

AUSTWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER

FREE
to all
residents and
visitors!

Austwick, Eldroth, Feizor, Lawkland and Wharfe
September - November 2026



AUSTWICK'S HUB FOR LOCAL FOOD AND FARMERS

New developments at The Courtyard Dairy: a "special movement
allowing food to be connected to the community" *Page 18*

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.

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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, to John Davies for doing the page design, and to Chris Leeming for many of the summer events photographs in this issue. If you would like to help with the production or distribution of the publication in any way, thank you: please contact us.

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 November. **Contact details:** Harden Coach House, Austwick, LA2 8BQ, 07801 500352, austwickparishnews@gmail.com

AUSTWICK OPEN GARDENS 2027?

We've held very successful Open Gardens in 2019, 2021, 2023 & 2025. It's been an enjoyable community event and raised money for local causes; £2k in 2019, £3k in 2021, £2.5k in 2023, and £2.3k in 2025 our wettest day. Are you interested in supporting an open gardens event in 2027? A planning

group shares ideas on how to make the event again enjoyable and successful and decides on the causes to benefit from funds raised on the day. Gardeners open their garden which can be bigger or smaller, manicured or devoted to happy weeds, neatly manicured or work in progress. The refreshment

team members choose to bake a cake or welcome visitors to tea at the Parish Hall. Would you like to be involved? Or would you like to know more before committing your help or your garden? Please get in touch with your views.

Thank you, Gwen; 07753220042, gwen@cleverly.co.uk



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SUNSHINE AND PROSECCO: AUSTWICK'S GARDEN PARTY

Very many thanks to all the people who supported The Garden Party at Beck House. It was a happy afternoon with towards 200 attendees, older and younger, many from Austwick and others from the local area. The sun shone, the Prosecco flowed, strawberries and ice creams proved very popular as did the complimentary afternoon tea plate of sandwiches, scone with strawberry and cream and a chocolate square and cup of tea.

Bunting, gazebos, chairs in sun and in shade added to the relaxation of the afternoon. The 9 musicians, including a harpist, played all afternoon creating the perfect background to the chatter as people caught up with old friends and met new neighbours too. The very young took advantage of the water toys and persuaded parents and grandparents to help them make full use of the ride on toys. A produce stall, a craft stall, a cake stall displayed tempting Austwick produce and the traditional raffle had pride of place under its own gazebo.

And the fundraising - support of the stalls and generous donations - raised a substantial sum which has been handed to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of building repairs of the west window of the Church. The afternoon raised £2,487.66. Thank you for your support.

*Gwen and Graham Cleverly,
Beck House*



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CAVING, HIKING, WILDFLOWERS AND 'SPRING CHICKENS' AT AUSTWICK SCHOOL

At the end of another another busy and successful school year, we reflected on a term packed full of memorable experiences, learning opportunities and special celebrations.

One of the highlights of the summer was the chance for children to explore the wonderful local landscape. Our Eco Team enjoyed a beautiful wildflower walk, learning more about the plants and wildlife on our doorstep. Children also had the opportunity to take part in exciting caving visits, developing their confidence, teamwork, and resilience underground. A walk up Pen-y-ghent provided another challenge, with children showing tremendous determination as they tackled one of Yorkshire's most iconic peaks (*see picture*).

We also enjoyed several educational visits further afield, including a memorable trip to Ripon Cathedral, where the children learned about the building's history, architecture, art and importance as a place of worship.

Back at school, we enjoyed our fantastic summer production of 'Spring Chicken'. The children delighted audiences with their singing, acting and enthusiasm, and we were incredibly proud of the confidence and teamwork they demonstrated. It was a wonderful way to showcase the many talents within our school community. The recent spell of hot weather certainly kept everyone on their toes, but we managed to fit in plenty of fun despite the heatwave. Our special annual water fun day brought welcome relief from the high temperatures, with lots of laughter, splashing and smiles. Sports Day was another great success, with children displaying excellent sportsmanship, determination and encouragement for one another throughout the event.

As the school year came to an end, we also took time to celebrate our Year 6 pupils. Our annual leavers' lunch provided a special opportunity to look back on their time at Austwick, while the leavers' service at church was a moving occasion for pupils, families and staff alike. We wish all our leavers every happiness and success as they move on to the next stage of their education.

Our PTA would like to thank all who bought their Bird Quiz – this raised an amazing £550 towards our whole

school trip to the Great Yorkshire Show. We feel so lucky to be well supported by our local community and the children had a fantastic day! The answers are available on the PTA Facebook page, and the parish hall noticeboard.

It was a wonderfully busy term and a fitting end to another successful year at Austwick School. We would like to thank all our families, governors, volunteers and members of the local community for their continued support. We look forward to welcoming pupils back

in September for more adventures, learning and opportunities to create new memories.

COME AND VISIT AUSTWICK SCHOOL

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) 015242 51366

headteacher@austwick.n-yorks.sch.uk

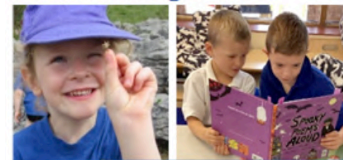
School website: www.austwickprimary.co.uk



Austwick C.E. (VA) Primary School



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



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Our recent

inspection (2024)

"Pupils thrive in ... this small, friendly school."

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

"Pupils achieve well."

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

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news see Facebook



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AUSTWICK VILLAGE SHOW 2026

As always, the 2026 Austwick Village Show was considered a huge success, with excellent weather during the afternoon, a good numbers of exhibits despite the hot summer we have had, with plenty of visitors and good profits from entrance charges, refreshments and the raffle. Despite the number of exhibits and visitors, the Show continued to retain its local community roots. Several adults from outside the villages of Austwick and Lawkland entered the Show this year - all with eligible local association links. The number of entries for artistic flowers was unfortunately well down on last year reflecting the challenging weather conditions. However, entry numbers for the remaining sections held up well. Children's exhibit numbers were slightly down from last year but the standard was again very high and included several new children

a recycled oak pew from St James's Church (Tony Horswill) with the prize finally going to Melanie Greenhalgh. The refreshments team, led by Gwen Cleverly, did the village proud and the refreshment room was constantly busy. Before the prize giving and raffle draw there was a speech made by Chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (Derek Twine) who introduced Eleck Energy Ltd and explained the sponsorship that had been given for the installation of the solar panels and battery in the Village Hall. A cheque was then presented to the village hall for £8772 by the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The prize giving was held outside and Patrick Grant (the Sewing Bee host) participated with an informal welcoming speech that was well received, him having entered several exhibits himself.



The cup trophy and voucher winners this year in the adult and children's sections. From left to right: Angie Jupp, Melanie Greenhalgh, Julie Osborne-Tame, Ian Smith, Carol Wilkinson, Roland Jupp, Ruby Richmond, Kathryn Hinds, Catherine Vaughan-Williams, Doon Storey, Bill Procter, Graham Cleverly. Front row: Sarah France, Roland Todd. Gwen Cleverly is missing from the line up.

exhibiting which augers well for the future. The overall income from the Show once expenses have been taken into account is expected to be similar or better than 2025 despite fewer entries overall compared to 2025. The general standard of exhibits was high again this year and frankly amazing for a relatively small village. There were five new adult entries and many of the new entrants from last year exhibited again this year - always a good sign. All 9 of the judges worked well together and appeared to enjoy the experience and the lunch. As there were slightly fewer entries this year, they were all able to be displayed in the main hall. There was an increase in entries in the Art and Photography sections but slightly fewer handicraft entries. The prize for best exhibit in show was a closely fought battle between a beautiful felted model of Old Father Time (Melanie Greenhalgh) and a wonderful cabinet created from

VILLAGE SHOW AGM

The date for the Village Show's AGM has now been confirmed as Wednesday 28th October 2026. The evening will commence at 7pm with a slide show of the 2026 Show highlights by Chris and Judy Leeming followed by the AGM from 7.30 pm. The AGM agenda and attachments will be circulated to current members of the Society ten days before the AGM. Anyone with an interest in the future of the Society is encouraged to come to the slide show and AGM and possibly to consider joining the Show Committee, and therefore contributing to the 2027 Show which will be on Saturday 7th August 2027. Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM and slide show.

*Judy Leeming
2026 Village Show Secretary*



VILLAGE SHOW - THIS YEAR'S RESULTS

Cups, Trophies and Vouchers

Byles 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:
Graham Cleverly

Chapman Trophy for the most points
in the Artistic Flower Section: Julie
Osborne-Tame.

Fred Price Memorial Trophy for one
flower and one vegetable: Bill Procter
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: Kathryn Hinds

Brook Cookery Cup for most points in
the cookery section: 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:
Angela Jupp.

