasing seeds and plant plugs of indigenous wild flower species, which have been set in random groups along the length of the verge, based on the most suitable setting for each species, such as shady, dappled shade or full sun. A considerable amount of work has been involved in preparing the initial proposal for the funding, including

detailed costings and planting schemes, preparation of the ground, planting and watering the plots during last year's very dry Spring and on-going maintenance to ensure that the new seedlings have the best chance of survival. 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. Work which began on the Greystonber Lane verge more than 10 years ago is now showing what can be achieved with voluntary effort by the community and a sound long term environmental management plan.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting a final decision from the Planning Inspector on the future formal status of Thwaite Lane. For nearly two decades uncertainty has existed over the designation of this 'public right of way', between St James' Church in Clapham, through the tunnels and on a high and scenic level to the top of Townhead in Austwick and down to Slaindale Barn near Wharfe road. Is it a bridleway or a 'Byway open to all traffic' (BOAT) which would allow access by motor vehicles? Councillors believed the matter was resolved in 2024 following a public Inquiry, when it was declared to be a bridleway evermore. However, there were objections to this decision, requiring a further second public Inquiry, which was held in October in Northallerton and at the end of the inquiry hearing and what was hopefully the final chapter in this saga, the Inspector said that she will make a decision "in due course". And so we wait....

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

website at www.austwickparishcouncil.org.uk or copies can be obtained from Marijke Hill, 01729 823723, austwickpcclerk@gmail.com.

The remaining Parish Council meeting dates for 2026 are: May 18th PC Meeting at 6.00pm & Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm, June 29th, September 7th, October 12th, November 30th. All meetings are held in the Parish Hall and, except as noted above, 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 18th 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.

Our keynote speaker this year is Peter Stockton, head of Sustainable Development at the Yorkshire Dales National Park, who will talk about the new Local Plan 2025-2040. This document sets out Planning Policies for years to come, governing what development can & cannot take place in the National Park and on which all Planning application decisions are based. The contact details for your Parish Councillors are: Peter Goold, Chairman: 015242 51039; Barbara Tibbatts, Vice-Chairman: 01729 860240; Kate Smith: 01729 860225; David Dewhirst: 07743 314104; Martyn Fryer: 07515 551476; Marijke Hill, Parish Clerk: 01729 823723, austwickpcclerk@gmail.com

PARISH OF AUSTWICK: NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Austwick Parish Hall on Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.30pm. All Registered Electors of Austwick are invited to attend and participate.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies.
2. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19th May 2025 and matters arising.

The minutes are available at www.austwickparishcouncil.org.uk.

3. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.
4. To receive reports from North Yorkshire Councillor, National Park Ranger and the Police.
5. The National Park's new Local Plan 2025-2040. Speaker: Peter Stockton, Head of Sustainable Development, Yorkshire Dales National Park.

6. To invite updates from local community organisations and to allow parishioners to raise any matters of general interest.

Peter Stockton is head of Sustainable Development at the National Park. He is coming to talk about the new Local Plan 2025-2040. This sets out Planning Policies for years to come governing "what development can & can't take place" in the National Park. Planning application decisions are based on it.

Cllr. David Ireton, our North Yorkshire Councillor and **Will Locke**, our National Park Ranger have each confirmed that they will be coming to the meeting.

Come along to the meeting, have your say on matters of interest to the parish and hear what local community groups are doing.

Cllr Peter Goold, Chairman, Austwick Parish Council

Austwick Parish Council

There is

AN OPPORTUNITY

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

RETIREMENT IS LOOMING

Four of your 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

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
May 2026

WHAT'S NEW AT AUSTWICK PARISH HALL?

We've had a fantastic autumn and winter - from film nights to the friendly rivalry of quiz nights and the relaxing jigsaw exchange and coffee mornings. It's been wonderful seeing so many faces from Austwick and beyond.

A huge thank you to our caretaker, the many volunteers and trustees who make these events possible and keep the hall running smoothly and looking its best.

GOING GREEN

The latest development is the installation of solar panels on the rear of the roof, battery storage and additional roof insulation. Trustees have wanted to move with the times and make the hall more sustainable, but this would not have happened without the support of Ronny Lardner who volunteered to manage the project. Following an

independent energy efficiency audit and thanks to very generous grants from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund and the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund the installation was completed in March by Eleck Energy of Bentham. The installation should cut electricity costs by up to 50% and will achieve payback of the Parish Hall expenditure on the project within one year.

FRESH FACES

We've welcomed five new members to our team to help lead the Hall into the future:

David Sexton: Booking Secretary and Vice Chair

Jo Martin: Secretary

Mark Richmond: Building Manager

Simon Brownlee: Treasurer

Chris Hill: Table Tennis Club Rep.

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!

The Hall is here for you, and we'd love to see it used in even more creative ways. Whether you're thinking of hosting a milestone birthday party, a Macmillan coffee morning, or even a weekend "pop-up" café, our doors are open!

Have an idea or want to book?

Please reach out to our new Booking Secretary, David Sexton, at 07968797203 or admin@austwickparishhall.org.uk.

For general volunteering or to join a meeting as a guest and maybe become a trustee, please drop Lindsey Smith a line at lindseyinaustwick@gmail.com. You can also find our full calendar of events and free spaces for your own at Austwick.org.

