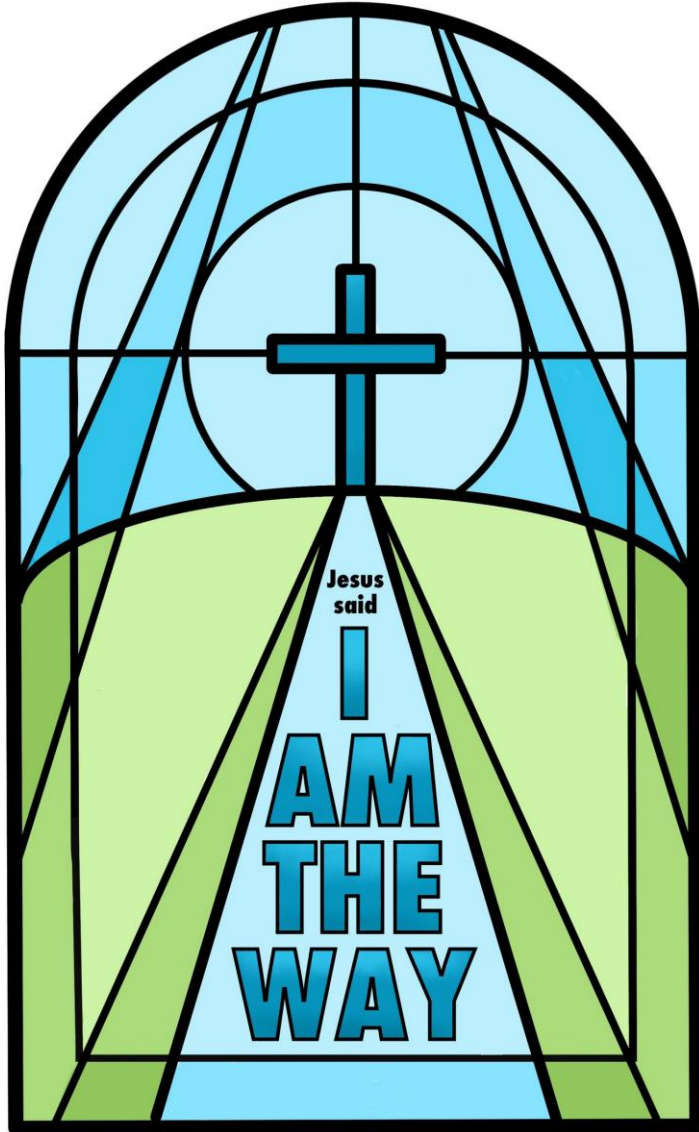


# Link






Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Parish Magazine



# The Link

The **Link** is the magazine and noticeboard for the Parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale, sharing news, reports and items of interest from the churches and our community. If you have something to contribute, please email it to your local correspondent or to the editor.

**The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

-  Editor: Ian Smith - [smithiwho@gmail.com](mailto:smithiwho@gmail.com)
-  Advertising Manager: Jenny Inocco – [jeninocco@gmail.com](mailto:jeninocco@gmail.com) & 07552 034264
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-  Kettlewell with Starbotton: David Nelson - [DavidNelsondave@aol.com](mailto:DavidNelsondave@aol.com)

The Link is distributed free to every household in the parish, and is also available on the Parish website at <https://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org/news-and-views.html>

If you would like to receive a copy of the Link by email, please contact the Editor at [smithiwho@gmail.com](mailto:smithiwho@gmail.com)

The Link is financed by advertising from local businesses, and gifts. If you would like to make a gift towards the publication of the Link, you can do so through the Parish website at [www.upperwharfedalechurches.org](http://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org) or by scanning this QR code. Your donations to parish funds help towards publication of the Link and the upkeep of our churches.

Thank you for your contribution.



## Churches Contact Telephone Numbers

**Vicar:** Revd Tom Lusty - 01756 761072 or 07779 990279

**Methodist Minister:** Revd Andrew Webb – 01756 691057

**Roman Catholic Priest:** Fr Christopher Angel – – 01756 699000

**Congregational Minister:** The Revd Peter Thomas – 01756 753848

**Parish Administrator:** Andrew Hitchon – [upperwharfedale@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:upperwharfedale@leeds.anglican.org) or 01756 380237

## A Dales Prayer

May the Father's grace abound in you  
as the flowing water of the beck.

May the Son's love and hope invigorate you  
as the rising slopes of fell and dale.

May the Spirit's companionship be with you  
as the glory of the golden meadows.

