

SETTLE AND DISTRICT
COMMUNITY NEWS

No. 176

August 2023

TO LET

No, NOT a misprint, see inside...

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Welcome

After a glorious, sunny - if hot - June the present grey wetness is disappointing. Mind, if you compare our state with that of a large part of southern Europe it might be wise to keep very quiet - even the most head-in-sand deniers ought to be able to see that climate change is a present reality and increasing threat.

If that were not enough, contemplation of the present state of the country's economy and the apparent increase in levels of hardship and deprivation can only generate misery and despair. It is easy, and in my opinion justified, to blame an incompetent government - both politicians and officials.

And I do not have my usual amount of material so there are fewer pages in this issue.

Is nothing good in this summer?

Usually this is the final piece of the mystic jigsaw that comprises the magazine under construction - the end of a long and fairly difficult period of sequestration in front of a computer - scrabbling through emails, looking for the missing bit that hovers on the edge of memory but now cannot be found - and its completion usually cheers me up!

In spite of the gloom I do hope you will enjoy the News - it is not ALL bad!

Alastair

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TO LET

You may have looked at the front cover, devoid of much interest, but designed to provoke a question: WHAT IS TO LET?

Very sadly the answer is that the present committee responsible for the production of the Community News, having reached aggregate age in excess of 225 years, have reluctantly decided that it is time to stop deluding ourselves that we can go on for ever. Only one of us can be said to be in robust health and he is very busy with other interests - he also has the worst job.

So the situation is quite stark. With great regret, at the end of December 2023, all three of us intend to lay down our burden.

So, people of Settle and District, a new team is needed or there will be no more Community News. We would be happy to help and advise the new team but the days of working through the night, like salaried journalists, are to be no more - no sane person should or would do it.

Personally I leave with huge regrets. After 93 issues I dreamt of doing

around 100 - it might have been 96 but for Covid - but after 16 years it is time to go. The files are more or less up-to-date, the finances are less precarious than usual, but while the spirit is willing the body is well past it. And I promise not to harass any new editor with any "you shouldn't do that but this" interventions - but would provide help or assistance on request. I am quite sure my co-conspirators will do likewise.

It is possible that three people could do the work replacing the existing three but a larger committee with more distributed functions would be better - more resilient when other treats - like eating, sleeping, holidays and and different interests might take precedence.

For information:

The present team of three covers the work as follows:

Editor: collection and creation of material, artwork and typesetting (on computer). Selling advertising space and creating adverts on request. Dealing with the commercial printer.

Distribution: receiving and allocating the printed magazines, "managing" the large team who actually deliver the magazines door to door. This frequently means covering any gaps - temporary or otherwise. Acting as secretary to the committee.

Treasurer: looking after all our financial affairs

The only other thing necessary is a PC - the work is not really suitable for a laptop still less a phone - with a very good internet connection. The copy of the software presently in use is owned by me and while it may be possible to share it (I am not quite sure) it will remain my property. I have other, less stressful, uses for it!

Alastair

We can be contacted by e-mail or phone, details on page 54 (this month!)

GUIDING COMES TO SETTLE

In August North Yorkshire West Girl Guides are holding their county camp near Stainforth. Guides and brownies from Settle, Skipton, Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon, Masham and Cross Hills will all come together for a week of activities and games with a Crystal Maze themed week's challenge. The Guides will be out and about in the area so please do stop and say hello if you see them.



Photograph shows Long Preston and Hellifield Guides Kayaking

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SETTLE VOICES CELEBRATE TWENTY YEARS OF SONG

On Monday 17th July Settle Voices Community Choir celebrated its 20th anniversary in the Catholic Church Hall. Past members had been invited to join the celebration and happily fifteen were able to be with us. Several of these past members had been part of the original group of singers who had started the choir with Janet Russell, who is our Musical Director, and who is still skilfully leading the choir twenty years later!