*Lindsey Smith on behalf of the
Parish Hall Council*

JOHN'S NOTES: THE CHURCH CANNOT BLESS WAR

Based on an article by C. Andrew Doyle and Stanley Hauerwas,
The Christian Century, 27 June 2025.

At times of war, Christians turn to prayer, and yet, too often, that prayer is quiet enough to be mistaken for approval. The church is not the chaplaincy of empire. The church is the body of Christ. The church does not serve the interests of statecraft. The church serves the kingdom of God. And as such, we do not respond to war with worry or with nationalism. We respond theologically, with clarity, compassion, and a call to speak the truth about violence and our participation in it.

The Theological Declaration of Barmen, written in 1934 to protest the Nazi-influenced German Christian movement, begins this way: "Jesus Christ, as He is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death." The Word has not changed. It confronts every power that seeks to take the church's allegiance from Christ, even powers that come wrapped in a flag and quoting familiar scripture.

Christianity demands more than private values or partisan identity. It requires a public witness. And in a time of war, that witness includes a refusal to allow the state to define righteousness on its terms. A Christianity that affirms the state's wars is not Christianity. It is idolatry.

War does not merely take lives; it reshapes moral communities. For Christians, formed by the Gospel of peace, the refusal to kill is not a sign of weakness but a witness. Yet war demands that we abandon this witness,

that we exchange enemy-love for lethal obedience. It trains us to believe that killing can be virtuous, that moral formation must bend to national survival. In doing so, war exacts a deeper cost than death—it asks us to surrender a central claim of our discipleship. The most considerable sacrifice war demands is not the loss of life, but the loss of our reluctance to kill.

That moral break—the one that trains people to quiet their conscience, override their mercy, kill without hesitation—damages the soul. And those wounds don't stay on the battlefield. They come home with soldiers. They sit with us in the pews. They show up in stories of moral injury and spiritual fatigue. When we honour soldiers for taking life and expect silence for the toll it takes, we reinforce the lie that violence can be holy and has no individual or corporate spiritual costs. We sin against the Gospel.

So we pray. But we pray differently. We pray as people who lament war and the stories told to justify it. We pray for those who have died and those who will die. We pray for soldiers, with genuine concern for their physical and spiritual health. And we pray for the church—that it would be a place where truth can be told, where wounds can be named, and where the peace of Christ is not just a word but a way of life.

This means that we, as the church, do not blame soldiers. It's quite the opposite. As one Christian body, we walk with them, we listen to them, we learn from them. We love them enough to tell the truth. We don't expect them to carry the weight of our silence. We expect the church to carry the weight of their healing.

We believe in a Gospel that does not need missiles to make it real. And we believe in a Christ who still calls his followers to love beyond borders, beyond fear, and beyond the rationalisations of empire. Christ for the world, we sing! War is a failure of imagination. The church is supposed to be an alternative. Let us live like it.

*Revd John Davies
Vicar, Clapham with Keasden and Austwick with Eldroth
01524 805928, john.davies@leeds.anglican.org
Churches website: bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick
Notes from a Small Vicar: <https://johndavies.org/wp>*



SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH BISHOP ANNA AND ARCHDEACON JAMES

Come and meet Rt. Revd. Anna Eltringham, the Bishop of Ripon, and Ven. James Theodosius, Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven, at our next Deanery Synod meeting, Tuesday 12 May, 7.00pm at Settle Parish Church. All are welcome to attend. Having spent much time listening closely to people in the parishes over recent years and months, Bishop Anna and Archdeacon James are wanting to articulate their vision for the future flourishing of our churches: based in realism about challenges we all face, but rooted in a hopeful vision based on the gospel story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 (Mark 6.30-44). Like Jesus with a few loaves and fishes, what amazing things we can do with the resources (however modest) we have available. **They'd like everyone involved in this ongoing discussion: please come along to join in the conversation.**

ELDROTH CHURCH

Evening Prayer Services - As mentioned in the last newsletter, over the past couple of years we have tried different ways to make our 3rd Sunday services more accessible during the dark nights and bad weather of the winter months. This year we held our Evening Prayer services at 3.00pm instead of the usual time of 6.30pm. This proved to be a great success, which we intend to repeat again next year.

Easter Services – As the spring lambs arrived, we celebrated Easter at Eldroth Church.

Maundy Thursday – based around the Last Supper, we sat together at the Passover Table. In this quiet and reflective service, interspersed with readings, prayers, songs and music, the table is gradually laid. Firstly, the bare table is covered, then the glasses and candles are placed. The bread and wine are brought forward and blessed and, with a simple supper, are shared among friends. This is a lovely service and very well suited to this beautiful little church.

Then came Easter Sunday - there was a great turnout, on a day of rain, hail and finally sunshine, and with the church filled with the scent of flowers we celebrated Easter. Thank you to everyone who came along to these services, and/or supported with the preparations, together making this a successful and enjoyable time.

Save the dates!! - After our annual meeting in March, we have now set the dates for our 'regular' community and fundraising events.

Cream Teas - Saturday 4th of July

Ploughmans Lunch - Saturday 19th September

Harvest Dominoes and Supper – Tuesday 6th October

We look forward to welcoming you and hope that you are able to support our fundraising efforts. As well as having a good time, your support helps us to keep this little gem at the heart of our community.