Amen

# From the Vicar...

## *Love flows a lazy river*

We are all shaped by our environment as human beings. We see and cross the two rivers that punctuate the life of this parish, the Wharfe and the Skirfare, every day. The grief journey is sometimes described as being like following a river through limestone. The following poem by the poet Pat Wray takes up this theme. It is a Christian poem which we can see by the way that it ends.

Love flows a lazy river to the hard stone edge of grief  
Where breaking in a thousand tears, she shines the rocks beneath.  
She runs into an inky pool, that deep wise pool of pain  
Where energies are gathered up to face the skies again.  
Then moving on she comes to limestone country, dry and bright  
Where sorrow passes underground and flows on out of sight  
Down narrow tunnels, lonely holes, great caves of hidden art  
Which only those who've been there can know the half,  
Till cool and calm and pacified love blinks, a rising spring,  
Ready for all her waiting Lord delights to bring.

I met Pat when I worked as a hospice chaplain in Leeds. I used to contribute to a spiritual direction course on death and dying, and one of my most valued resources was this poem. I kept on returning to it because of the deep spiritual truth that it contains, that the bereavement journey is a hopeful one.

If you draw a graph with time passing on the horizontal axis and the hope-despair continuum on the vertical axis, we can mark the trajectory the river takes. We note that there are times of low mood and despair but that the overall trajectory of grief is we end up on a higher plane: *Till cool calm and pacified, love blinks a rising spring.*

The miracle of rising wells is that they push water up to the surface of the earth from deep underground. This water 'rising again' reminds us of resurrection.

In the story of the road to Emmaus the disciples are downcast at the loss of their friend, heading away from Jerusalem. In the end they find themselves going on a different trajectory, like the journey of a river travelling through limestone.

All of our bereavement journeys are transformed in the light of what happened on Easter morning.

Tom

# From the Churches & Villages

## From the Parish Registers

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

2 March – St Mary’s Church, Kettlewell –  
Julia Norman Queen

## Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A big day in our Parish calendar is fast approaching. The **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** and the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** (APCM) will be held from 7pm on Wednesday April 17, and we would be delighted if you could join us.

The meetings will again be held by Zoom, a practice which started at the time of the Covid pandemic, but which we have decided to continue because the meetings seem to be easier to manage, and more people have taken part than when they were ‘live’ meetings in local halls.

The main business of the **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** is to elect Church Wardens, of which there is a maximum of three in the Parish. Rebecca Ward-Dooley stood down as Church Warden for Arncliffe earlier in the year due to work pressures, and Jane Way, Church Warden for Hubberholme, is due to retire from that role after the APCM.

The **APCM** follows straight on from the first meeting. It considers the Annual Report and Accounts for the Parish in 2023 and receives a report on our Electoral Roll. There are also elections for membership of the Parish’s Parochial Church Council (PCC) and for other roles, including our representatives on the Skipton Area Deanery Synod.

Nomination forms for these elections will be placed in all our Churches ahead of the meetings on April 17.

If you would like to join the meetings, please contact Andrew Hitchon at [upperwharfedale@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:upperwharfedale@leeds.anglican.org) or call the Parish office 01756 380237. We will then supply you with a link to join the meetings and supply you with the reports which are to be considered.

If you are thinking of standing for any posts within the Parish then please feel free to have a chat about it with the Vicar, the Rev Tom Lusty, who can be contacted by email [tomlustyuwl@gmail.com](mailto:tomlustyuwl@gmail.com) or phone 0777 9990279.

**If you wish to join the electoral roll or need to update your details including email address, please contact Christopher Winpenny at [cewinpenny@gmail.com](mailto:cewinpenny@gmail.com)**

## St Mary’s, Kettlewell

### April Rotas

#### Sidespeople

- 7 Dave Nelson
- 14 Not required
- 21 Clare Blakey-Williams
- 28 Colin Fairweather

#### After Service Tea/Coffee

- 7 Shirley Whitham
- 14 Not required
- 21 Judy Burgin
- 28 Vivienne Fairweather

#### Cleaning

Ann Lister & Jane Howlin

#### Flowers

Barbara Lambert & Sue Nelson

St Michael & All Angels,  
Hubberholme

April Rotas

**Sidesperson**

14 S&D Parsons

21 D Halsall & J Mudd

28 H&K Jeddere-Fisher

**Flowers/cleaning**

TBA

Forthcoming Hubberholme Church

Social and Fundraising activities.

**2024 Quiz.** This is now available from church, Buckden village shop, the Buck, Kettlewell village shop, and members of the action group. The themes are Catchphrase, UK Town or City, Films and Colours. Sheets to be returned by 30 September.

**Spring Coffee Morning** in Buckden Village Institute on 6 April from 10.30 – 12.30. This will include a gift table, raffle and jigsaw sale/swap with a donation. £3

for tea/coffee and cake as usual. See poster for further details.