Some of the past members had travelled great distances to be with us while others still live locally and it was a pleasure to see old acquaintances renewed. Choir members had provided a delicious spread of food for lunch which was well received and it was hard to stop everyone socialising to begin some singing!

Janet had chosen some of our current repertoire to sing to our guests. Tractor, Truck and Trailer, which she had written and arranged herself, describes the trials of traveling up the A65 from Skipton to the M6 behind a variety of obstructive vehicles. It is highly amusing and it has become one of our signature songs! Harbour written by Anna Tabbush was on the more serious theme of giving help to all those needing shelter and offering 'a harbour in the storm'. But we also sang several of the songs from earlier years and one of the most enjoyable features of the occasion

was that past members could enjoy revisiting these old favourites with the current choir. One of the most memorable of these songs is 'Craven Farms' based on a poem by the local poet Dr Margaret Buckle. Pat Smith, a founder member who had travelled from the Midlands to be with us, had composed the melody and Janet had made the arrangement. It is full of the unusual and quirky names of local farms.

The whole afternoon had a lovely atmosphere and was a delight for all involved and so we are already looking forward to singing at our next anniversary – the 25th!

Pete Eastman

At the end of proceedings we were all given a memento of the occasion by Janet 'with gratitude and affection to Settle Voices past and present' in the form of the lyrics from 'Keep you in Peace' by Sarah Morgan, which perfectly encapsulates the caring ethos of the choir.

“Warm be the sun that shines upon you

Soft be the winds as they breathe on you

Smooth be the roads that rise before you

Keep you in peace till we meet again

May you have shelter in storm to hide you

May you have stars in the night to guide you

May you ever have a friend beside you

Keep you in peace till we meet again.”

If these words appeal to you, why not join us when we restart at 1pm on Monday, September 11th? You don't need the voice of a Cecilia Bartoli or Andrea Bocelli. Just a sense of fun and delight in 'working' together.

We hope very much to welcome new members in September.

Ian Gray



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Craven Community Land Trust (CLT) is asking whether there is someone in the area who knows where there is a piece of land that could provide homes for local people who might otherwise have to move away.

Have you ever wondered about the affordable housing that is available to rent in Settle and Giggleswick? Housing that is not let out for the highest possible rent, or as a holiday home, but is available for local people who have a housing need and a connection with this area?

There is rather less of this social, or affordable, housing than there used to be. Much of it was sold after 1980. Yorkshire Housing, a “Registered Provider” (housing association) owns what is left of the former Council housing and lets it to people with a housing need and registered with North Yorkshire Home Choice. What is left is in high demand; there are far more people applying than the number of homes that come available each year. Quite a common story around the country of course, but made harder in places such as this where many homes are used as either second homes or as holiday lettings.

When it’s hard for local people to find affordable rented housing, many

end up moving away from family and friends, and one impact is seen in the number of local job vacancies that then struggle to be filled.

Craven CLT was set up in 2019 as a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society (regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) with the object of providing more affordable housing in the Craven area for local people. Their Board is made up of local volunteers, including representation from Settle Town Council and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons to do with raising money and/or finding suitable sites, no new housing has yet been possible.

Craven CLT is now asking whether someone locally holds the key to the solution. Sites that might not be allowed to be developed for housing to be sold, or rented at higher market levels, can sometimes be allowed for affordable housing for local people, as an “exception site.” They need to be fairly close to local amenities such as transport but don’t have to be in areas zoned for housing; many such sites used elsewhere were previously parts of fields or farm buildings.

So – do you know of such a site you think might work? Or do you know someone who might know?? If so, Craven CLT would like to hear from you!

There are other ways to help Craven CLT; anyone can apply to join as a

member for £1 (one pound) by visiting our website at CravenCLT.co.uk or contacting the secretary, Jane Cotton, on cravenclt@gmail.com. The more members we have, the more we can show there is strong local support for what we are trying to do. Elsewhere, some people have kindly left their homes to a CLT in their will to help local communities. And if we are successful in finding a suitable site, then we will need to raise the money to develop it, although we hope to make that easier by applying for grants.