Jean Dodgson Prize (voucher) best
handicraft exhibit: Ann Smith

Malcolm Bowker Trophy for
Photography (set subject): Ian Smith

Metcalfe Cup for the best
Photographic Exhibit: Doon Storey

Brook Handwriting Cup for best
handwriting 8-14 years: Elizabeth
Huck

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: Ruby
Richmond

New Entrant (Voucher) for best first-
time adult entrant: Debbie Jones

Challenge Trophy for The Best Exhibit
in the Show: Melanie Greenhalgh

Flower Section:

4 roses: 1. Catherine Vaughan-Williams. 4 garden pinks: 1 Margaret Wilding. 4 pot marigolds: 1. Carol Wilkinson. 2 Graham Cleverly. 4 French or African marigolds: 1. Joe Sharples. 4 dahlias: 1. R Selling 2. Val Hutson. 4 phlox: 1. Alec Rigby 2. Jackie Smith. 3 stems of a flowering shrub: 1. Graham Cleverly 2. Hilary Brown. 9 spikes sweet peas: 1. Graham Cleverly. A container of sweet peas: 1. Graham Cleverly. Joint 2. Carol Wilkinson, Alec Rigby. A vase of hardy annuals: 1. Graham Cleverly.

A vase of hardy perennials: 1. Hilary Brown 2. Margaret Wilding. A bowl of roses: 1. Carol Wilkinson Joint 2. Patrick Grant and Catherine Vaughan-Williams. A bowl of nasturtiums: 1. Graham Cleverly 2. Richard Holden. A house plant grown for its foliage: 1 Catherine Vaughan-Williams A cactus or succulent: 1. Ros Selling Best in Section: Hilary Brown, A container of Hardy Perennials.

Artistic Flower Section:

An arrangement of "Home Grown": 1. Julie Osborne-Tame 2. Carol Wilkinson. An arrangement of "A Book Title": 1. Sue Cokell. 2. Julie Osborne-Tame. An arrangement entitled "Not a Flower in Sight": 1. Carol Wilkinson. 2. Julie Osborne-Tame. An arrangement of "Rustic Charm" 1. Carol Wilkinson. 2. Julie Osborne-Tame. A Miniature Arrangement: 1. Julie Osborne-Tame. 2. Carol Wilkinson

Best in Section: Sue Cokell. A Book Title

Vegetable and Fruit Section:

4 white potatoes: 1. Bill Procter. 2. David Baker. 4 coloured potatoes: 1. Bill Procter. 2. Joe Sharples. 3 carrots: 1. David Baker 2. Graham Cleverly. 3 beetroot: 1. Bill Procter 2. Joe Sharples. 3 white onions: 1. Bill Procter 2. Joe Sharples 7 Shallots: 1&2 B Procter. 2 leeks 1. Graham Cleverly. 5 bulbs of garlic 1 and 2. Chris Eccleston. 6 pods of peas: 1 and 2. Bill Procter 6 pods of broad beans: 1. Graham Cleverly 2. B Procter. 6 pods of French beans: 1. David Baker. 2. Bill Procter. 6 pods Runner Beans: 1. David Baker. 2 courgettes: 1. Bill Procter 2. Chris Eccleston. 1 cauliflower: 1. Bill Procter. 1 cabbage: 1. Joe Sharples 2. Bill Procter. A trug of vegetables: 1. David Baker 2. Joe Sharples. 1 cucumber: 1. Joe Sharples. 2. Kathryn Hinds. 4 ripe tomatoes: 1. David Baker. 2. Chris Eccleston. A truss of tomatoes: 1. Chris Eccleston 2. David Baker. 1 flower and 1 vegetable: 1. Bill Procter. 2. Graham Cleverly. 4 distinct vegetables on a tray: 1. Bill Procter 2. Graham Cleverly. Up to 6 culinary herbs: 1. Bill Procter. 2. Hilary Brown A saucer of one variety soft fruit: 1 Bill Procter 2. Catherine Vaughan-Williams. 2 to 4 varieties of soft fruit: 1. Graham Cleverly. Any vegetable or fruit not included elsewhere: 1. Catherine Vaughan-Williams. 2. Graham Cleverly.

Best in Section: Bill Procter. A flower and a vegetable. 4 Distinct Vegetables Egg Section:

3 hen eggs: 1. Jackie Smith 2. Liz Dyer. 3 bantam eggs: 1 and 2. Catherine Vaughan-Williams. 3 hen eggs including contents: 1. Kathryn Hinds 2. Elizabeth Huck. 3 bantam egg including contents: 1. Catherine Vaughan-Williams

Best in Section: Kathryn Hinds. 3 hens eggs including contents

Art, Photography & Handicraft Section:

Art

Painting in any medium: "My Garden": 1. Steve Rathbone. 2. Angie Jupp A painting in any medium on any subject: 1. Angie Jupp. 2. Stuart Smith A drawing of: A Tree" 1. Stuart Smith 2. Angie Jupp. A drawing any other subject: 1. Stuart Smith. 2. Kirsti Ashworth. Mixed Media Any Other Subject: 1 and 2. Angie Jupp

Best in Art Section: Angie Jupp. Mixed Media Any Other Subject.

Photography

4 themed photographs: "Windows" 1. Doon Storey. 2. Diane Storey. 4 different photographs own theme: 1. Diane Storey. 2. Chris Leeming. A single photograph: "A Misty Morning": 1. Ian Smith. 2. Doon Storey.

Best in Photography section: Doon Storey. 4 different photos "Windows" Handicraft

Papercraft: 1. Melanie Greenhalgh. 2. Sarah France. Handmade Bag, box or bowl: 1. Jackie Smith 2. Harriet Hewgill. An item of interior/exterior decor: Joint 1. Diane Storey and Debbie Jones. An item of Upcycled Clothing. 1. Sheila Gooch. Knitted/crocheted item: 1. Sarah France. 2. Debbie Jones. Any other needlework item: 1. Ann Smith. 2. Joanna Townley. An item of felt work: 1. Melanie Greenhalgh 2. S Gooch. An Item of Woodwork: 1. Tony Horswill.

Any other item: 1 and 2. Lindsey Smith.

Best in Handcraft Section: Melanie Greenhalgh. An item of Felt Work

Cookery Section:

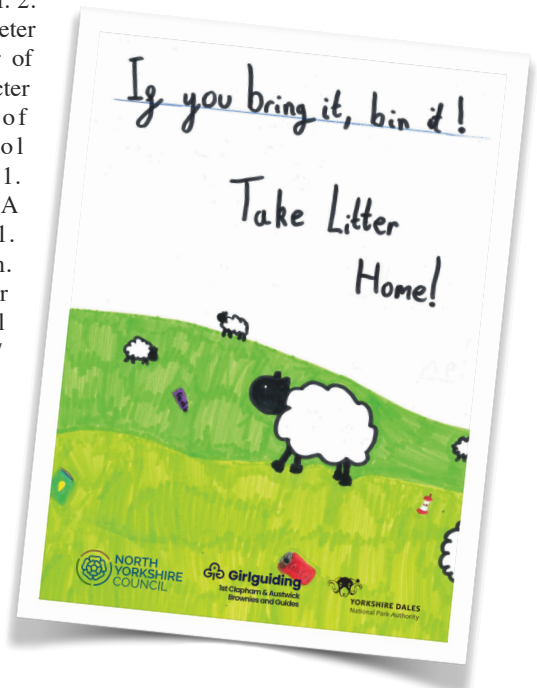
A Plaited Loaf: 1. Nick Burton 2. Kirsti Ashworth. 4 Savoury biscuits: 1. Gwen Cleverly. 2. Sharon Robinson. 4 Cherry scones: 1. Sue Gould 2. Sue Cokell. 4 Date Slices: 1. Gwen Cleverly 2. Sharon Robinson. A Tea Loaf: 1. Sue Gould. 2. Caroline Howarth. A Gluten Free cake: 1 Carol Wilkinson 2. Sarah France. Recipe item: A Yorkshire Parkin: 1. Sue Gould 2. Gwen Cleverly. Four muffins, sweet or savoury: 1. Caroline Howarth 2. Ann Smith. A Vegetarian Savoury: 1. Judy Leeming. 2. Sharon Robinson. An Individual cold desert: 1. Sharon Robinson. 2. Judy Leeming. Fruit pie with crusts: 1. Sue Cokell. 2. Sylvia Baker. Jar of jam: 1. Peter Bailey. 2. Carol Wilkinson. A Jar of sweet or savoury jelly. 1. Bill Procter 2. Gwen Cleverly. A jar of marmalade: 1 and 2. Carol Wilkinson. Jar of Fruit curd: 1. Clare Lardner 2. Gwen Cleverly. A cordial or non-alcoholic drink: 1. Gwen Cleverly 2. Kirsti Ashworth. A bottle of home-made wine or liqueur: 1. Debbie Jones. 2. Carol Wilkinson. A jar of pickle/relish/chutney: 1. Kirsti Ashworth 2. Richard Holden. Children only - 4 decorated buns 1. Sophia Howarth. 2. Roland Todd.

Best in Section: Nick Burton. A Plaited Loaf.

Children's Section:

Artwork, under 5 years: 1. Oscar Leeming. Artwork 5-8 years 1. Robin Leeming 2. Roland Todd. Handwriting 9-14 years: 1. Elizabeth Huck. 2. Eliza Beggs. Artwork 9- 14 years: 1. Eliza Beggs. 2. Elizabeth Huck. A Poster for Sports Day: 1. Elizabeth Huck. A Photo of "Found on My Walk": 1 and 2. Roland Todd. An Illustrated Party Invitation: 1. Oscar Leeming 2. Robin Leeming. Collage of my Favourite Meal on a plate: 1. Oscar Leeming. 2. Roland Todd. A Painted Pebble: 1. Ruby Richmond. 2. Roland Todd. A Model made from Junk 1. Roland Todd. A Miniature Garden: 1. Roland Todd. 2. Sophia Howarth. Anything you like 1. Roland Todd. 2. Walter Swinscoe.