**August Bank Holiday Event.** Instead of the usual bric-a-brac it is hoped to have a table-top sale. There will also be a tombola stall. The book stall would proceed as usual. Information will be made available later.

**Christmas Bingo** will take place in December. Date to be confirmed.

We will be holding our **springtime clear-up** of the church yard on Saturday 13 April. If anyone feels that they can help out for a couple of hours, please contact Keith Jeddere-Fisher on 760351.

St Mary's, Conistone

April Rotas

**Sidespeople**

7 Hilda Dibb & Jo Foster

14 Philip & Kathryn Butterfield

21 Allison Clarke & Philip Butterfield

May 5 Hilda Dibb & Jo Foster

**Flowers and Cleaning**

7 Kathryn Butterfield

14 Kathryn Butterfield

21 Sue Metcalfe

28 Sue Metcalfe

5 May Allison Clarke

**Open Church w/c**

1 Philip Butterfield

8 Lewis Adams

15 Allison Clarke

22 Jane Pighills & Michelle Parkin-Vaughan

29 Philip Butterfield

6 May Lewis Adams

St Oswald's, Arncliffe

April Rotas

**Opening church w/c**

7 Rebecca Ward-Dooley

14 Hilary Follows

21 Sally Smith

28 Elspeth Miller

The Parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale

Fundraising by Hubberholme Church

APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>

SPRING

COFFEE MORNING



TEA/COFFEE & CAKE

£3

AT BUCKDEN VILLAGE INSTITUTE

10.30 – 12.30

GIFT STALL / RAFFLE

Annual Quiz Sheet £1

JIGSAW SALE OR SWAP TABLE (Donation)

Cakes and biscuits, raffle prizes and jigsaws welcome on the day or before. Ring Josie (761154) or Deirdre (760296) if you can help.

5 May Sarah Paul

### **Sidesperson**

7 Sarah Paul

14 Elspeth Miller

21 Not required

28 Rebecca Ward-Dooley

5 May Hilary Follows

### **Coffee**

7 Hilary Follows

14 Elspeth Miller

21 Not required

28 Sally Smith

5 May Rebecca Ward-Dooley

### **Cleaning**

Mr and Mrs B Raper

### **Flowers**

Patsy Campbell

## Buckden & Langstrothdale

### *Supermobile Library*

The Library van will be in Buckden car park, Wednesday 10 April, 10am-12 noon.

### *Buckden Whist*

Buckden Whist evenings will finish this month for the summer. The final event will be held on Wednesday 3 April in Buckden Village Institute. Doors open at 6.15pm and play starts at 6.45pm. There is an entry charge of £3.50 which includes light refreshments and prizes.

### *Buckden Art Group Exhibition*

The annual Buckden Art Group Exhibition will take place this year from August 24-26. Further details will be available in future Links and on the village website.

### *Buckden Village Institute AGM*

The Annual General Meeting of Buckden Village Institute will take place on Tuesday 30 April in the Institute at 7.00 p.m. All residents of Buckden Parish welcome

### *Buckden Village Quiz*

The Buckden Village Quiz will take place on Sunday 7 April in the Buck. Please take your seats from: 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts: 7.30 p.m. Entry fee - £2.50 per person. In aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. For further info email: [quiz@buckden.org](mailto:quiz@buckden.org)

### *Buckden Gala 2023*

This year's Buckden Gala will be held, as is traditional, on the third Saturday in June – so please put Saturday 15 June 2023 in your diaries. More details will follow in the May Link, and at [www.buckdengala.co.uk](http://www.buckdengala.co.uk)

## Kettlewell with Starbotton

### *Kettlewell Film Night*

The final film of the season is 'The Great Escaper' on 4 May at 7.30pm - Michael Caines last film. This is based on a true story: 'In the summer of 2014, a World War 2 veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.' Cert 12A. Tickets: adults £6, school age £3, available from the village shop or on the door. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Ice creams served in the interval.

### *Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival*

**10-18 August**



### *Scarecrows are emerging!*

At this time of year, you may be having a clear out ready for spring. If you come across any clothes you no longer want, please consider donating them to the scarecrow team. You can drop them in to

Kettlewell village store and they will be collected by a member of the committee. We particularly need men's suits please!

This year the trail theme is **30 Years of Scarecrows** celebrating all things 1994, and the other theme is **A Birthday Party**. We are fortunate to have our local farmer celebrity Tom Carlisle (@dalesfarmer), to judge this year's scarecrows, which will be divided into 2 categories: 1) a group of scarecrows forming a scene, and 2) individual scarecrows. The list of scarecrows on the trail will be in next month's Link.