Any homes eventually developed by Craven CLT will be let to local people and have an asset lock, which

means that they will always be owned by the community and cannot be sold.

Please help us if you can. The key to the first CLT home for a local person is out there somewhere...

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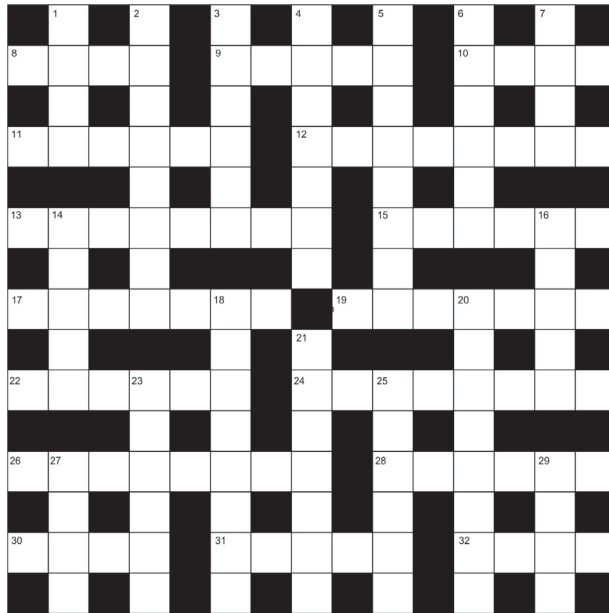
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Across

- 8** Quarry, victim (4)
- 9** Tree, senior (5)
- 10** Graven image, hero (4)
- 11** Counter, dispute (6)
- 12** Surrounded (8)
- 13** People who steep/brew (8)
- 15** Intrusion (6)
- 17** Relating to glands above the kidneys (7)
- 19** Bodily structure of an organism (7)
- 22** Of this document (formal) (6)
- 24** Poor physical specimen (8)
- 26** Casino activity (8)
- 28** Rubbish (6)
- 30** Chime (4)
- 31** Essential organ (5)
- 32** Vegetable. (4)

Down

- 1** Rugby front-row (4)
- 2** Centre of attention (8)
- 3** Go back on. (6)
- 4** Opposed. (7)
- 5** Grip, purchase (8)
- 6** Forewarning (3-3)
- 7** Extra (4)
- 14** Poke (5)
- 16** Deprive of masculine qualities (5)
- 18** Scare (archaic) (8)
- 20** Revealing, snitch (8)
- 21** Self-inflicted damage (football) (3,4)
- 23** Mummify (6)
- 25** Erode rock by wind (6)
- 27** Once more (4)
- 29** Always. (4)

Craven College Secures £2.3 Million Funding for Campus Development

Craven College has been awarded an impressive £2.3 million in capital funding, which will be used to develop Construction and Engineering facilities for its T level provision.

The College's successful bid for the T Level Capital Fund Building and Facilities Improvement Grant (Wave 5) will focus on developing the former equine spaces and other units held within its Auction Mart campus in Skipton, with a completion date ready for September 2024 entry.

The new development will continue the College's ongoing commitment to providing state-of-the-art agricultural engineering and construction learning environments, to ensure

that students from North Yorkshire and neighbouring West Yorkshire and East Lancashire have dynamic and practical spaces to learn the skills employers in the rural community and businesses need for the future.

This is the second development to take place at the Auction Mart campus, which is housed on the Craven Cattle Mart complex in Skipton. Its first development, Craven Equine, opened to the public in September 2022 and has thrived as a successful equine learning space and event venue. The successful collaboration between Craven College and Craven Cattle Mart will continue now into its second development.

Interim Principal & CEO of Craven College, Anita Lall comments, "We are thrilled to have secured this significant capital funding grant, which allows us to develop our Construc-



tion and Engineering T level provision, as well as provide cutting-edge learning environments for our students in these key industries. The new facilities will ensure our students gain all the necessary skills and knowledge they need for successful employment and will continue the College's contribution towards supporting our local and regional economy."