Best in Section: Ruby Richmond. A Painted Pebble.



PROTECT THE PEAKS – TAKE IT HOME

Thank you to the Austwick Newsletter for inviting us to share updates from our joint Brownie and Guide unit.

Our Protect the Peaks – Take It Home campaign was created and led by the girls of 1st Clapham & Austwick Brownies and Guides, who wanted to do something positive to help protect the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and Three Peaks area we are lucky enough to call home.

Since launching, the campaign has grown far beyond what we first imagined. The girls have designed their own posters and outdoor campaign signs, created a Protect the Peaks Pledge, produced two campaign videos and spoken to local residents, visitors and businesses about the importance of taking litter home.

With grant funding, we have now produced 320 durable outdoor Foamex signs, which are being placed in suitable locations through our Sign Guardian scheme. We are asking local people, businesses and organisations to adopt a sign, help find an appropriate location, keep an eye on it and report any damage so it can be replaced. Please get in touch if you would like to adopt one or two!

The girls have also

taken the campaign out into the community, attending local fetes and events, including the Austwick Cuckoo festival and having a display at the Settle Flowerpot Festival and running activities to encourage people to think about litter and sign our pledge. We are continuing to contact walking organisations, Three Peaks challenge organisers and local businesses to encourage them to share our message with visitors before they set off.

We are delighted that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has supported the campaign and helped us develop our signs, alongside support from local councils, community organisations and individuals.

Our message is simple: take your litter home, use a reusable bottle where possible, respect wildlife and livestock, and encourage others to do the same.

If you would like to support us, please sign our pledge and encourage your family, friends and colleagues to join us too: www.tinyurl.com/protectthepeaks. Together, we can make a difference and help keep the Yorkshire Dales beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

AUSTWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on May 18th and the Parish Council Chairman, Peter Goold, reviewed the Council's business of the last twelve months and thanked the Parish Councillors who have served throughout the last year for their work and for their support - Councillors Barbara Tibbatts, Kate Smith and David Dewhirst. David retired just a few weeks ago, after serving the Parish Council for around twenty years, in the early days as Parish Clerk, and then later as a Councillor. The Chairman placed on record the Council's appreciation and thanks to David for his major contribution to parish affairs

David Dewhirst's retirement creates a vacancy for a new Councillor, and the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

There have been eight Parish Council meetings since the last Chairman's report – the usual number in a year. Taking into account the number of Councillors in post for each meeting, that means there were 36 possible meeting attendances. Councillors achieved 32 out of 36 - only 4 apologies for absence.

Each December, parish councils set a budget for the forthcoming financial year and use this as the basis for their 'precept request', which is the funding the Parish Council receives, and householders pay as part of their council tax. We are living in a time of rising costs, and so it was decided that the Council must increase its income request this year by £1000 to £17,000. Residents of Austwick will see an increase of 3.2% in the Parish Council element of their council tax and a household in Austwick paying council tax at band D is paying £63 this year towards the Council's funding. This is just 2 ½ % of the total council tax paid for the year. Whilst referring to numbers and money, the Chairman recorded thanks to Rob Glen, who has taken over the task of Internal Auditor, checking that the Council keeps its books and records in good order.

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

On maintenance, the Council's biggest single expense is in looking after the village greens and the road verges and generally keeping the parish tidy and in

good repair. For the last ten years, the parish lengthsmen has been Ben Shanks – otherwise known as Craven Garden Care – but as many residents know, Ben decided some months ago that he would retire at the end of March this year. The Council is very pleased to have appointed Rob Davidson to take over from Ben. Rob lives in Horton in Ribblesdale, he already does private work in Austwick village and he also works for several other local parishes. Rob is liaising closely with Ben in taking over the role and whilst there will undoubtedly be some changes in operating methods, the Council is confident that Rob will maintain the same high standards set by Ben. On behalf of everyone in Austwick Parish the Chairman placed on record grateful thanks for all the work Ben Shanks has done in the parish for many years past.

Still on maintenance matters, the Chairman thanked several people for their help during the year. Votes of thanks were given to a number of individuals who spend their own time litter-picking around the parish. The Council is the custodian of fourteen benches in the parish and most of these have been adopted by a resident, each undertaking to apply regular TLC to the bench and its immediate location. Charlotte Wilkinson keeps the bus shelter clean and tidy every week. Kate Vaughan-Williams continues to lend the Council a corner of her field for composting grass cuttings.

The Council has 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. This is quite a time-consuming commitment and thanks go Eddie for doing this.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the National Park Area Ranger, Will Locke and also the Ribblesdale Access

over these many years. Next, a welcome to a new Councillor who joined in December - Martyn Fryer. In a short time, Martyn has already rapidly absorbed knowledge of and background to the things the Council does. The hamlet of Feizor became part of Austwick Parish in the year 2011, and in Martyn the Council now has, not before time, a Feizor resident as a Councillor and is the stronger for that. The Chairman then thanked the Parish Council Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Marijke Hill, for her very important contribution to the smooth running of the Parish Council and for her valuable advice during the last twelve months.

Ranger, Nathan Allen 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. Austwick, Wharfe and Feizor are all experiencing a continuing increase in visitor numbers. The Parish Council has only very limited resources and relies on the National Park and its Ranger team to help keep our environment in good shape.

In concluding maintenance matters, the Chairman referred to the two conservation verges, one on Graystonber Lane and the other on Clapham Road near the burial ground. These have both progressed with the benefit of funding from the National Park, for which the Council is grateful. However, there is also a big 'thank you' to the volunteers who put time and effort into planning, planting and maintaining these verges, which are a real credit to Austwick village.

Turning to planning matters, the Chairman said that, at first sight, the statistics would suggest that it has been another quiet year for planning applications. There were only four new applications in the last twelve months, compared with nine the previous year, and often over twenty in earlier years. However, the Parish Council has spent some considerable time this last year considering and responding to the National Park Planning Officers on planning applications. At the start of the year, the Council had one objection in place, but that was removed when the application to build houses at Townhead Garage was withdrawn. Regarding the holiday accommodation project to convert Dam House Barn in Wharfe, the Council had revised plans and other documents to consider and respond to at five out of its eight meetings during the year. The Settle Falconry business in Feizor was another retrospective application, which

needed careful consideration and an equally careful response.

The Chairman explained that, as at the date of the meeting, there was just a single planning application in the Parish awaiting a decision, submitted by the owners of Far End House, Wharfe. It was yet another retrospective application and it followed from an enforcement order imposed by the National Park Planning Committee. The Chairman suggested that interested residents could read the Council's lengthy and detailed response on the National Park's website using its Planning Portal. 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.

Whilst not strictly a 'planning' matter, the Chairman referred to the topic of the status of Thwaite Lane, which runs from St James's Church in Clapham to Townhead in Austwick and on down to Slaindale Barn on Wharfe Road. This year's episode of the long-running saga involved a further planning enquiry, held over three days in Northallerton

and which the Council arranged to stream onto the screen in the Parish Hall for residents of Clapham and Austwick to view. He explained that in the next month we expected to receive confirmation of the Planning Inspector's decision that Thwaite Lane is forevermore a Restricted Byway, thereby prohibiting public use by motorcycles, quadbikes and four-wheel drive vehicles. (update note: This has now occurred, public notices have been posted, and the Parish Council has asked the National Park to put up signs at all access points prohibiting use by vehicles).

The third area of work of the Parish Council comes under the general heading of acting as the agent of the 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. The Council makes its voice heard where appropriate and tries to keep its ear to the ground and stay up to date with events and changes that can have an impact on life in Austwick Parish. It deals with enquiries from parishioners and people outside the parish, responds to consultations asking for opinions, represents the parish as

trustees on several local charities, and attends and contributes to the National Park's parish forum meetings. The Council reports 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 many other Parish Council documents and reports, 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 2026 are: September 7th, October 12th and November 30th. 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 Councillors are:

Peter Goold, Chairman: 015242 51039;
Barbara Tibbatts, Vice-Chairman: 01729 860240; Kate Smith: 01729 860225;

Martyn Fryer: 07515 551476

Marijke Hill, Parish Clerk: 01729 823723, austwickpcclerk@gmail.com

WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL DOES AND WHAT YOU CAN DO

WHAT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL DO?

"Not much really, they're pensioners, all 'offcumdens', they meet now and then in the village hall, don't understand the parish, look after themselves and nothing ever gets done"

Wrong: The Parish Council works to serve our community in three essential ways that many people perhaps take for granted. It makes decisions on behalf of the people in Austwick parish:

- 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 (sometimes 'nagging') 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; making small grants to good local causes.

- 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!

The Parish Council is limited by law in what it can do. However, beyond what it does now, there are other contributions to the life and wellbeing of the community it can or could make, but this depends on what residents want to see happen, and importantly, on the ideas and the energy of your 'volunteer' parish councillors. So.....