AUSTWICK W.I.

Austwick W. I. meets in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of the month.

As well as our monthly meetings we have several outings planned and some of our members recently sampled the delights of the Attamire café. The next outing is a walk up to see the primroses on Oxenber followed by afternoon tea at the Attamire café.

Unfortunately our new year did not start well as our first meeting had to be cancelled due to the bad weather conditions. We were looking forward to welcoming Ricky and Meg Hutchinson with their

Littledale sheepdogs but we are planning on organising a new date for their visit. February saw the return of the 'Pie, Peas and Prose' evening, which is always very popular. Matthew Bravery, The Yorkshire Beekeeper' was the guest speaker at the March meeting. Matthew described how he independently farms his own bees and is able to provide unique and specialist flavours from each of his carefully selected apiary sites. In April, Althea Smith, a keen quilter, brought samples of her exquisite work and explained how she started her long arm quilting business.



Here's what just a few of our visitors say...

"Beautiful Church, inside and out. Thank you", "Peaceful. Bliss. Thank you", "Exquisite", "Wonderful little Church, calm and peaceful"

Eldroth Church is always open! If you've never been in, haven't been in for a while, or just fancy a quiet place to sit please do pop in, everyone is welcome.

Julie Greenwood, Churchwarden

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Dates for your diary, 2026 :

May 14th Lawkland Hall Farm (Open Meeting) Peter Webster

June 11th Patrick Grant

July 9th Garden Party, courtesy of Pip & Alec Rigby

August 13th Clothes Swap

September 10th Foraging, Abbi Lawson (Bake Off Contestant)

October 8th Ambry Bakery, Beth O'Reilly & Sam Leach

November 12th AGM

December 8th Christmas Party

Sue Dewhirst

MOLLY'S HISTORY NOTES

PARISH HALL

A tremendous event for the village was when Henry Shepherd, the gardener/coachman at Austwick Hall for the Clapham family, bought the barn in the centre of the village to be converted to a parish hall. The small room and kitchen were added later after two cottages were demolished on the site. Henry was married but had no family and lived at Town Head Cottage. You wonder how he acquired the money, but in his will he left money to two men in the village so maybe he borrowed from them to help with the purchase.



Over the years many organisations have come and gone in the hall; probably one of the oldest remaining is the Women's Institute (The WI). Badminton was played for many years (in spite of the low beams), a team competing with neighbouring villages. It was a luxury playing at Bentham Town Hall with no low beams. Old Time and Modern dances were a feature with local bands providing the music; 'Bradleys' and the "Lunesdale Bijou" were ones I remember.

Mothers' Union, WI, whist drives, youth clubs, Young Farmers and a children's play-group. There were many one-off events such as 'Auction of Promises' Furniture sales organised by a local auctioneer were a feature. The stage could be erected for the entertainment group who performed for the Over-60s first then for the general public. Although many of these have gone, the hall is still well used.

READING ROOM

Another place for entertainment was the Old Reading Room on Low Street. It was accessed by a flight of stone steps on the outside, probably an old weaving shed needing first floor light. It was filled with books but local

men decided they preferred a billiard hall and the books were moved out. Those men bought it with a loan from Tant (Anthony) Lund who was paid off in instalments from organised events. There was a billiard table in each of two rooms and a kitchen and toilet built in the garden behind. When it was no longer used and fell into disrepair it was sold for private accommodation and the money used to buy the land for the playing field. A further meeting room was established in the first floor of Leigh House Cottage and used for many years by the men's organisation Toc H, the Girl Guides, A.Y.P.A. (Anglican Young Peoples Association) and W.E.A. (Workers Education Association), until the owner John Middleton, lost the lease on his joiners shop at Cross Cottages and had to move his business into the building.

AUSTWICK BROWNIE PACK

The photograph in the last newsletter is of the village Brownie Pack for girls aged seven to ten. We had girls from Austwick, Eldroth, Clapham, Newby, Horton and Stainforth. You needed around eighteen to make a good number for playing team games. The pack was started by Rene Gaskell, wife of the school headmaster. She was assisted by Molly Preston and they were called Brown Owl and Tawny Owl. The pack was divided into Sixers, named Elves, Pixies and Sprites. Each six sang a jingle at the start of each meeting. The girls were encouraged to use skills to gain badges which were sewn onto the uniform's sleeve. Games were part of the programme and doing adventurous things like going into Clapham Cave, sailing on the canal at Skipton, hiking up the hills and cooking on a wood fire in the hollow at the top of Oxenber known as the Ash Pot. They also joined the



area events such as Brownie Revels at Ingleton, sports at Settle and the swimming gala at Skipton baths. Sadly, Rene Gaskell was killed in a horrific road accident in her little Fiat car. Molly Preston took over and served for fourteen years as Brown Owl, Mary Grant became Tawny Owl. We gave concerts for parents and friends with singing and little plays. Once in Spring we picked a huge basket of bluebells for the patients at Harden Bridge Hospital (not allowed to do that now). Halloween was always popular, dressing up, dancing round a fire, bobbing for apples and making peppermint creams. Mary Grant's husband Jim took the photograph. He was youth organiser for the Settle area. The photograph in the last Newsletter shows the Austwick and Eldroth girls; the others had gone home.