Minister for Skills, Apprenticeship and Higher Education Robert Halfon said, "This boost of over £100 million is our latest investment in T Levels. These are robust, high-quality technical qualifications providing a unique ladder of opportunity for students to gain both classroom knowledge and on-the-job experience.

From robotics suites that support digital T Levels to simulated health wards where students can get a real sense of what it means to work in Healthcare Science, T Levels will support young people into rewarding careers and back businesses with the skills of the future."

The College also benefitted from capital funding from Wave 3 of the T Level Capital Fund Building and Facilities Improvement Grant of just over £324,000, which was utilised for the development of new science and health laboratories in its Pen-Y-Ghent Building on Aireville campus.

Craven College plans to deliver T levels in Building Services Engi-

neering and Childcare in 2023 and further T levels in areas of Agricultural, Land Management & Production, Animal Care & Management, Craft & Design, Design, Surveying & Planning, Digital Production, Design & Development, Media, Broadcast & Production, and Health & Science will commence in September 2024. T levels are two-year technical level courses, equivalent to three A levels, that mixes academic classroom learning with 'on-the-job' experience.



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Settle Cheesemonger takes prestigious award.

(again! Ed.)

The Courtyard Dairy has been awarded 'Affineur of the Year' for the 'Hard Cheese' category at a national event in London celebrating skills in maturing cheeses to bring out their best flavours.

The event, run by The Academy of Cheese, pits the best cheese-makers and cheese-mongers against each other, testing their ability to mature and age a range of cheeses. All the competitors are delivered the exact same cheese the day after it is made.

They then have to mature the cheese to the best of their ability using their own knowledge and expertise.

Cheeses are then judged blind by a panel of industry experts on appearance, flavour and aroma, rind development and condition of the cheese. Additional marks are awarded for innovation in maturing techniques and their record keeping.

After a year of looking after a brand-new Quickee Cheddar, The Courtyard Dairy was the outstanding winner for their class, with their Cheddar taking home the prize of best matured hard cheese.

We were thrilled with the end result. It just shows you the quality of our maturation facility and skills we have up here in Settle. It is nice to be recognised for the craft of how we keep and mature cheeses at The

Courtyard Dairy. It demonstrates how we really do bring out the very best out of the cheeses we stock, in order to make sure they reach their full potential and taste a class above.

At the beginning of his career, many years ago, I spent 6-months working in a cave in France, learning to mature cheese from the very best regarded cheese maturer (Affineur) in the world: Herve Mons. That apprenticeship set me up for life, but I'm pleased that I took those skills, and refined and honed them over my career. It has allowed The Courtyard Dairy to make a difference to British cheese and make sure we can compete on a national stage.

But we can't rest on their laurels, next year's competition has already begun, with young Cheddars arriving this week to be matured and kept ready for judging in 2024!



Pictured (left to right) are Kathy Swinscoe, Lucy Cufflin (this year's sponsor of the award - Chiswick Cheese Market) and Andy Swinscoe.



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Settle Flowerpot Festival celebrates 10th year



The residents of Settle, a small market town in the Yorkshire Dales, have been pottering about for a decade, drawing visitors from far and wide. As the annual Settle Flowerpot Festival gets underway this summer, the community has been reminiscing how this whimsical initiative has become one of Yorkshire's favourite summer-long attractions.

Running from 15th July through to 3rd September, part of the Festival's attraction is that it's free and genuinely appeals to all ages. This year more than 150 flowerpot displays adorn the streets of the town and it

is estimated that several thousand flowerpots have been used to create the diverse and entertaining exhibits, ranging from a tiny bee to a very large Plantpotosaurus.

The Festival unites the town each year as Individual households, business and community groups come together to contribute their creative installations guaranteed to raise a smile.