### Dates for your diary

There will be an early workshop in the village hall on Sunday 7 July from 2 - 4pm for you to get ideas, collect clothing and props for your scarecrow, share ideas, help with making scarecrows for around the village and have a blether and a cuppa! There will also be a workshop in the village hall the week before the festival on Sunday 4 August from 11am - 2pm

### Items Required

Do you have any of the following items which are surplus to requirement (or which you are happy to lend for the duration of the festival):

- § Bunting
- § Scraps of bright fabric
- § A poly tunnel or an old tunnel tent

If you have any of the above, please contact Catharine on 07713152506 or Clare on 07779933262

### Please help!

Finally, *please volunteer to help*. The proceeds from the festival help to keep our small community vibrant and active. The festival will be a huge success and lots of fun with many hands. Different ways you can help are:

- § Make a scarecrow

- § Serve in Village Hall - Cathy 761953 or [kettlewellscarescrow@gmail.com](mailto:kettlewellscarescrow@gmail.com) or Peter 07506780128
  - § Bake cakes - email Mary [marydavidbenton@gmail.com](mailto:marydavidbenton@gmail.com)
  - § Sell our merchandise on the stall - Nicky 07854443464
  - § Help with car parking - Peter 761953
- Thank you, with your help, we can make the week a real celebration.

*The Scarecrow Committee*

### Kettlewell Lunch Club

Kettlewell Lunch Club will meet on Thursday 18 April, 12.30 for 12.45, in Kettlewell Village Hall. If you didn't put your name forward at the March lunch please ring or text (I prefer these modes of communication, please) Sue Nelson, 760887 land line, 07765506738 mobile, by 4pm on Sunday 14 April to reserve your place. If there's no answer, leave a message.



The cost is £6 for two courses plus coffee/tea. Wine is available by donation. If, for any reason, you need to cancel your meal between Monday 15 and Thursday 18 April or are an absentee on the day, the meal will still need to be paid for as provisions will have already been ordered or purchased. The Lunch Club is open to anyone who is over 55 and lives in the Parish Council area of Kettlewell with Starbotton. If you are able, it would be helpful if you could assist with clearing following the meal. Thank you.

### Kettlewell & District WI

The March meeting was 'All about Gardening and Gardeners' Question time' with Mr Nigel Hutchinson of 'The Hedgerow' at Threshfield. The meeting



was interesting indeed and there were plants for sale afterwards. Thank you, Nigel, for a lovely afternoon and all your expert knowledge and help with our problems. Mrs Linda Thomson won the competition.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 April at 1.30pm when Mrs Vicky Fattorini will impart her extensive knowledge of dessert wines. Hostesses will be Mrs S Tolson and Mrs Elizabeth Robinson. The competition will be "R" and there will also be a raffle.

### *Kettlewell Primary School*



We've had a busy but short half term. Class 2 channelled their inner designer and created their own Thor hammer from clay. Class 1 have been cooking each week, they have made delicious fruit scones, amazing wraps and yummy Easter biscuits.

Mums, Aunties and Granny's went into school for Mother's Day and spent some time listening to their children read. It was lovely to have everyone together enjoying our books. This coincided with World Book Day. Everyone looked fantastic as put a lot of effort into their outfits dressing up as chapters from Peter Pan.

Class 1 spent a day at Burnsall with the federation schools. They learned about the moon landing, created their own rocket and space art. Class 2 had an incredible trip to Murton Park near York. The children immersed themselves in 'living history' and were transported back to a time when Vikings came and settled here. The children even got the experience of defending their village from a Saxon

warrior who was trying to infiltrate the village.

We have finished off the term with our annual egg rolling in the school yard and chocolate egg hunt on the field. Well done to everyone for their decorated eggs and providing laughs as they tried to roll them into a bucket. Thank you for Friends of Kettlewell School for supporting this event, with chocolate!

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our coffee morning at the village hall.

### **PETER WARD**

Liz, Diccon, Lucy, Alice and family wish to say a big thank you to our friends in Kettlewell, for their cards and kind words of sympathy, following our recent very sad loss.

### *Littondale*



### *Littondale Life Through the Years*

**10-11 May 2024**

It's time to celebrate life in Littondale! Over the weekend of 10-11 May, we will have an exhibition of photos, farming equipment and other general memorabilia of Littondale at Amerdale Hall, St Oswald's church, and on the village green. So search your attics and bookshelves for photos, scrapbooks and other memorabilia – we'll be celebrating memories of our pubs, school, the village hall, other events and the families who have lived here. The weekend also includes:



- § Videos of the pantomimes that were put on in the hall during the 1980s
- § The UWALS exhibition 'Presenting the Past' covering Littondale
- § A display of vintage tractors and farm equipment on the village green
- § A treasure hunt reflecting the historical theme of the weekend
- § Plenty of tea, coffee and cakes!