SICKNESS AND BENEFIT SOCIETY

In the days when there was no Health Service, provisions were made to help people in an emergency. My Dad, John Middleton, was in charge of the Sickness and Benefit Society branch in the village. Men came to the door on a regular basis to pay in small amounts when they were earning. If they were off sick, they were able to claim benefits. The Yorkshire Penny Bank situated in Cross Cottage* opposite the church was also a way of saving small amounts. This was open to the public on Friday evenings**. Another organisation was the Girls Friendly Society. Teen-age girls came to our house and my mother showed them how to make craft items.

Molly Preston

Notes:

* Pictures on Page 14 are of Cross Cottage.

**Michael Sykes had 4/6d in his bank book as late as 1960.

MEMORIES OF MY DAD, ROGER MOORE



We saw you there on the cricket ground
"Howzat" your shout a favourite sound

We saw you there with your kids on the sand
Ever the engineer bucket and spade in hand

We saw you there on the farm at Dowall Dale
Working the hay lifting bale after bale

We saw you there upon the fells
Wandering for miles where nature dwells

We saw you there amongst the flowers
Tending your garden for hours and hours

We saw you there in the church at prayer
And ringing the bell we heard you there

We sense you now in the heavens at last
And remember fondly memories past

Jacqui Parfitt, 9th February 2026.
David 'Roger' Moore, of Wharfe,
died on 23rd January 2026, aged 91 years.

AUSTWICK SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

When is it? Saturday 27th June 2026, 2pm- 5pm

Where is it? Beck House, Greystonber Road, Austwick

What is it? It's tea and cakes and a relaxing afternoon – everyone is very welcome.

Do I need a ticket? No ticket needed.

What's it for? It's to fund raise for the building work at Austwick Parish Church, an important presence in our community.

What's the cost? There's no charge for tea and your plate of cake and sandwiches.

How do I make a donation? Cash or card donations gratefully accepted. Donations will be handed to the Austwick Parish Church Council.

Is it only for church-goers?

No, it's not just for church-goers. It's a community occasion for us in Austwick and our family, friends and visitors. Plus, it's a chance to add financial support to the Church fundraising campaign.

Will there be stalls?

We're planning- a stall selling more cakes to eat during the afternoon or to take away, a homegrown produce stall, a raffle with good prizes to win, music to enjoy.

What about children, dogs, parking?

Children are very welcome. There will be games and toys. Seats and gazebos will be available. Dogs on leads please. Parking is along Greystonber Road and some disabled space is available at Beck House (phone to arrange).

More Information. Offers of help?

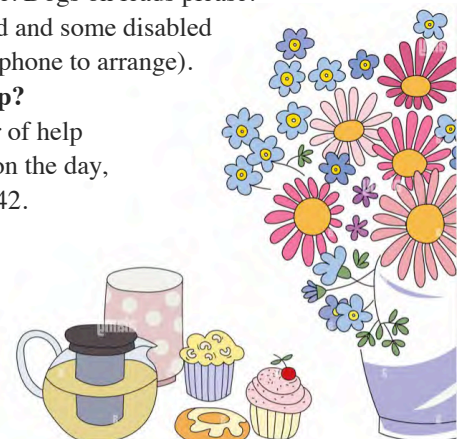
For further information or an offer of help in the planning or with baking or on the day, please contact Gwen, 0775 3220042.

Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE

AND COME ALONG!

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE





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ALL YOUR CHURCH SERVICES THIS SUMMER

Everybody's welcome to all our services, and to visit the churches at any time: they are open every day!

3 May Easter 5

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

10 May Easter 6

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

Thursday 14 May Ascension Day

10.30 Austwick Holy Communion
(replaces Wednesday service)

17 May Easter 7 / Sunday after Ascension

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

24 May Pentecost

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
6.30 Keasden Lambing Service

31 May Trinity Sunday

10.30 Eldroth Benefice Holy Communion (Revd Steve Rathbone)
7.00 Clapham New Inn Church in the Pub (TBC)

7 June Trinity 1

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

14 June Second after Trinity

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

21 June Trinity 3

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

28 June Trinity 4

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion
7.00 Keasden Beer and Hymns

5 July Trinity 5

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

12 July Trinity 6

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

19 July Trinity 7

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

26 July Trinity 8

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

2 August Trinity 9

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

9 August Trinity 10

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

16 August Trinity 11

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

23 August Trinity 12

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

30 August Trinity 13

10.30 Keasden Benefice Holy Communion
7.00 Clapham New Inn Church in the Pub (TBC)

6 September Trinity 14

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

13 September Trinity 15

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

Plus, each Wednesday:

10.30 Austwick Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

Some details may change: for updates please see churches weekly newsletters in churches, or online at bit.ly/churches-newsletters.

Mary and Jesus, Sarah Fuller (2012)

Cate's Swimming Windermere!

SPONSOR CATE ON THE GREAT NORTH SWIM

On Saturday 13th June Cate Muckersie will attempt to swim a mile on Windermere in the Great North Swim

Cate is fundraising in support of essential repair works on Austwick Church. Your sponsorship will help guarantee the future of this important community building.