The idea for the Festival was originally conceived in 2013 by the Vibrant Settle Community Partnership, an initiative spearheaded by local residents, Steve Amphlett and Tony Hardwick, who were later joined by Richard Handscombe and a small team of enthusiastic volunteers. The objective then and now is to encourage the economic sustainability of Settle, a town with an ageing demographic of just 2,500 people which has not significantly increased in over 100 years. The hope is that the festival helps to support the many independent shops to survive by not





only attracting visitors to the town but also keeping them entertained there for a few hours. It also aims to encourage exploration beyond the picturesque market square.

Rather than limiting the event to a fleeting or intensive weekend or week, the nature of the Festival means that it can run all summer to support and boost the normal running of the town. After the initial effort in creating each exhibit, it runs without expensive financial overheads or huge demands in terms of volunteers' time.

Steve Amphlett explains "We had no idea it would take off the way it has done. We're delighted that here we are celebrating 10 years of the Festival and everyone is still just as enthusiastic and creative. As organizers we do little other than en-

courage people to get involved and get creative. There is no theme for the festival other than 'make people smile!', so people can create whatever takes their fancy. There are no prizes, and no permissions required, so visitors are also welcome to have a go themselves, bringing along their own exhibit to take a photograph of it in situ and post on the Festival's Facebook page."

The Festival has attracted attention over the years from The Great Exhibition of The North, which celebrates great art, culture, design and innovation and was featured on Susan Calman's Grand Day Out series on Channel 5 last year.

There have been some amazing creations, including, in 2018, a 10ft climber mounted on the face of Castleberg Crag overlooking the town which lit up with 600 LEDs at night, and a large blue crayfish suspended from the ancient Settle Bridge over the River Ribble in 2021.

The nature of the festival meant that it was one of the few that were able to keep going through the COVID pandemic as all the exhibits are outdoors and as no one had to touch anything, people could just visit to enjoy the creative fun on display. The town's setting on the edge of the Three Peaks places it firmly in fabulous walking country which added to the appeal.

The Festival this year promises to be as popular as ever. Three differ-

ent trails have been created to help visitors armed with a free town map to discover the latest exhibits; the Town Centre trail, Riverside & Giggleswick, and Upper Settle. Optional detailed trail quiz sheets are available at £3, each with around 50 varied educational and entertaining questions aimed at all ages and naturally relating to the exhibits.

The sponsor of the 2023 Festival is Watershed Mill Visitor Centre, who have generously provided space dubbed "The Potting Shed" where many of the displays have been made and which hosts flowerpot workshops for children run throughout August on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. These must be pre-booked due to their popularity.

More information about the Festival can be found at <http://www.settle-flowerpotfestival.co.uk/>



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COMMUNITY FRIDGE AT THE LITTLE HUB



The Community Fridge is currently open Mondays and Thursdays 2.30 - 4.15pm and Wednesday mornings 10 am - 12 noon at the Little Hub in Commercial Courtyard next to Cra-ven Homelet.

Our Community Fridge is a great way of reducing fruit and veg waste from local supermarkets but also allows local gardeners, residents and businesses to pass on surplus food they will not use. During covid we often acquired food from local pubs and restaurants due to unexpected lockdowns or large group cancellations. We also, sadly, have received food donations as a result of local business closures.

Many people just bring a tin of soup, some apples from their tree, a jar of jam or leftover food from when they stocked up for visitors.. but if people can't bring anything that is OK. In a small community like ours there is a lot more need than many people think. This 'Bring What You Can, Take What You Need' ethos means it is much easier for people to engage with us without the stigma of a visiting a food bank.

We are very grateful for all the interest in the Community Fridge and now increasingly swapping 'non-food' things like toiletries, small kitchen items like crockery and pans, small items of gardening equipment and will be doing a lot of seed and plant swaps when weather improves. Thanks to Co op and Booths for their support and donations of fruit, veg, baked goods and also the growing number of individuals and local businesses like Wholesome Bee, Forage and Feast, Drake and Macefield who are passing surplus or short dated things on to us.