WHAT CAN I DO?

Answer: become a parish councillor – especially if you are not a pensioner!

By becoming a parish councillor you become someone the community will look to for help, guidance and support - a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing Austwick Parish change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

The Parish Council's work is not burdensome. There are eight meetings a year, always on Monday evenings in the (warm and comfortable) 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, with the occasional laugh, and we welcome Austwick residents attending and joining in the meetings and discussions.

There are then two ways you can take the matter further:

- Talk to one of the four councillors - Peter, Barbara, Kate or Martyn – their contact details are on our website and at the end of the Parish Council's newsletter article above. They will be happy to tell you more, informally, confidentially 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 7th September, 12th October and 30th November.

STREET MARKET & CUCKOO FESTIVAL: A SUCCESSFUL VILLAGE FUNDRAISER

The sun certainly turned up for this year's Street Market on May Bank Holiday weekend - temperatures soared and so did village spirit. A glorious day when Yorkshire grit came into its own, with residents, visitors and volunteers embracing the heat and making the most of a fantastic community celebration.

Every corner of village life was represented, from the Church and School to the Young Farmers' Club, Tennis Club, Bowling Club, WI and many more local groups and organisations. The day was a wonderful showcase of the people, clubs and volunteers who make Austwick such a vibrant place to live.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, a fantastic total of just over £9,700 was raised, which is divided between the Parish

Hall and Playing Fields - vital funds for these amenities.

Visitors may have spotted a famous face presenting the fell race prizes following a very entertaining stint from Patrick Grant on the PA, alongside some rather more unusual characters – including a 'unicorn' pony and a giant lapwing making appearances throughout the day.



The ever-popular fell race once again drew an impressive field of runners, who were rewarded not only with enthusiastic support but also, thankfully, a much-appreciated hose-down station at the finish, which had been cleverly built by local farmer, Pete Webster, the night before. In the sweltering conditions, it quickly became one of the day's most

celebrated attractions, with tired runners and happy children enjoying the cooling spray.

Another highlight this year was the introduction of the new Dog Show. Four-legged competitors and their proud owners gathered, with plenty of wagging tails, rosettes, prizes and smiles all round. It proved an instant hit and will surely become a firm Street Market tradition.

This year's Chairperson, Rona Webster commented: "The year's Street Market really felt like a celebration of community and I'm so proud of the final fundraising total. I'm sure the 2026 Street Market will be remembered as another wonderful, and very warm, day in the village calendar! "

A huge thank you to everyone who helped, participated, and the many local businesses who supported and sponsored. Keep an eye out for notices on the first meeting for the 2027 Street Market coming up in the autumn.



WHAT'S NEW AT AUSTWICK PARISH HALL?

There have been a few changes to the committee of the Parish Hall and we are looking forward to working with the community. We've just added a season of film nights and quiz nights to the calendar, thank you to all those involved in organising these. 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.

Fresh Face: Following Lindsey Smith stepping down Chair of the Parish Hall, Craig Smith has been elected the new chair. Alec Rigby also stepped down after giving over 25 years of service to the Village Hall. Many thanks to Lindsey and Alec for their hard work and commitment over the years.

Sunday morning Yoga: A new class on Sunday mornings starting 25 October - 9am, 1 hour - Yoga and Breath. All welcome. Call or message Lindsey for details: 07899818775. **Strong and Steady class:** Later Life Training qualified instructor Jo Wulf runs an hour-long session every Tuesday at 11.30am and adapts

exercises according to needs. Contact Jo if you wish to enquire further: 07966 981985 / jowulf@wolfracks.co.uk.

Bouncy Castle Birthday Bonanza: The hall has now arranged to permit Bouncy castle hire, so to celebrate we're offering children's birthday party hire for only £10 for the next year.

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 drop Craig Smith a line at craig_smith@btinternet.com. You can also find our full calendar of events and free spaces for your own at Austwickparishhall.org.uk

ELDROTH PARISH HALL: A BUSY YEAR OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND SOCIAL EVENTS

It has been another busy year at Eldroth Parish Hall, with plenty happening both inside and outside the hall. As Chair, I would like to share some of the highlights and, most importantly, say a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support and use our village hall.

Bringing the community together: On 27th June we held our annual guided walk along some of our beautiful local footpaths, followed by a BBQ at the hall. We met at the hall at 11.30am, with the walk taking approximately 90 minutes. For those who preferred not to walk, the BBQ at 1pm provided the perfect opportunity to come along and join everyone for the social side of the afternoon. We were blessed with a wonderful selection of donated cakes and a bar serving some well-earned refreshments after the walk. It was a great community event and lovely to see so many people coming together socially. A special thank you to Floyd for kindly letting us borrow her gas BBQ. If you would like to join us next year, please put Saturday 3rd July 2027 in your diary now! Keep an eye out for posters and social media adverts nearer the time for details and to book your BBQ.

More recently, on 18th July, we held an afternoon tea with a glass of prosecco. This was another very well-attended event, bringing together groups of friends, families and members of our local community. It was wonderful to see the hall being used for an afternoon of good food, conversation and friendship.

A new floor – and a warmer hall! One of our biggest projects has been replacing the sports floor. The old floor had reached the end of its useful life and was causing problems for the sports clubs that use the hall. At the end of 2025, the community came together to take up the old sports floor, following our success in securing a grant from North Yorkshire Council towards a new professional sprung sports floor. We are extremely grateful for this grant, which has enabled us to undertake such a major project and provide a much-improved facility for our sporting groups. We would also like to give a huge thank you to Austwick Piccalillis, who very generously donated £1,000 towards the new sports floor. Their support has made a real difference.



While the floor was up, we also took the opportunity to look at the hall's heating. The old, leaky radiators were removed and replaced with effective warm-air heaters. Those of you who remember how cold the hall could sometimes become will appreciate what a difference this has made! We can now maintain a much more comfortable temperature for social events and activities throughout the year.

Quiz nights and fundraising: Our quiz and supper evening in February was another great success. We only run two of these evenings each year, and they are always very popular, with a quiz, tombola, bar and a hot supper. They are a great way to raise funds for the hall while also having a thoroughly enjoyable evening together. A further thank you goes to Austwick Piccalillis for generously purchasing sun blinds for the hall windows. They have made a real difference to the hall and are another example of the fantastic support we receive from local organisations.

What's coming up? We have some important events planned over the coming months.

Defibrillator Training – Sunday 13th September, 2.30pm–4.30pm. We feel that defibrillator and emergency first-aid awareness are particularly important in our rural community, given our distance from hospital services. If you would like to take part, please email eldrothvillage@gmail.com to reserve a place.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Saturday 26th September, 11am. We will be holding a coffee morning, complete with bacon butties, to raise money for Macmillan. It is a wonderful charity and we hope as many of you as possible will come along, enjoy some refreshments and support this very worthwhile cause.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the regular groups who use Eldroth Parish Hall, particularly Austwick Piccalillis, Yoga and Badminton. Your continued support and regular use of the hall are vital in helping us keep this community facility going. The hall really is at its best when it is being used by the community, whether that's for sport, exercise, fundraising, celebrations, coffee and cake or simply getting together with friends and neighbours. We look forward to welcoming many more of you through the doors over the coming year. Thank you to everyone who helps make Eldroth Parish Hall such an important part of our local community.

Joanne Airey, Chair; E: eldrothvillage@gmail.com

ELDROTH CHURCH

Cream Teas: A big thank you to everyone involved, especially those who turned out on a very wet and windy Saturday in July to support us. After a steady start, the church filled up until there wasn't a single seat remaining! It was a bit of a squeeze, however there was lots of chatter and laughter and it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves. This is a lovely community event and all funds raised go directly to the upkeep of Eldroth Church.

Harvest: as we move towards the start of autumn, our thoughts turn to harvest. This is a unique time in the parish calendar, as we come together to give thanks, acknowledging the hard work of our farmers and the natural wonder of growth, and to celebrate our community together. Please come along to our services and events: **Ploughmans Lunch** - Saturday 19th September between 12 – 2pm; **Harvest Dominoes and light supper** – Tuesday 6th October 7pm. All are welcome.

So, what is Taizé? Twice a year Eldroth Church holds a Taizé service, but we realise from speaking to people that while they may have heard of it, they don't really know much about it. Here's a little background into the origins of Taizé, and what you could expect if you attended one of these services. This contemplative style of worship grew out of a community in Taizé, France, founded after World War II to provide a place of refuge and forgiveness for those seeking healing and reconciliation after the distress and devastation of war. Taizé worship is a quiet, peaceful service focused on meditation rather than a traditional sermon. The church

is lit only by candles, creating a calm and peaceful setting (as pictured here). There are short bible readings and periods of silence to allow time to think and rest. Simple songs are repeated over and over, and because the music is repeated it is easy to follow and join in, making it very meditative. If you think this is something you might enjoy, please do come along – it doesn't matter if you go to other church services or not,

everyone is welcome. Our next Taizé at Eldroth Church is on Sunday 15th November at 6.30pm.