Please do bring your memorabilia and we will give you an area to exhibit. Exhibits can be 'staged' on Thursday 8 May and Friday 9 May from 1800 to 2000. Be creative - we will invite guests to vote for their favourite display through the weekend! We suggest you make copies of photographs and documents, as we cannot accept any liability for any damage or loss. Any volunteers to bake or help serve in the tearoom would also be very welcome.

**Please let us know if you would like to exhibit.** Contact Ruth Cowan (770293), Mark Houston (770419) Michelle Miller ([mbmaloney@hotmail.com](mailto:mbmaloney@hotmail.com)), Sarah Paul (770282), Gill Scott (07920 766272) or Ian Smith ([smithiwho@gmail.com](mailto:smithiwho@gmail.com))

### *Coffee & Cake*

**Saturday 13 April, 10.30am – 12 noon**

Our monthly coffee morning and opportunity to catch up with friends & neighbours in Amerdale Hall. Coffee or tea and homemade baking. Payment by donation.



Parish wide & beyond

### *Mobile Library in Upper Wharfedale*

Here are the forthcoming dates for the Mobile Library visits to Buckden & Kettlewell, always 10 am-12 midday:

#### **Buckden**

Wed 10 April

Wed 8 May

Wed 5 June

Wed 3 July

#### **Kettlewell**

Wed 24 April

Wed 22 May

Wed 19 June

### *Settle Orchestra Summer Concerts*

Our Summer concerts will take place in Settle and Skipton as follows:

- Saturday 22 June at 7.30 pm, Settle Parish Church
- Saturday 29 June at 7.30 pm, Christ Church, Skipton

We will be playing:

- Mozart Overture, 'The Impresario'
- R Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1, soloist Will Padfield
- Beethoven Symphony No. 7

Why not come along to one of them, to enjoy an exhilarating evening, support local musicians and help keep live music alive? Full details of future concerts and contacts are at [www.settleorchestra.org.uk](http://www.settleorchestra.org.uk)  
We look forward to seeing you soon!

## **Grassington Singers and Buckden Singers**

present

**Upper Wharfedale Spring Sing**

**Grassington Town Hall**

**3pm**

**Sunday 28th April 2024**

**Tickets £12 including refreshments from  
Grassington Hub or online at  
[ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)**

grassingtonsingers.org.uk; follow us on facebook  
Registered Charity Number 1204562  
Buckdensingers.org; follow us on facebook  
Registered Charity Number 1002078



### *Save the curlew!*

With curlew now one of the UK's most critically endangered species, Yorkshire Dales environmental campaigning charity, Friends of the Dales have taken action to make this year's **World Curlew Day on 21 April** really count. Its Creative Campaigners (aged 20-30) and other friends have made in the region of twenty life-size curlew sculptures from foraged and recycled wire - thanks to the expert guidance of Dales based artist, Lesley Knevitt. Make a date to come and see the team at its one-day outdoor installation and **awareness raising event on Sunday 14 April at Malham**. The curlew will be placed in the field alongside the pathway that links Malham village to Janet's Foss (by kind agreement of farmers Neil Heseltine and Leigh Weston). Through information giving, activities and instructions on how to make your own wire curlew Friends of the Dales aims to raise awareness of the bird's endangered status and the things we can all do to help improve their survival rate. There will also be a short online curlew knowledge quiz with the chance to win a year's individual membership to the charity. Friends of the Dales will also be making available the resources created for this event to village, community and environmental groups wanting to run similar events.

[www.friendsofthedales.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk)

### *Funk Wire Dates*

Thursdays 4 & 18 April – 2pm, Main Hall, Grassington Devonshire Institute  
Thursday 2 May - 2pm, Main Hall, Grassington Devonshire Institute

Thursdays 16 & 30 May - 2pm, Locations TBC

Thursdays 6 & 27 June - 2pm, Locations TBC

Thursday 11 July - 2pm, Location TBC

Thursday 18 July – end of term Summer Singalong, details to be announced!

### Rainfall for February 2024

**Arncliffe:** 179.3 mm/7.06 ins

**Beckermunds\*:** 497.5mm/19.81 ins

\*Jan/Feb

### February rainfall 2000-2023

**Highest:** 512.0 mm/20.16 ins (2020)

**Lowest:** 27.6 mm/1.09 ins (2009)

**Average:** 169.8 mm/6.69 ins

Rainfall has been above average every month since September last year!