Please sponsor Cate:

GO ONLINE: bit.ly/mygift-austwickchurch

SIGN A SPONSOR FORM: in Church or the Village Shop

OR CONTACT CATE: 07791 956304 / muckersiec@gmail.com



NATURE NOTES: SPRING 2026

As I write these notes, better spring weather has arrived, the surrounding fields are full of ewes and lambs and the welcome warbling of curlews is a delight to the ear.



However, it is a week too soon for the pair of swallows to hopefully return to existing mud nests in the roof of our garage from their winter home in Sub Saharan Africa. Based on previous records they arrive back here on 21st April give or take a day or so, and the current good weather should help. Ditto for the house martins who rebuilt a triple decker nest on the North facing gable of the house last year. There are now three additional artificial house martin nests installed courtesy of the YDMT “homes for birds project” contractors and now waiting for extra house martin visitors. House martins typically arrive in the UK slightly later than swallows so

maybe the end of April or early May will mark their return.

The Bank of England will apparently feature British animals and birds on its banknotes shortly and there has been speculation on which candidates will be featured—with hedgehogs and long-tailed tits getting a special mention on the radio. For what it’s worth my favourites would be a) hedgehogs (for plucky perseverance), b) avocets (for novelty value—the only bird with an upturned beak), c) red kites (for resilience having nearly been eliminated in the ‘80s by persecution but now staging a successful come-back due to coordinated conservation efforts), d) ditto otters, and last but not least, e) curlews (threatened globally but hanging on—at least here in the Yorkshire Dales if not elsewhere in the UK).

The multiple sightings of a local otter in Austwick Beck has been an exciting recent development. The earlier videos kindly provided by a local dog walker confirm it is a fully grown dog otter i.e. an adult male and he probably travels up and down the local water courses regularly, looking for food—principally trout, and possibly a suitable mate. Further downstream Austwick Beck joins Clapham Beck and then becomes The Wenning before joining the River Lune near Hornby and then eventually flowing into Morecambe bay. There are unfortunately several frequent wastewater “emergency” overflow discharges downstream of Austwick including one at the Austwick Wastewater Pumping Station adjacent to the A65, with a very poor record of frequent, raw sewage overflows into the local drains around Austwick Moss. So, our plucky otter must have traversed the polluted lower reaches of the beck before arriving at a cleaner stretch of water through the village and beyond to its source near Crummack. I have not seen any trout in Austwick Beck in recent years beyond the size of minnows but the presence of herons and egrets in the Beck confirm they must exist—and there are some large trout to be seen in the River Wenning at Horton-in Ribblesdale.

So far this spring I have spotted at least two healthy hedgehogs fresh from hibernating over winter and active in the garden. I have started feeding them each evening with hedgehog food at three feeding stations. Each morning the food has all but disappeared which is a good sign. I have also relocated our sunflower bird feeder



next to the kitchen window and marvelled at the close-up views of all sorts of colourful visitors including siskins, nuthatches, woodpeckers and goldfinches. Our grandchildren have had a wonderful and convenient close-up view of these beautiful English garden birds from the convenience of the kitchen; the birds don't seem to mind either being peered up by inquisitive and noisy children or being eye-balled by our two lazy cats.

Also spotted, but less welcome (and familiar to everyone in the village with a bird feeder), is a handsome sparrow hawk who roosts near the garden feeder and occasionally strikes lucky with a kill. If anyone has seen an interesting bird in their garden I would love to hear from them.

Graham Cleverly, Beck House

WELCOMING SWALLOWS TO AUSTWICK CHURCH

Parishioners may have noticed the netting in the roof of the church porch that was installed to prevent swallows from nesting in the rafters. The net was put up a couple of years ago because the swallows were making a significant mess on the floor which needed daily attention. However two new artificial swallow nest boxes have recently been put up on the outside of the church in suitable corner locations to encourage swallows to nest in the church grounds this year (or maybe house martins that require similar locations for nests).



Graham Cleverly

AUSTWICK CEMETERY WILD FLOWER MEADOW

A wildlife meadow has been developed over the last few years at Austwick Cemetery and over the last few months some additional plug plants have been added. The area used for the meadow will not be used for burials for many years yet, and in the meantime it is here for your enjoyment and for the encouragement and support of the non-human visitors to the cemetery. You are welcome to follow the winding path through the middle of the meadow to enjoy the wild flowers, insects and birds that have found a home there. *Graham Cleverly*

CEMETERY MEMORIALS

The PCC have recently undertaken 'topple tests' on memorials in Austwick Cemetery, and marked those which are recommended for maintenance. Many thanks to those families who have already taken steps to repair their memorials. If your family has a memorial marked, please see the notice on the cemetery gate or contact me for a list of contractors who can help. *Revd John Davies*

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Craven Wildlife Rescue becomes Yorkshire Dales Wildlife Rescue

We are delighted to tell readers that Craven Wildlife Rescue is changing its name to Yorkshire Dales Wildlife Rescue. The charity - the only wildlife rescue of its kind across many hundreds of square miles - has rescued, rehabilitated and returned to the wild thousands of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals since it was established in 2019. Most of the charity's patients are endangered species or those facing conservation challenges e.g. red- or amber-listed mammals and birds of conservation concern (BoCC) and European protected species (EPS). "We have a particularly strong relationship with Austwick," says Jane Carpenter, Co-Founder. "We have cared for many injured and sick Austwick hedgehogs, returning them to the village to live out their wild life. This name change is major news for us. It shows not only how much we have grown, but acknowledges the vital role we now play in this very special part of the UK. The Yorkshire Dales is a protected, living landscape, vital for biodiversity, and we



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are honoured to be one of the organisations at the forefront of protecting that."