Eldroth Church of the Past: A few months ago I was handed an old 'Church Services Register' book dating back almost one hundred years (1927-1962). The Service Register documents the details of the services carried out, preacher, number in attendance etc. The faded and yellowing pages are

written in fountain pen and make interesting reading, particularly the 'Remarks' column which records a specific occasion or charity supported. There are also some very interesting observations about the weather! "Blizzard: Service Impossible" (March 1933); "Thunderstorm – no congregation (August 1938). In January 1940 there were no services at all "Roads blocked with snow", and on 5th January 1941 it is noted "v. severe frost – ice on Paten" (the Holy Communion plate). As we head towards the 400th Anniversary of Eldroth Church next year, it's interesting to look back and try to imagine what it was like for the vicar and the only two members of the congregation on that very cold and frosty morning! *Julie Greenwood, Churchwarden*



ALL YOUR CHURCH SERVICES THIS AUTUMN

For up-to-date details please see Churches Weekly Newsletters in church or at bit.ly/churches-newsletters.

13 September *Fifteenth after Trinity*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

20 September *Sixteenth after Trinity*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Easy Church

1.00 Eldroth Baptisms: Stanley Robert

and Finley Edward John Harrison

6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

Thursday 24 September

Keasden The Marriage of Leah Duncan and Samuel Antony Mitton

27 September *Seventeenth of Trinity*

10.30 Clapham A Benefice Harvest

Communion with Bishop Anna

7.00 Keasden Harvest Festival

4 October *Eighteenth after Trinity*

9.30 Eldroth Harvest Festival

6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church

11 October *Nineteenth after Trinity*

9.30 Austwick Harvest Festival

11.00 Newby Chapel Harvest Festival

18 October *Twentieth after Trinity*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Easy Church

6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

25 October *Last Sunday after Trinity*

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

6.30 Keasden Saints and Sparklers

1 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

8 November Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance services: 9.30 Austwick,

10.45 Clapham, and 2.00 Keasden

Also, Wednesdays at 10.30:

Austwick Holy Communion (BCP)



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CATE DESCRIBES HER GREAT NORTH SWIM, 13TH JUNE 2026

I decided that my attempt at the Great North Swim would be a good opportunity to raise much needed funds for repairs to Austwick Church. The event was based at Brockhole on Windermere and the mile course was set around massive colourful buoys that made it easy to see where to head when you were in the water. There were lots of kayakers around the course to call on if you got into difficulties as well as a safety boat, medics and first aiders. The kayakers also kept you on course if you strayed from the route (I did!). My set off time (or Wave) was 1pm along with 300 other swimmers. Over the whole weekend just under 1500 swimmers completed the mile. Most participants wore wet suits but a few brave souls (not me) just donned normal swimming gear and a tow float. Swimmers gathered in a warm-up area

group spread out and conditions were easier. Then it was a matter of getting into get into a rhythm; stroke, stroke, breath; repeat. The wind speed was quite strong (about 16mph) and made the water nastily choppy and wavy. This was manageable on the outward leg but awful on the return. There were several times when trying to take a breath there was water rather than air. Also it made spotting the course buoys pretty difficult and I managed to veer off course 2 or 3 times (so I must have done a fair bit more than a mile). However, despite getting a bit of cramp towards the end, the finish eventually came and we dragged ourselves out of the water and up to the timing pad. The relief was amazing. I completed the mile in 57 minutes, 21 seconds.

Will I do it again next year? I'm not in any hurry to



30 minutes before their swim. We were given the opportunity to get into the water to acclimatise for a few minutes and then back onto dry land. Next, a couple of very experienced open water swimmers gave us warm up exercises from a stage with a PA system – trying to prevent pulled muscles and rotator cuff injuries. A huge timer counted down to 1pm and the race started with a loud klaxon. Every participant had an ankle timer which automatically clocked our start and finish time as we passed the start and finish pads and we all had brightly coloured swimming caps with our individual number on. As someone who loves swimming outdoors in rivers and lakes but usually with only a small group of people, the start seemed utterly chaotic. It was a melee of arms and legs. Getting a foot in your face or being thumped on your back made it “interesting”. After a few minutes the

repeat the experience! It has taken several months of training 2 or 3 times a week, investment in kit, scaring myself swimming on Loch Lomond in May in a wet suit for the first time and having sleepless nights worrying about the wind on Windermere for 2 or 3 weeks prior to the event.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in my preparations for this event especially Geoff who accompanied me on several Windermere practice swims and to Heather Harling for great advice, encouragement and swimming with me at Capernwray for a practice when I was panicking about managing to complete the swim. Also many thanks to all who sponsored me in this event. A total of £1865 has been raised for the repairs to the west wall of the church.

Cate Muckersie

HUB FOR LOCAL FOOD AND FARMERS

Award-winning cheesemongers The Courtyard Dairy have been working hard to link-up local food producers to really champion traditionally-made food in the region.

"It started when Ambry Bakery set up here in 2024," says The Courtyard Dairy co-owner Kathy Swinscoe, "Bethan and Sam in Ambry do an amazing job – using organic Yorkshire grown and ground wheat to make bread and pastries on site. That got us thinking – can we support more local produce and connect farmers to consumers using our site."

The next step involved working with six local farms, from Bentham to Malham, and Long Preston. With extra support

(Malham), Andrew Linney (Ingleton) Holly Story (Bentham) and Alan Robinson (Ingleton). Their high-welfare meat is from native breed animals (Belted Galloway beef, Swaledale & Herdwick sheep), grass fed on sustainable pasture.

James Newhouse comments, "The ability to add local raised and butchered meat to the offering at The Courtyard Dairy – already encompassing organic wine, handmade cheese, freshly baked bread and local milk – feels like we are creating a centre for local and 'proper' food. I am so proud of the produce we create on our farm, and the way we farm, and the new vending machine allows us to get it out into the locality for everyone to enjoy," adding, "It also



from FIPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes), The Yorkshire Dales National Park and Forest of Bowland, The Courtyard Dairy team worked with the six farms to install two vending machines in their already-popular vending chalet.

The first newly-installed vending machine provided super-fresh milk from Peter and Rona Webster at Lawkland Hall Farm. "The cows are milked in the morning, and that fresh whole milk comes straight up to the automatic vending machine – it's great to see local milk travel less than a mile to where it is sold rather than disappear off into anonymous food chains," says Kathy's husband Andy.

Then, local farmer James Newhouse created a partnership of local farms to install a meat vending machine. This collaborative effort uses meat from his farm (Megs, Long Preston) along with Neil & Leigh Heseltine's Hill Top Farm

shows how local farms can work together to provide a positive future for agriculture and food in this region. Working together has given us greater stability and security, and allowed this project to come to fruition."

Ambry bakery opens every Friday - Monday (9.30-4.00), whilst the vending machines for milk and meat can be accessed everyday from 8.00-8.00.

"It feels great to be part of a special movement allowing food to be connected to the community," says Kathy. "Enabling food to have a real identity and spring-boarding these products to give the producers an outlet to sell their properly-made food – it just feels right. The Courtyard Dairy is no longer just about cheese!"

Pictured L-R: Bethan & Sam Leach (Ambry Bakery), James Newhouse with his Belted Galloway Cattle, Pete & Rona Webster (Lawkland Hall Dairy Farm)

AUSTWICK W.I.

Austwick W.I. meets in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of the month. We are a friendly bunch and welcome new members and visitors to our meetings. Why not come along and see for yourself.

In May we had a visit by Peter Webster. This was an open meeting and was well attended. Peter talked about the management of grassland to avoid damaging curlew's nests during harvest. We were fortunate to welcome Patrick Grant to the June meeting. Patrick gave a talk about his life and how he started his

Community Clothing business. Austwick WI hosted the group meeting where we invited Giggleswick and Low Bentham members to have afternoon tea and hear Julia Chapman introduce us to her new book venture. Pip and Alec Rigby hosted this year's garden party in July where we were lucky to enjoy a warm summer's evening.

As a follow up to Patrick's talk on sustainability within the clothing industry we had a clothes swap in August. This was a fun evening with lots of laughs whilst choosing a completely free new wardrobe.

As well as our monthly meetings we have also had several outings and

walks. We had a day in Malham with a 'hands on' experience painting pottery, a delightful walk from Muker to Keld enjoying the glorious wildflower meadows, a visit to Leighton Hall where we had a guided tour of the house and watched a falconry display. We finished the month with a walk around the nature reserve at Malham, followed by a meal in Kirkby Malham.

Dates for your diary: 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 (President)

MOLLY PRESTON'S HISTORY NOTES

Doctors' Surgeries in Austwick

When the Inglebys sold Harden House and the remaining member of the family, Christabel, moved into the cottage by the road junction, Dr Lovatt and family acquired the property and a surgery was built on the North side making easy access for the villagers. Dr Lovatt then became the village family doctor. The building was also used as a nursing home. In those days there was no health service and doctors' bills had to be paid. After Dr Lovatt retired a surgery was set up in Leigh House (home of the Middleton family) by Dr Marks, a squadron leader in the RAF, and Dr Henry was installed as resident doctor. He lived in for some time and then moved to Harden House and married one of the Lovatt girls. The Ingleton doctors followed in the 1930s with Dr Tait and Dr Knowles. A surgery was held one morning a week in a front room at Leigh House and the vestibule used as a waiting room, chairs for patients moved in for the occasion. The doctors fitted the rooms with suitable furniture. The Bentham doctors held a surgery at the home of Maud

Newhouse, Silwood Cottage, opposite the Parish Hall.