If you would like to donate or pick up food but can't make it when the Community Fridge is open you can come to us at Settle Quakers on Monday or Thursdays where we hold our Public Living Rooms between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm. You can also leave food with Paul from Barclays when he is doing the pop-up banking on Tuesdays and Fridays from our office between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

We also leave some food outside Victoria Hall by the 'free bookcase' on Mondays and Thursday mornings if we have a lot of surplus veg and bread. Steve the Co-op cleaner leaves surplus food there sometimes too.

Thanks to Ethel for being a regular visitor and being our poster girl!

For more information contact Jo on hub@settlecommunityandbusi-

nesshub.org.uk or call her on 07977 040329.

MOBILE BANKS IN SETTLE

Lloyds bank have stopped doing their pop up banking service from the hub in Commercial Courtyard but the mobile bank still comes to Settle on Wednesdays every other week.



They will be in Whitefriars car park between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Wednesdays 14th and 28th August and fortnightly from then on. You can check these dates on the Lloyds website.

<https://www.lloydsbank.com/banking-with-us/mobile-branch/yorkshire.html#Settle>



NatWest mobile van is also in

Whitefriars car park every Monday (except Bank Holidays) between 12 noon and 12.30pm. If you miss it, they go on to Ingleton and are in the Wheatsheaf car park 2pm til 2.30pm.

Barclays at the hub Tuesdays and Fridays



As many of you will be aware, Barclays branch in Settle closed in February 2022 but they are still offering a pop-up banking service from the hub in Com-

mmercial Courtyard. This is now happening twice a week and they have recently extended hours so are now in Settle on **Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30am - 3.30pm**. Paul who used to work in the branch is usually the one running these sessions. He will not be able to handle cash or pay cheques in but can help with a range of other banking queries and get people set up with phone or online banking or how to use the Barclays app or post office for transactions.

Barclays do NOT have a mobile bank coming to Settle.

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INK RECYCLING AT THE HUB

We are still collecting any sort of ink cartridge, big or small, used or unused, for recycling. We can send them off and get a little bit of money back for them.

Small ink cartridges can be popped through the Settle Community and Business Hub letter box at Unit 1, Commercial Courtyard or left with us when someone is in the office. If we aren't in you can also leave them with Craven Homelet next door or with Paul from Barclays when he is

in the Hub on Tuesdays and Fridays.

There are now collection boxes at the Quakers, Victoria Hall and St Johns. ACE Settle will also have a collection box at their Green Café meetings.

If you have a large amount to drop off please contact Jo on hub@settle-communityandbusinesshub.org.uk or phone 07977 040329. Thanks



Knit (or Sew) and Natter every Wednesday

This group meets at the Settle Hub office in Commercial Courtyard every Wednesday 10am – 12 noon. We have sewing machines, lots of fabric, knitting needles and wool at the hub so feel free to come and use our materials and equipment or bring your own.

All are welcome - no sewing or knitting skills required.. you can always learn or just natter!

Any questions contact:

Jo 07977 040329 or email

hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk

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You don't have to dig!

Those of you who have watched Meet the Ancestors, Time Team or more recently Digging for Britain, will have the image that archaeology is just about people with unusual hair styles and jazzy sweaters kneeling in mud, trowel in hand.



Certainly, the excavation of possible archaeological remains is an important aspect of research. As a member of Ingleborough Archaeology Group (IAG), I have been privileged to take part in many excavations over the past few years. During last year's excavation we discovered a Bronze Age flint arrowhead in the site of an early medieval (6th to 10th century) shieling (a hut for seasonal pasture) site at Clapdale. Research by the group and with members also taking part in the Stories in Stone project, has thrown new light on the early medi-

eval occupation of the area around Ingleborough. IAG has completed the shieling project with an excavation at Clapham Bottoms in July.

Excavation can only be justified if it is a means to answer specific research questions. Prior to excavation and as an alternative to it, there are many other activities IAG members are involved in from documentary research, to field walking and surveying. A major project currently being run by IAG is the surveying, measuring and recording of various Cairns ranging from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. Looking at aerial photographs as well as LIDAR images often prompts research. LIDAR shows in detail many features not visible from the ground that can then be verified by fieldwork.