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## Hope for the NHS.....and farming!

*This is the final article in our series about 'hope'. This month we talk to Brenda McKenzie, who manages to combine two careers - nursing and farming - about her hopes for the future.*

### Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born in Arncliffe on 18 March 1979. Following a horrific snowstorm, my mum went into labour. The snowstorm was so bad that my mum couldn't get to the hospital, which resulted in my dad playing midwife and delivering me at home! A RAF Sea King helicopter was scrambled from Northumberland and collected me and mum, taking us to Airedale Hospital. I think I'm probably the only person in the Dale with Arncliffe as their place of birth on their passport.



I was born on the same date as my Nana, Brenda McKenzie's birthday, which is why I'm called Brenda. As I grew up, I was to be known as Brenda Junior. I thought that was my name! I went to Arncliffe Primary School and my gran was the junior teacher there.

As children, we used to go up the church tower to play. We used to love playing up there in summer. One time we must've been there too long and old Mrs Rushby went and locked the church up while we were still up the top, leaving us locked in. We had to call from the top of the tower for help!

**We have many current and former farmers and health workers in the**

**parish, but very few who manage to combine both roles. How did you get into this situation and how do you manage to balance two such demanding occupations?**

Mum has always worked in healthcare and my dad's always been a farmer, so I suppose I've just taken both their careers and merged it into one. I've always taken an interest in Farming and helped my mum and dad out on their sheep farm. When I left school, I was encouraged to work on another farm in addition to attending college. I worked for John Cowan - a big Swaledale sheep farmer up in Halton Gill and LOVED my time working for him. Leaving me with many happy memories and a wealth of experience.

Then came BSE and foot & mouth, and farming was really tough, so I decided that I would use my transferrable skills and started nurse training. I wanted to farm, I'd always loved farming, but knew that I need to earn a bit more money if I wanted to go and do the things that I wanted to do - I love travelling! I completed nurse training and specialised in cancer services up until two and a half years ago, when I took a job as Workforce Assurance and Compliance Lead Nurse, which is about making sure we've got the right staff with the right skills in the right place.

Sarah and I moved to Littondale a couple of years ago, which makes it easier for me to mix my career with my passion for farming. I can pick up a bit of farming at the beginning or the end of the day without it impacting too much on me, and I can work from home a couple of days a week. So I've got a really good mix of farming and nursing and it works for me

really well. I love living up here; especially when the sun shines! The Dale is absolutely amazing, it's beautiful, and it's got a really good mix of people.

I think that the nursing profession has benefited from my farming background; the no-nonsense sort of talking and ethos! My grandad used to say, "If you look after your sheep, they'll look after the lambs." I suppose I took that forward as a manager in the NHS. I look after my staff so that they will look after the patients. I make sure that I've got a good solid, resilient team who know what their aims and objectives are, and that they're well supported. I think that that ethos has come from farming, the roots of farming, and I've taken that and strengthened wherever I've worked in the NHS. And I would say that although you think they're quite different, there's not always a lot of difference in terms of how you approach the two careers.



**What are your hopes for the future of farming and of the Dales?**

My hope is that it stays as beautiful as it is. There are many more trees being planted in the valley that will soon change the outlook of the Dale. There are mixed views about

this development, but in my opinion is that firstly, we're removing a lot of agricultural land that will reduce the amount of livestock being raised (with obvious consequences). And secondly, trees and dry-stone walls don't get on well together!

I hope that we manage change within the Dale in a measured way and make sure that the Dale retains its beauty in terms of that big expansive valley that you can see, the beautiful farmland and drystone walls. I just hope we get the balance right moving forward, so that everybody, people who live here, people who work here, people who visit here, get to enjoy the Dales as we know and love them.

I think diversification in farming is a good thing, especially in terms of boosting income. For me, the exposure has strengthened my skills and knowledge base, and pushed me out of my comfort zone.

I hope that we don't lose all the small farmers, because again, that will change the outlook of the Dales massively. If we don't retain these farmers, we won't have dry stone walls, we won't have beautiful farmland or footpaths. So I do hope that the government properly invests in subsidies for farmers to actually farm, and prevent further decommissioning of agricultural land. I hope they support Dale's farmers, upland hill farmers, sheep farmers, to carry on, because without farming we haven't got the Dales as we know it.

**And your hopes for the future of the NHS?**

I hope we retain the NHS. Actually, that's my biggest hope because we are at risk of losing it. The problem is that politics never has a long-term plan, does it? It's all short-term. And that's the problem I think with the NHS, nobody wants to make a long-term commitment to anything. So yes, I think for me, the hope is that we retain it, pure and simply.