"When we started as a home-based operation, the North Yorkshire district of Craven was our patch," adds Penny Hunt, Co-Founder. "However, we now run a professional wildlife hospital, with some of the best release rates in the UK. From curlews to cormorants, hedgehogs to harriers, badgers to bats, we care for the full range of Yorkshire Dales wildlife from right across the region. Now seems the perfect time to recognise this and launch our new name.

"We are keen, though, to reassure our supporters and wildlife living outside the Dales, particularly those in the Craven area that live outside the National Park boundary, that we remain as committed to them as we have always been. In truth, the name change reflects our true scope as an organisation, as we are now, rather than any change in our offering."

Jill Franklin, Trustee

FRIENDS OF THE DALES

Eyes on the Skies Campaign

Yorkshire Dales environmental charity Friends of the Dales runs regular events to support its campaigning work. The following - free but donations welcome - events form part of its Eyes on the Skies campaign, speaking out about the ongoing criminal killing of birds of prey and petitioning for vital legal reforms. Head over to its website at www.friendsofthedales.org to find out more about the petition and add your name. Coming Events:

Birding for Beginners: Saturday 9 May, 10am - 4pm

Friends of the Dales has teamed up with Upper Wharfedale Field Society to offer Birding for Beginners - a friendly, no-pressure introduction designed especially for 18-35s. Following an informal morning session near Grassington to get you clued up on what to look (and listen!) for, there is a three mile walk, spotting birds along the way and learning how different species use the landscape throughout the year.

To book: victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Online Talk - Talking Raptor Persecution with Dr Ruth Tingay. Wednesday 20 May, 5.30pm - 7pm

A unique opportunity to hear from wildlife conservationist Dr Ruth Tingay, who has worked in the field of raptor research and conservation for more than 30 years. A former President of the international Raptor Research Foundation, Ruth now focuses on campaigning against the illegal killing

of birds of prey in the UK through the blog Raptor Persecution UK.

Book at: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Birds and Nature Walk at Malham. Wednesday 17 June 10am - 4pm

Ian Court, Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park will lead a two mile guided walk to Malham Cove offering a rare chance to look out for one of the Yorkshire Dales' most majestic birds of prey, the Peregrine Falcon. In the afternoon Friends of the Dales

Trustee and Chair of Malhamdale Environmental Group, Jane Smart will lead a two mile circular walk to Janet's Foss to explore the area's fauna and flora. Book at:

www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Wildlife Photo Walk with the Walking Photographer. Wednesday 1 July, 7.15 - 9.30pm

Want to sharpen your wildlife photography skills? Join an immersive 'golden hour' photo walk led by British Wildlife Photography Award winner Rich Bunce (Walking Photographer), set within the 2,500-acre Broughton Sanctuary nature recovery project.

This relaxed 2-3 mile evening walk will take you through a rich mix of habitats, offering plenty of opportunities to develop your technique and learn how to capture the Sanctuary's diverse flora and fauna with skill, sensitivity, and respect. Bring your own device to take photos on!

Book at: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events.



AUSTWICK FIELD AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Spring and Summer 2026 Programme of Talks and Walks

The spring season of talks by local speakers has been well attended and the society now has more than 100 paid-up members including residents of Settle, Clapham, Giggleswick and Bentham as well as the local Parishes of 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 droving, wild Ingleborough, RSPB criminal investigations, and Geology Giants. By the time you read this, the two remaining society evening talks this spring season will be on Wednesdays 20th May: The work of the Craven Wildlife Rescue Centre; and 17th June: Fossil and Fossil Hunters of the Yorkshire Dales.

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 Hall.

Field visits

This spring/summer the society has organised two field visits: The first was a visit to the recently erected bird hide on Lawkland Hall Farm to view waders. Our group of about 20 members were supported by RSPB staff member Frank Osterberg and by local farmer and wildlife supporter Pete Webster. The weather was perfect, and we saw several curlews, oystercatchers, lapwing and redshank at close hand, and everyone appreciated the opportunity to observe these iconic waders. Our huge thanks to Pete and Frank for their help in making this such a worthwhile visit.

The second visit in July or August 2026 will be a guided tour of Giggleswick School and chapel. Our visits are free to members. If you are not currently a member and would like know more about our talks and visits or to be included on our mailing list for future meeting notices, please contact our membership secretary Tony Horsewill on tonyhorsewill@me.com.

Autumn 2026 and Spring 2027 Programme of Talks

Evening talks during autumn 2026 and spring 2027 will as usual be in Austwick village (large) hall on the third Wednesday of each month from September 2026. The evening meetings programme is now virtually finalised for 2026/27 and will comprise talks on: Vernacular Buildings of the Dales, Walter Morrison, Traditional Hay Meadows of the Dales, Ingleborough history, Dry Stone walls, Clapham dam and the development of the Saw Mill café, Clapham, Birds of the Yorkshire Dales, Limestone Pavements, Wild Life Photography in North West England with an emphasis on kingfishers and otters, and Half a Century of Red

Squirrel Conservation in Grasmere. Watch this space for more details in the next Newsletter!