Parish Hall Millennium Mugs

In the year 2000 there was a competition for a design for new mugs for the Parish Hall that would be bought to celebrate the occasion, the design to include what was special about Austwick. It was won by Janice Pettiford and depicted the cross, the cuckoo and Norber

boulders. The mugs are still in use, just the right size and weight.

Elaine Hardy's niece donated Elaine's Austwick tea set to the Parish Hall.

The Cuckoo Legend

Originally we had a Street Market started by Wes Spensley and Edward Hird. After many years Biddy Strickland (wife of Ken, farmer in Eldroth) suggested we use the cuckoo legend as a different title. Her daughter Ann Preston

AUSTWICK RECORD

PARISH HALL SPECIAL

1956

A MISCELLANY OF HISTORY AND FOLK TALES

SIXPENCE

HAY ONCE STOOD IN AUSTWICK'S PARISH HALL

Originally a barn, it became known as Pretoria Hall

LIKE so many social centres in the district, Austwick's Parish Hall started out life as a barn, built on the grand scale, with thick walls and sturdy oak beams supporting heavy slates. John Ingleby, the owner, rented it to Jack Calverley, a local joiner, but eventually the property, with three cottages, came into the possession of the Craven Bank.

The barn and stable were being used by Robert Camm in July, 1899, when the Bank disposed of the property to Henry Shepherd for £160. The three cottages were occupied at that time by Miss Agnes Wilson, Mr. Edward Harrison, and Mr. Albert Pritchard. Henry Knowles Shepherd lived at Town Head, and he was gardener for T. R. Clapham, Esq., of Austwick Hall. He invited Mr. W. K. Mattinson to plan extensions to the north end, giving more floor space and a small room to serve as kitchen. The barn and stable became Pretoria Hall, for the chief national topic at the time was the Boer War.

DOZENS of local folk remember Pretoria Hall and the gay evenings that took place there in winter. Messrs. Hird and Wiseman were in great demand to accompany dancing, the former playing the fiddle and the latter a concertina. William Hird was postman. The chief thing remembered about Mr. Wiseman was his moustache, of which he was very proud. It was trained back over his ears!

Harry Wilson's band turned up from Settle. One night, when the violinist had travelled to Austwick on horseback, Mr. Wilson had to open the local smithy and frost-nail the animal's shoes before it was safe to ride it on the icy roads. This work was performed at 4 a.m.

Supper and dance cost half-a-crown, and the supper was of the knife-and-fork variety, with beef and ham that fell to pieces at a glance and all kinds of cakes, trifles and jellies. The food was given by local folk.

One person, for instance, would bake a stone of bread. Another provided a round of beef. A lady made fancy cakes which were promptly christened "Russian baskets."

For small dances a curtain was drawn across one end of the hall to divide dancing from dining, but larger events—Conservative Ball and Reading Room Ball—overtaxed the little kitchen, and food was served at the School.

DIED IN 1917.

HENRY SHEPHERD died on April 15, 1917, and the property then. It was not long, however, before Pretoria Hall became a matter for the whole village. In December, 1919, the hall and a cottage (later pulled down) were taken over by a village committee, who paid £260 and raised the money immediately by donations (£120) and loans (£212).

There were kind hearts in Austwick and some of the money which was provided as a loan became a gift. The rest was repaid in annual sums of £40, the names being drawn from the total number placed in a hat.

The Committee in 1919 comprised Stockdale, Joseph Holme, John Hamblin, Robert James Foster and Arthur Camm, proprietor of the Gamecock Inn.

It was this Committee which did away with paraffin illumination. A small building was constructed at the bottom of the garden to house an acetylene plant in 1926, and at the same time a boiler house and men's cloak-room were built.

MARCHING SONG

THEN, in November, 1930, came the opening of what is now the supper room, with money raised locally and a grant of £120 from the Carnegie Trust. Before the key was turned in the shiny new lock, there was a grand procession through the village. Miss Harriet Byles had composed a song for the occasion, and it went to the tune *Marching Through Georgia*.

One of the greatest social events in recent Austwick history took place in May, 1933, to raise money for the Parish Hall and Reading Room. It was *Ye Olde English Fayre*, venue *The Traddock*, a two-day event which included a baby show, sports, a pastoral play entitled *Peeps of Bygone Austwick*, and a fairground.

1936 was an important year for the Parish Hall. It was vested in the Official Trustee of Charitable Lands, and the Declaration of Trust was drawn up.

FIRST COUNCIL

THIS document declares that the general management and control

SUPPORT THE—

Parish Hall Fete

SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd

AT THE TRADDOCK

Fancy Dress Sports
Stalls Sideshows Dancing
Torchlight Procession

AUSTWICK'S FIRST UMBRELLA

Adapted from an account by Harry Speight

WHEN umbrellas were not common, at any rate in the Craven Dales, an Austwick man went to a doctor's at Settle. It was raining very hard when he left, and the doctor generously offered him an open umbrella, saying that it would be all right if he returned it the next time he was in the town.

On reaching home, comparatively dry, the man astonished his wife who had never seen such an article before. An unsuccessful attempt was made to get the open umbrella through the doorway.

People crowded round. The wife grew angry and chastised her husband for coming home with such an awkward machine.

A length a wisecrack in the crowd suggested that they should try the chamber window, which was above the ordinary size, and so the expanded umbrella was tied to a piece of cart-rope and hauled up to the second storey. It was too big.

The wife became furious: "Tak her, ye cauf heead, an' tether her to t' bull stoop i' t' pastur," and looking very sheepish he did as he was bid.

A week later the man walked into Settle with the umbrella still up, although the day was gloriously fine!



Austwick sixty years ago. Note the lamp standard on the left (fuel was paraffin) and the old mounting steps outside the "Gamecock Inn." Both have now gone.

of the Trust premises and the arrangements for their use "shall be and the following organisations" each had the right to appoint one member of the Council:

Austwick Parish Council (then the Rev. A. R. Godfrey); Austwick Parochial Church Council (C. I. Kirkbright); Wesleyan Chapel Trustees (Robert Ewbank); Women's Institute (Alice Drinkhall); Field Club (W. K. Mattinson); Village Library (Harriet Byles); Austwick Sick and Benefit Club (John Middleton); British Women's Temperance Association (Agnes Straker); Austwick Badminton Club (George Whitfield); Girl Guides' Association (Mary Butler); Girls' Friendly Society (Mary Agnes Cash); Austwick Reading Room (Thomas Bradley).

LIFE AT AUSTWICK HALL

THE early history of Austwick manor is connected with the families of D'Arcy and York. In Elizabeth's reign, the manor changed hands for a consideration from John York to Sir Richard Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe, in Lancashire, Chief Justice of Chester.

In this family the manor of Austwick remained until 1782, when it was purchased by James Farrer, of Clapham.

In 1573 the manor house and demesne had been acquired by the Ingleby family, who had also come into possession of Lawkland.

The Inglebys lived for many generations at Austwick Hall. Sir Charles, who was the son of John Ingleby, Lord of the Manor of Lawkland, was a Colonel in the army of Charles Second.

The Austwick Hall estate was bequeathed in 1846 by the late Thomas Clapham of Stackhouse, son of the Rev. William Clapham, Vicar of Giggleswick, to Richard Clapham, of Feisor.

The entrance to Austwick Hall appears to have been an old Norman pele or fortified manor house. Additions were made probably when the Inglebys took possession in 1573.

designed the cuckoo picture we know today. This was on display outside The Smithy with a wrought iron cuckoo made by Edward Hird, now in a private garden. The title has given the event individuality and has been a great success. The Yorkshire Post singled out the title when advertising events at the bank holiday, calling it the “quirky Cuckoo Festival”. Nobody seems to know how or when we acquired the cuckoo title and it does make Austwick people seem not very bright, building a wall round the bush where the cuckoo perched to stop it flying away for Winter. For some reason ancient man revered the bird (even though it had the bad habit of laying its eggs in the nests of other birds which then raised its chicks) and associated the cuckoo with the coming of Summer thinking if the bird stayed so would the Summer. Poems and songs were

written in praise of the cuckoo, as were the following.

*The cuckoo is a pretty bird
She singeth as she flies
She bringeth us good tidings
She telleth us no lies
She sips of the sweet nectar
To keep her throttle clear
And every time she singeth
cuckoo, cuckoo
The Summer draweth near.*

War Pensions after 1914-1918 War

After the First World War, the following Austwick men were awarded war pensions owing to having permanent disabilities from war injuries. I am aware of four Austwick men. They spent their money wisely. George Truelove (lost one leg, needed a wooden one) bought two rows of cottages, which included a grocer's shop which he ran as a business and a large Austin car with which he ran a taxi service. Tommy Proctor (shrapnel in his

head too dangerous to remove, told by the family) acquired a small-holding on High Street, a barn, a croft and two cottages, from one he ran a gent's hairdressers and let the cottage out for holidays and lived with his family in the other.