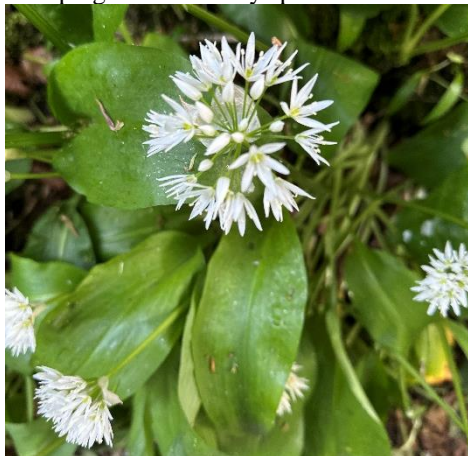
During a recent stroll along the River Skirfare, I saw the striking blue flash of a kingfisher in flight. They are delicate and agile birds, boasting the most incredible plumage: shimmering petrol blue with a copper chest; exotic colours rarely seen in the UK in nature, and because of this, these occasional glimpses stop me in my tracks allowing a moment to appreciate the deep privilege of such a sighting.

I started to think about those encounters in nature that feel profound and special, either because of the infrequency of them, or simply because they touch you in some way that stirs the spirit and uplifts the soul. I always feel this gratitude when I see an owl, though fairly commonplace in the dales; the sight of the ghostly glide of a barn owl in flight at dusk or dawn, has an otherworldly quality.



Then there are those other sights that we are almost switched off to, such as their ubiquity in the landscape, along with those animals or birds that have negative connotations. I was in St Oswald's church

yard on a late dog walk last week following the aerobatics of a lone bat, when the jackdaw community rose up swirled around the sky and fell, like sooty ashes, on tree after tree until they settled in their favoured roosting spot. The noise was cacophonous and the movement of the black shapes sweeping across the sky spectacular.



Corvids are maligned and rightly feared for their habit of attacking and maiming vulnerable newborn lambs and raiding nests of eggs and chicks. They are, though, undoubtedly the most fiercely intelligent and resourceful of birds, with highly sophisticated social structures and the ability to remember individual human faces.

The sight of a jackdaw or rook labouring in flight with a small branch or twig in its beak is a sure sight of spring as they add and strengthen their large network of lofty tree top nests. It reminds me of the emblem of a white dove carrying an olive branch, albeit a darker, grittier version; but maybe still a symbol of hope and rebirth and a reminder to try and understand and tolerate all members of our wildlife community.

*Rebecca Ward-Dooley*

# UW&L Directory April 2024

## Clubs and Associations

Clubs and Associations	Contact Person	Telephone/Email
Buckden Art Group	Angela Falshaw	01756 760259/angela.falshaw@gmail.com
Buckden Singers	Anne Vetch	01756 760882/anne@vetch.co.uk
Friends of the Dales	Victoria Benn	victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk
Funk Wire	Ron Norman	uwalsociety@gmail.com
Grassington & District Peace Group	Richard Hargreaves	01756 770346/strand@hawkswick.net
Kettlewell & District WI	Jane Welsh	07718 218630/janeawelsh@googlemail.com
Kettlewell Chess Club	Melanie Thornton	melaniethornton@live.com
Kettlewell Cricket Club	Sally Horner	01756 760834/sallyandcolin@yahoo.com
Kettlewell & District Horticultural Society	Sue Nelson	01756 760887/sueambercottage@aol.com
Kettlewell Lunch Club	Sue Nelson	01756 760887/sueambercottage@aol.com
Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival		kettlewellscarecrow@gmail.com
Kettlewell Table Tennis Club	Di/Clare Blakey-Williams	01756 761864/canddaway@gmail.com
Kettlewell Toddler Group	Charlotte Facer	charlie_facer@hotmail.com
Littondale Cricket Club	Jack Hirst	jackhirst38@gmail.com
Settle Orchestra	Jill Gates	jillgates100@gmail.com
UW Arts and Literature Society	Geraldine Norman	uwalsociety@gmail.com
UW Field Society		<a href="https://uwfs.org.uk/">https://uwfs.org.uk/</a>
UW Refugee Support Group	Stella Perrott	stella@stellaperrott.com
UW Runners		upperwharfedalerunners@gmail.com

## Village Halls

Amerdale Hall	Sarah Paul	01756 770282/carrfarm2021@gmail.com
Buckden Village Institute	Peter Vetch	01756 761155/hall@buckden.org
Conistone with Kilnsey Village Hall	Liz Hall	Kilnseyvillagehall@gmail.com
Kettlewell Village Hall	Maggie McLellan	kettlewellhall@gmail.com