Nature Recovery Schemes: Update

Below is an updated summary of the current status of several "Nature Recovery" schemes for which funding and volunteer support through AFLHS grant applications, is either ongoing or planned.

Feizor hay meadow restoration scheme

The private field adjacent to the public footpath near Feizor has received multiple applications of wild flower seed as well as a variety of wild flower plug plants from various kind donors over the past few months and most if not all of the bramble roots have been removed from the Austwick end of the field by volunteers during the winter. Now the weather is improving the dead bramble roots will be either burnt or left as wild life refuges and the considerable efforts to enhance the existing hay meadow plants will hopefully bear fruit. Meanwhile rabbit burrows have reappeared in large numbers across the field. It remains to be seen if the wild flowers will prove too much temptation to the rabbits. Only time will tell.

Sand Martin Nest Box

By now sand martins are starting to return from Africa and several have been observed in the Lune valley. It is hoped some will take advantage of the new Millennium Trust grant -funded des res artificial nest box on the banks of Austick Beck, just downstream of the Little Bridges. A temporary wildlife camera has recently been loaned by a kind AFLHS member and fixed to the side of the nest box and we hope to have images of nesting sand martins shortly (and maybe evidence of other avian visitors too). In parallel, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust are considering a grant application from AFLHS for a permanent, solar powered camera which can send live feed to the Austwick Village website so the activities at the box can be observed in real time.

Recent Otter sighting on Austwick Beck

Two local residents have recently provided AFLHS with videos of a male otter in Austwick Beck. However, a camera installed near the bank where it was first sighted failed to record any further evidence (although it did pick up mallards, an egret and a heron on the bank). If you see the otter please let one of the AFLHS committee know, preferably with an image or video of the otter.

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*





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SETTLE SUMMER CONCERT 2026

Settle Orchestra brings its 2026 concert season to a sparkling close this June with a vibrant programme celebrating French elegance and classical vitality.

Under the baton of conductor Andre Chan, the orchestra presents an afternoon of colour, charm and wit, performed in two beautiful Yorkshire venues: Christ Church, Skipton on Saturday 20 June at 3.30pm and Settle Parish Church on Saturday 27 June at 3.30pm.

The programme opens with Claude Debussy's Sarabande, heard in the luminous orchestral arrangement by Maurice Ravel. Originally written for piano, the work unfolds with quiet dignity and impressionistic beauty, its gentle harmonies and subtle colours setting a reflective tone for the afternoon.

From French impressionism, the orchestra turns to classical exuberance with Mozart's Symphony No. 31 in D major, "Paris." Written during Mozart's time in the French capital, the symphony brims with energy, elegance and theatrical flair. Its bold opening, graceful slow movement and dazzling finale capture the excitement of an 18th-century Parisian audience.

The second half returns to the refined world of French orchestral music. Ravel's beloved Pavane Pour Une Infante Défunte offers a moment of poised nostalgia, its flowing melodies and delicate orchestration evoking the grace of a distant courtly past.

To conclude the season, Francis Poulenc's lively Sinfonietta bursts onto the stage with playful rhythms, bright orchestral colour and irresistible charm. Written in the mid-20th century, the work perfectly balances wit and sophistication, providing a jubilant finale to the orchestra's summer programme.

With music that ranges from shimmering impressionism to sparkling classical brilliance, this final concert of the 2026 season with Andre Chan promises a joyful and uplifting celebration of orchestral colour to round off the season in style. For more information visit <https://www.settleorchestra.org.uk>



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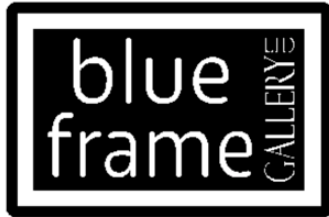


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SETTLE ORCHESTRA

The French Connection

Debussy (arr. Ravel) Sarabande	Ravel Pavane
Mozart Paris Symphony	Poulenc Sinfonietta

Conductor - Andre Chan Leader - Anne Heaton



Sat 20th June, 3.30pm Sat 27th June, 3.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton Settle Parish Church

Tickets £15; Students and benefits claimants £7.50; 18 and under Free
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TENNIS: A SPORT FOR ALL AGES

At Austwick Tennis Club we don't just say that tennis is a game for all ages, we show it with a membership that includes both Harriet Hewgill in her early teens and Margaret Glover in her late eighties.

Harriet, who last year helped the Austwick A team win promotion to the top division of the Wharfedale Mixed Doubles League, spent the week before we took our photograph travelling with her parents to Carlisle to take part in a regional competition where she was playing, and taking some games off girls several years her senior. Harriet's family are keen on tennis and her father Mark is almost certainly the only person in the village who owns a machine to re-string tennis racquets, something that club members have found very useful.