John Middleton (two bouts of dysentery) bought Leigh House, cottage and barn and the adjoining land which included a large garden, an orchard and a croft, which is where Orchard Leigh estate now stands. Harry Lawson (gassed in the trenches) bought the property Ivy Dene, facing onto the village green and a garden at the rear with several additional buildings. He built a rear extension creating a self-contained flat with access from the yard. A grocer's shop was run by wife Ruby. In one of the out-buildings he set up a corn-grinding machine, diesel powered, and grew mushrooms on a commercial scale in the cellar.



Jigsaw Morning

resumes on

Wednesday 14 October

**Austwick Parish hall
10.00-12.00**

Second Wednesday of the month until end of March

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AUSTWICK FIELD AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Spring and Summer Programme of Talks and Walks

The spring/ summer season of talks by local speakers has been well attended with typically 50-60 members and guests attending the talks. Recent evening events in the Austwick Parish large Hall have covered a talk by Prof Angus Winchester on Common Land, and a talk by Dr Rebecca Bennion on Fossils and Fossil Hunters of the Yorkshire Dales. The Society's members have also enjoyed two excellent guided visits: to the bird hide on Lawkland Hall farm to see waders led by Frank Osterberg (RSPB), and a tour of Giggleswick School led by Jim Bellis. A visit to see Giggleswick School's impressive Victorian chapel is also planned in the autumn following our successful visit to the School, again led by Jim Bellis-date still TBC. This tour is planned to take place shortly after the talk in October on Walter Morrison by Heather Lane.

If you are not a member and would like to know more about our season of talks this autumn or to be included on our records for future meeting notices, please contact our membership secretary Tony Horsewill on tonyhorsewill@me.com.

Autumn 2026 and Spring 2027 Programme of Talks

Annual membership of the Society runs from September 2026 and costs £15 per person. All are welcome to our meetings and the cost for non-members is £5 per person (cash only please) at the door. Refreshments will also be available. Talks start at 7.30 pm in Austwick Parish (large) Hall. Members wishing to renew their membership for the new autumn 26/ spring 27 season of talks and guided walks should send their fee to the Society's bank account by BACS or bring cash (no cheques please) to one of the autumn evening meetings. If possible please pay membership fees for 26/27 season by BACS to Austwick Field and Local History Society, Lloyds Bank, Sort code 30-14-60, Account No 01521471 (Lloyds Bank). Please include your full name in the BACS payment details. Please pay several days before the following monthly evening talk so we can register your details.

The evening talks programme for autumn 2026 and spring 2027 is now finalised and a free printed programme will be available at the autumn meetings from September 2026. Details of all the summer 2026/ spring 2027 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 on posters.

The talks will as usual be in Austwick Parish (large) Hall and are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month from September 2026. (Please note the altered timing of the December 2026 talk which is on the second Wednesday of December).



The topics of the forthcoming Wednesday evening talks during autumn 2026/ spring 2027 are as follows: The first autumn talk is by James Innerdale entitled "Look again-reading vernacular buildings and external finishes" and will take place on Wednesday 16th September 2026 from 7.30 pm. The talk is expected to be very interesting and informative, so do come along if you can, and enjoy the evening. Further talks cover the following varied field and local history topics: Walter Morrison and his links to

Giggleswick, Traditional Hay Meadows in the Dales, Ingleborough History underfoot, AGM followed by a talk on the Building Homes for Dales House Birds Project, Dry-stone walls, History of Clapham Dam and the development of the Saw Mill Café, Birds of the Yorkshire Dales, Limestone Pavements-A secret world under threat, Wildlife Photography in the NW of England

with an emphasis on Kendal's kingfishers and otters, and Half a century of red squirrel conservation in Grasmere.

Possible Speakers for the 2026/2027 Season of Evening 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 2027/spring 2028 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 year in line with its revised constitution. The sand martin artificial nest on the banks of Austwick Beck is still awaiting its first occupants but several flocks of sand martins have been observed in the vicinity and we are hopeful the box will be occupied next spring.

The hay meadow adjacent to the public footpath cutting through from Greystonber Lane near the bridge to Low Street has produced some spectacular wild flowers this summer including red campion, knapweed, yellow rattle and meadow cranesbill and further planting with more plug plants is planned in the autumn. The restoration of the Feizor hay meadow is the biggest ongoing project and a recent flower and grass survey by Kirsti Ashworth has identified a number of typical hay meadow plants in the field. The Society received a generous grant from the Austwick Open Gardens event last year and the money has gone towards funding current nature recovery schemes and some remaining funds are unspent. Some of the grant has recently been spent on new hedgehog hazard warning signs and posts and these will be erected shortly on Greystonber Lane near the bridge to warn motorists. If you have identified a possible nature recovery scheme in your neighbourhood please let me know.

Graham Cleverly, AFLHS Chairman



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A NEW SEASON FOR SETTLE ORCHESTRA

Settle Orchestra begins an exciting new chapter this autumn as Colombian conductor Juan José Muñoz Borja takes up the baton for the orchestra's 2026–27 season.

Juan José is currently studying for a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and has worked with professional and youth orchestras in Colombia and internationally. His first concerts with Settle Orchestra take place at Settle Parish Church on Saturday 14 November and Christ Church, Skipton on Saturday 21 November, both at 3.30pm. The programme features Mozart's Ballet Music from Idomeneo, Beethoven's lively Symphony No. 8 and a particularly special performance from one of the orchestra's youngest members. At just 17 years old, bassoonist Harris Birch achieved a Distinction in his Bassoon Diploma earlier this year with an outstanding 48 marks out of 50. This autumn he steps forward as soloist with his fellow orchestra members in Jacobi's Introduction and Polonaise for Bassoon and Orchestra. Tickets are £15, or £7.50 for students and benefit claimants, while everyone aged 18 and under can attend free. Essential carers also attend free, and the orchestra's Buy One Donate One scheme provides further opportunities to enjoy live music locally. The season continues in March 2027 with music for flute by Poulenc and Boustany alongside Schubert's Symphony No. 6. Saturday 14 November, 3.30pm, Settle Parish Church; Saturday 21 November, 3.30pm, Christ Church, Skipton. Further details and tickets: <https://www.settleorchestra.org.uk/>



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Autumn Concert

Sat 14th Nov, 3.30pm
Settle Parish Church

Sat 21st Nov, 3.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

Mozart
Ballet Music from Idomeneo

Jacobi
Introduction and Polonaise
for Bassoon and Orchestra
Soloist - Harris Birch

Beethoven
Symphony No.8

Conductor - **Juan José Muñoz Borja**
Leader - **Anne Heaton**

Tickets £15; Students and benefits claimants £7.50;
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AUSTWICK PICCALILLIS

Our thriving Pickleball club has continued to be busy over the past few months starting with the visit from our Norfolk friends in April. Over the weekend we hosted an Invitation Event, a Team Competition & also a Social at the Craven Arms. The weekend was a



great success & the Norfolk crew are already making plans to return.

Our graded, private & Open sessions continue to be very popular with sessions filling up very quickly using our SPOND app. Many friendships have been forged & it is great to see so many people having fun!

In May members travelled to Edinburgh for the Scottish Open. Players reached the quarter finals in many events & Jane & Gordon reached the semi finals in their event.

Our members are playing in the NW League, South Lakes League & the Apex League to gain experience in preparation for tournaments. Several players have also played at the new Pickledshed venue in York with Lorraine & Ruth achieving Bronze in a recent competition.

Players have travelled to Turkey to attend Pickleball Camps & have had the opportunity to receive coaching from outside coaches.

Liverpool & Sunderland have been the venues for the Pickleball UK tours so our members are certainly taking advantage of all the opportunities that are now available.

We have had a team in the NW Team League this year & despite early starts & travelling to compete, they have had a great time.

A group of members took part in the Lancs/South Lakes Inferno competition & we have a group selected for next year's Lakes & Legends team.

The Irish Open in July saw great success for the Piccalillis with Karen & Jane achieving Gold in the Ladies Doubles & Karen Gold & Jane Silver in the Mixed.

The Piccalillis held their inaugural League Competition over two weekends this summer. It was a great success & hopefully can be repeated.

In early August a large contingent of Piccalillis travelled to the NEC in Birmingham for the English Open. The venue was huge, over 60 courts & over 4000 competitors over 6 days. We competed in a range of events, gender doubles, mixed doubles,

the Unity Cup & singles. The games were very competitive with some great rallies. We all had a great experience. Some people had early starts & others were there until the late evening but it was fun! In gender doubles, Andrew & Pam brought home Gold medals, Jane & Kath Silver & Carole & Susan Bronze. In mixed doubles, it was Gold for Hayley & Andrew & Bronze for Jane, Gordon & Pam. Ann took part in the Unity Cup. Ann even competed in the singles too. Well done to all the Austwick Piccalillis!

Looking ahead we have the Welsh Open at the end of August, the English Nationals in Bolton in October & no doubt many other competitions as they come up.