## Parish Councils/Meetings

Arncliffe	Michael McKenzie	michael@bluescarfarm.co.uk
Buckden	Nicola Mansfield-Smith	buckdenclerk@gmail.com
Conistone with Kilnsey	Liz Hall	liz.hallconistone@gmail.com
Halton Gill	Amelia Wilman	earl.amelia@googlemail.com
Hawkswick	A Nettleton	alnettleton7@gmail.com
Kettlewell with Starbotton	Laura Jowett	kettlewellstarbottonclerk@gmail.com
Litton Parish Meeting	Andrea Lund	andrea.lund@btinternet.com

## Local Services/Organizations

Conistone Hostel	Wendy McNally	conistonebookings@gmail.com
Grassington Medical Centre	01756 752313	
Grassington Dental Care	01756 753782	
Grassington Pharmacy (Boots)	01756 752338	
Kettlewell Primary School	01756 760280/kettlewelladmin@uwpf.n-yorks.sch.uk	
Scargill House	01756 760500	
UW Bus	01756 636161/info@upperwharfedale.org	
UW Fell Rescue Association	secretary@uwfra.org.uk	
Yorkshire Camps	01756 753227/info@yorkshirecamps.org.uk	

If there are other voluntary organizations in Upper Wharfedale & Littondale that could be included in this directory, please contact the editor at [smithiwho@gmail.com](mailto:smithiwho@gmail.com)

# Community Events

The following events have been announced and details are inside the Link, however, please confirm with the organisers, as the situation may change.

## THIS MONTH

Wed 3 April	Buckden Whist Evening (FINAL), Buckden Village Institute
Sat 6 April	Spring Coffee Morning, Buckden Village Institute
Sun 7 April	Buckden Village Quiz, The Buck Inn
Tue 9 April	Kettlewell & District WI meeting
Wed 10 April	Mobile Library, Buckden
Sat 13 April	Coffee & Cake, Amerdale Hall
Sun 14 April	Curlew awareness-raising event, Malham
Wed 17 April	Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Thu 18 April	Kettlewell Lunch Club, Kettlewell Village Hall
Wed 24 April	Mobile Library, Kettlewell
Sun 28 April	Grassington Singers & Buckden Singers 'Spring Sing', Town Hall
Tue 30 April	Buckden Institute AGM, Buckden Institute

## FUTURE EVENTS

Sat 4 May	Film night ' <i>The Great Escaper</i> ' Kettlewell Village Hall
Mon 6 May	Yorkshire Camps Open Day
Wed 8 May	Mobile Library, Buckden
May 10-11	Littondale Life Through the Years, Arncliffe
Wed 22 May	Mobile Library, Kettlewell
Sat 15 June	Buckden Gala
Sat 22 June	Settle Orchestra Summer Concert, Settle Parish Church
Sat 29 June	Settle Orchestra Summer Concert, Christ Church, Skipton
Aug 10-18	Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival
Aug 24-26	Buckden Art Group Exhibition, Buckden Village Institute
Sun 8 Sep	Kettlewell & District Horticultural Show

## REGULAR EVENTS

What	When	Where
Chess Club	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues, 7-9pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Play Table Tennis	Wed 3.15-4, 4-5.30, 5.30-7.15pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Funk Wire	Thur -fortnightly 2pm	Conistone & Kilnsey Village Hall
Whist Evenings	Alternate Wed, 7pm	Buckden Village Institute
Buckden Singers	Thurs – 7.30pm	Buckden Village Institute
Indoor Bowls	Wed 1.45-3.35pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Coffee Morning	Thurs – weekly 10.30-12.00	Halton Gill Reading Room



The following schedule of church services in our parish is planned for this month, however, please check the parish website for confirmation at [www.upperwharfedalechurches.org](http://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org)

### **Sunday 7 April**

09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Iona Communion
18.30	Conistone	Holy Communion

### **Tuesday 9 April**

18.00	Kettlewell	Sanctuary@6 (Healing Service)
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### **Sunday 14 April**

09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Hubberholme	Holy Communion
18.30	Conistone	Holy Communion

### **Sunday 21 April**

09.30	Hubberholme	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Holy Communion
18.30	Conistone	Evening Prayer

### **Tuesday 23 April**

18.00	Kettlewell	Sanctuary@6
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### **Sunday 28 April**

09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Morning Prayer
18.30	Hubberholme	Evening Prayer

### **Sunday 5 May**

09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Iona Communion
18.30	Conistone	Holy Communion

Holy Mass is celebrated on Sundays at 9.00 am at St. Margaret Clitherow's R.C. Church, Threshfield