Margaret, at the other end of the age scale, shows her love of tennis by playing several times a week in a group known as the Monfris. They play most Monday and Friday mornings, weather permitting, and enjoy a relaxing cup or two of coffee alongside games that are not too competitive. The Monfris also provide a way back into the game for those keen to resume tennis after a long period where they have not played. Many of our league players started off as Monfris.

On the competitive front, our three vets teams enjoyed a successful winter in the Lancaster and Morecambe League. The third team, the Chiffchaffs, topped their division convincingly and gained promotion to the second division, where they will compete against our second team, the Cuckoos, next season. The Cuckoos finished their season in third place in the second division, just where they wanted to be, avoiding both relegation and promotion. The first team, the Curlews, finished a commendable second in the top division.

For this summer we will be entering two teams in the Wharfedale League rather than the three we have played recently: finding three pairs of mixed doubles for our A, B and C teams has proved a struggle for a comparatively small club like ours. But in a bid to provide competitive tennis for all those who are keen to play, we have for the first time in a number of years entered a men's as well as



a women's team in the Bradford Park League this year, matches in this league are played on Saturday afternoons, as opposed to the midweek evenings when Wharfedale League games are scheduled.

Whilst the club is thriving and enjoying the courts that were resurfaced just over a year ago, one area where we might struggle is providing the regular summer coaching that has been a feature of the club for the past few years. We are finding it a bit difficult to find a qualified coach to take regular sessions. But we do still have hopes. Look to our website Clubspark / Austwick Tennis Club / Austwick Tennis Club for an update.

We are always keen to welcome new members of whatever age and whatever standard and even if you don't want to play regularly, you can book the courts through the Cross Leigh store, to whom we are grateful for their support.

AUSTWICK BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club held its Annual General Meeting in the Pavilion on 20 March 2026. The meeting was well attended by a large number of members. David Gregory, our Chairman, took the meeting and the same officers were re-elected for a further year. Grateful thanks were extended to all the officers for their continued support. One person in particular needs a special mention and that is Peter Morton our Green Keeper. Peter along with his team of hard-working helpers have done an excellent job in preparing the green for the forthcoming season. A big thank you Peter. Subscriptions for the coming season were also discussed and as the club has a healthy bank

balance it was unanimously agreed to keep the subscriptions at the same rate of £30.00.

The new Bowling season commences on 18 April with a Club competition - the Harold Pye Trophy - followed by a Friendly on 25 April. All possible new players are very welcome please do come along to either have a roll-up or even to watch. We are a very friendly club and there is nearly always someone playing who would be very happy to offer help or advice.

Having spent the winter months cocooned in doors we are all very excited to be Bowling again and meeting up with all fellow bowlers. *Di Rees*

AUSTWICK PICCALILLIS SPRING UPDATE

Since our last update, Austwick Piccalillis have been very busy locally, nationally & internationally. This is just a flavour of our club life in the last few months. Hayley has completed her season in the PPL- we are so proud of how hard she has worked & the distances she has travelled. She is an inspiration to us all!

Club sessions are well attended & are thriving as are our private sessions. Coaching has continued for our newer members & they are now using their newly acquired skills in Open Play.

We have had a team playing in the NW Team League this season, with early starts to a variety of venues. Their commitment has been admirable!

Piccalillis have been active in Leagues around the North West with members playing in the NW League, South Lakes League, Apex at Carnforth & Eden Valley at Carlisle. It is great to see so many players competing & meeting new friends around the North West.

There have been Team Events in the South Lakes & at Apex. Members took part in a Charity Event for Breast

Cancer in Whalley at Christmas entitled Naughty n Nice with some dressing up involved! Our Christmas Social was well attended with costumes, food & Pickleball!

Competition wise there have been numerous successes in competitions at Crewe, Bangor, Telford, Sunderland, Leeds & Ulverston. There have been medals galore & it is great to see so many of our players enjoying playing against new people. We have also had coaching from a local coach & Ruth enjoyed playing in the sunshine in Portugal on a coaching holiday.

Looking forward, we have our friends from Norfolk next weekend for a Festival, Team Event & a social afterwards. Some of our players are off to Edinburgh for the Scottish Open in May & in August we have the English Open at the NEC with over 60 courts!

But more importantly we have over 70 members who are enjoying their Pickleball & having fun! Our membership is closed at the moment but we have a waiting list so if you are interested in playing Pickleball please contact us at austwickpickleball@gmail.com.



POEMS BY MOLLY PRESTON

HILLS

We live amongst the hills
undulating lands
creating scenery
creating variety
Hills drain the land
creating streams and waterfalls
spectacular scenery
for us to marvel
Water collects in valleys
creating ponds and lakes
We have our little hills
not quite mountains
climbing to the top
we can see for miles
This is our world
We are hill people.

TREASURE

The little things in life
a job well done
a kind word in the right place
good music
The love of family
The love of friends
Living in a lovely place
a community
supporting each other
this is what matters.

THE HUMAN BRAIN

everyone different
a store place
of life's memories
from childhood onwards
amassing experiences
creating memories
making an input
use the brain
whatever skills you possess
to leave that impact

1914-1918

A war?
not a war,
a massacre
The cream of our country's youth
ordered into the fireline
mown down
wasted
"Lions led by donkeys"
was the quote.



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Closing date: 9.00am
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Interview date: evening of
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