We also have the exciting prospect of our 10th Anniversary Social in September. It is amazing to think that we have been going for 10 ten years & how far Pickleball has developed in those 10 years. It is hard to ensure that everybody has opportunities to play with the lack of venues & the number of people contacting us to try pickleball. We are still operating a



waiting list due to demand but if you are interested in playing please email us at austwickpickleball@gmail.com

AUSTWICK BOWLING CLUB

Although we haven't been subjected to the searing heat of the south, we still have had some very hot days here. Being the enthusiastic Club that we are, we have had some very happy, sociable days and good bowling as well, always finishing with a cuppa and cake or biscuits!

We entered the Home Guard Cup in June this year. This is an annual event hosted in turn by the four clubs taking part, namely Burton, Bentham, Ingleton and our club. This year we came third; it doesn't sound much but to our club it was a big improvement as we usually come last! Unlike the other clubs taking part we do not partake in any league matches we are simply a very friendly, sociable club and that is how we enjoy playing!

We do however play other clubs and have a good rapport with Slaidburn bowling club and nearly every year we have

three fixtures with them instead of the normal two. One of our members plays regularly at Northcliffe bowling club near Shipley and this year we held a return match here at Austwick. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and the visitors ended their afternoon with a meal at The Railway pub in Skipton. A great friendly afternoon was enjoyed by all and a return game has already been organised!!

For anyone even thinking about the game of bowls, please do come along to our club and experience the game either by watching or having a roll-up there is nearly always someone playing and would be more than happy to offer advice or make you very welcome. We'd love you to come and join us!

AUSTWICK TENNIS CLUB TROPHY CELEBRATION

Once again, the Sheila Barraclough trophy tournament and social afternoon was the highlight of Austwick Tennis Club's summer season. Despite a rare wet morning, on the middle Sunday of Wimbledon, the weather faired up to allow us to complete our annual event held in memory of Sheila, who was a long-term Austwick resident and who, along with husband Bernard, played a big role in the establishment of the playing fields association and especially the tennis club.

The shortened format of the American tournament allows the club's social members to play alongside regular team players in a fun competition that brings together all club members, with plenty of time for the trophy presentation and a Jacob's Join afternoon tea.

Congratulations go to Marco Frik who, despite only just returning from a long-term injury, won the men's section and to Anna Howarth and Jo Martin who won the women's section. Special mention also has to go to Sarah Llewellyn, who because of a gender imbalance in the number of competitors, had to play in the men's section and still came within a few points of Marco.

League-wise, this summer, for the first time in many years, we have entered a men's team alongside the ladies in the Bradford Parks weekend league, and it is good to report that both are doing well and, late into the season, both are in with a prospect of promotion. We did however cut the number of teams in the mid-week Wharfedale mixed doubles league to two from three and at the time of writing both are struggling to hold on to their places in the respective divisions.

The social tennis sessions on Thursday lunchtimes and Sunday mornings are thriving, and we have been able add some more competitive sessions for team players. We are



however short of numbers for our traditional Monday and Friday morning sessions and anyone who fancies trying tennis without any pressure would be welcome to pop down from 10am on those mornings to join us. We do of course play all year round, only cancelling in very severe weather. In a further innovation we are linking up with the Settle u3a to form a tennis section that will use the courts on Tuesday afternoons and hopefully will give a further chance for folks who have not played for many years to return to what we believe is a sport for all ages.



NATURE NOTES

Continued from back page

Recent sightings: A young fox on the footpath to Feizor, and a sika deer in the back garden. And earlier during a dry spell, adult hedgehogs out searching for water during the daytime. But no otters spotted by local residents unfortunately near the bridge for several months... If you see anything interesting please try and photograph it and send me the image for inclusion in the next Parish Newsletter Nature Notes.

Graham Cleverly
graham.cleverly1@gmail.com

POEMS BY MOLLY PRESTON

A bird's nest

a wonderful thing, just the right
size
to house the season's brood
made with sticks to form a
shape
each one curved just right
lined with moss, feathers, down.
The crafty cuckoo
lays in other nests
leaves the hosts to rear the
chicks.
Does it miss the thrill of raising
a brood?

When a baby's born

nobody knows what they will be
Will they be famous
sporty or arty
loving wild life
good with numbers
good with people
different skills
or just content with a humdrum
job
plodding along
no stress
Whatever is right for them
that's what matters.

A new day dawns

what will today bring
what can we achieve, however
small,
who can we see.
a look at world news
oh well / can't do anything
about that
just get on with life
in our own little corner.



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THWAITE LANE AND SLAINDALE: A RESTRICTED BYWAY FOR EVERMORE

To misquote Winston Churchill – never have so many owed so much to so few. Every time we and our many friends and visitors walk, cycle or horse ride along Thwaite Lane and Slaindale we should be very grateful to the few who actively campaigned to make sure that Thwaite Lane (from Clapham along Thwaite and down Slaindale onto the Wharfe Road) remains a Restricted Byway and it cannot be changed to a BOAT (Byway Open to all traffic) in the future.

A BOAT would have allowed uninhibited use by leisure four by four vehicles and off- road scrambler motorbikes.

To get the Planning Inspectorate to ratify that Thwaite should remain a Restricted Byway has been a long and tortuous journey (nearly 10 years) through legal jargon, and old and new evidence from those who wanted a BOAT and those who did not.

Clapham PC have played their part and here in Austwick the Parish Council led the way alongside some determined locals. Sometimes our cause has been supported by just a brief but still important letter to the Inspectorate, a more formal “Statement of Case” and two Public Enquiries. Thankfully, we now have the Final Order Decision which clearly states that all reference to a BOAT is to be removed from the Definitive Map of the area, and thus the route will remain a Restricted Byway for ever. In the coming weeks there will be new Restricted Byway signs erected at both ends of the route in confirmation of the Order.

So well done to everyone concerned.

Helen Thompson

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TED TODD

NATURE NOTES AUTUMN 2026

Over the last few months a bold robin has built a nest of leaves and moss in a quiet corner of my shed and then has sat defiantly on the eggs as I come and go.

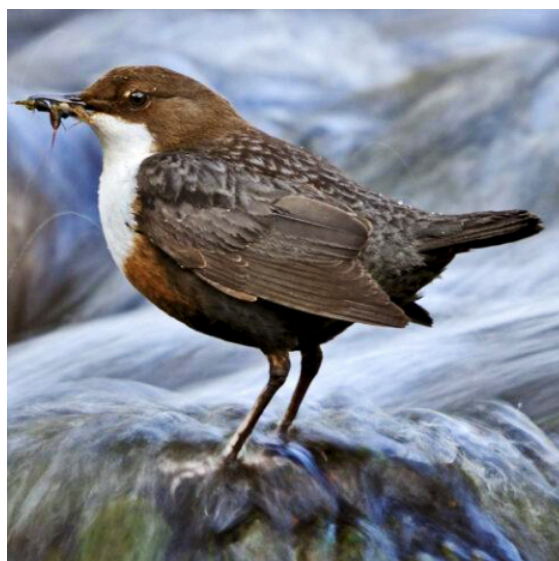
The first nest hosted five or six eggs which hatched then suddenly all the fledglings disappeared overnight. Not to be beaten a second clutch of six eggs appeared in a different nest location in the shed shortly after. Strangely these also disappeared one night with not even a fragment of egg shell remaining. The predator must have been very canny to have worked out the whereabouts of the two nests in my untidy shed. Sadly, the robin has now given up and moved on. A stoat or weasel possibly?

On a brighter note, two adult egrets are now a common sight on Austwick Beck and what appears to be a young egret has also been spotted recently - see images by Judy Leeming.

The sight of a dipper was once a common sight viewed from Austwick bridge, working the stones and cobbles in the bed of the beck for insects and small fish. The dipper is the only aquatic songbird in the UK and likes to build its nest over water so the young can be safely dropped into the water on their first outing. The best place to see dippers (and kingfishers) is the weir on the River Ribble near Settle swimming pool. There is a good viewing point near the Settle Hydro building behind the Mill, and dippers can often be seen in the rock pools immediately below the weir. Not in evidence unfortunately at the moment because there is no water flowing over the weir and the rock pools are empty!

Recent sightings of dippers

(now on the amber list in the UK) have been few and far between in Austwick despite the three new wooden nest boxes put up in the last few months under the arches of



the masonry road bridges both at Austwick and near Wharfe. I inspected the Austwick dipper boxes recently whilst the beck was very low and unfortunately found no evidence of any dipper activity. However, I did take the opportunity to have a good look at the masonry arches of the bridge. These narrow but elegant masonry bridges were originally built to a standard format throughout the West Riding in Georgian times to serve pedestrians, stagecoaches and horse drawn carts. Sadly there is no keystone showing its initial construction date. It is clear from examining the underside of the arches and the ashlar masonry elements that it was carefully widened on the upstream side - probably in the 19th Century - in order to double its width to accommodate extra traffic, whilst maintaining the same attractive outward appearance. The parapet wall on the upstream side of the bridge is much more irregular than the original parapet wall on the downstream side. There is also clear evidence of an earlier ford just downstream of the current bridge on Greystonber lane - a reminder that this has been an important crossing point on the beck for many centuries. Earlier maps of the village also show a ford just upstream of the Little Bridges but nothing remains of this or the adjacent approach roads.

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