Of course not all members of the group either can or wish to spend time in fieldwork, so for all members IAG has an autumn and spring series of talks, with summer walks and visits focused on giving a better understanding of archaeology. Our walk in May followed a talk in January on Roman Roads and in September we will have a guided tour of the Raikes Road Burial Ground following our April talk on this.

If you are curious to find out more or already have an interest in archaeology, check the IAG website ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk where you will find regular updates of our programme, online copies of

field reports and other links. You can also email IAG at ingleborougharchaeologygroup@gmail.com. Talks and walks are open both to members and to visitors who are welcome for a £3 entrance. Talks are on the third Monday of the month at Ingleton Community Centre starting at 7.30pm. Autumn talks begin on Monday 18th September.

Bob Moore

Chair IAG



GUIDES ARE ALIVE IN SETTLE

Girl Guiding is very much alive in the Settle area. We have Brownies and Guides in Clapham, Rainbows and Brownies in Settle and Brownies Guides and Rangers in Long Preston and Hellifield, and Brownies and Guides in Gargrave. The units have continued to meet throughout the Pandemic using zoom or online activities to keep contact with the girls and supply a varied program for the girls to follow.

We had a County Virtual Event for Thinking Day on 22nd February this year which focused on the Girlguiding World Centres. The Rainbows virtually visited Pax Lodge in London, boarding a time capsule train to get them to London then visiting the

city sites. Brownies whizzed off to Switzerland to see Our Chalet which was the first World Centre to open. Whilst there, they completed Swiss craft and toured the Chalet virtually. Then the Guides and Rangers visited Our Cabana in Mexico and Sangam in India where the girls learnt about the opportunities at the centres and the local work carried out by the residents and visitors.

During the month of June there will be a "Ocean trail" set around Settle for all Guides members to do and a instruction sheet was available from Tourist Information from 1st June for visitors and locals to join in the fun.

Nearer to home Long Preston and Hellifield Guides and Rangers would like to say a big thank you to the residents of Settle for supporting our unit in the Co-op community fund. The money generated will assist the girls participating in the gold Duke of Edinburgh award and the unit attending County Camp this July. If you wish to support the unit when using your Co op membership card below are the log in details and our ID number

www.coop.co.uk/membership-

[Long Preston and Hellifield Guides/
Rangers ID number 55244](#)

Guides, like all other groups, have been affected by COVID with lots of events being cancelled, not being able to meet face to face, and the dreaded online communication which has been a steep learning

curve for leaders and members too. But we have ploughed on, meeting the girls when allowed, doing a litter pick at Castlebergh and Gargrave as part the Great British clean-up and a Christingle for the Children's Society raising £40 at St Mary's Church Long Preston - socially distanced of course - at the end of 2020.

Back online in January doing activities such as Harry Potter Escape Room, designing digital online games, making Biotic hands and bath bombs. When in April we were released from Covid back face to face for cooking, making ovens and kite making, all outdoors, thank goodness for a sunny spring!

We are looking forward to a more settled year. If anyone is interested in joining the Guides, either as a young member or a volunteer, I have added our joining instructions below.

Thank you.

Helen Cressey Long Preston, and Hellifield Guide Leader,

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/>

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>.

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Across: 8 Prey, 9 Elder, 10 Idol, 11 Oppose, 12 Enclosed, 13 Intusers, 15 Influx, 17 Adrenal, 19 Anatomy, 22 Hereof, 24 Weaking, 26 Gambling, 28 Litter, 30 Peal, 31 Heart, 32 Leak.
Down: 1 Prop, 2 Cynosure, 3 Rengege, 4 Adverse, 5 Traction, 6 Tip-off, 7 More, 14 Nudge, 16 Unman, 18 Affright, 20 Telltale, 21 Own goal, 23 Em-balm, 25 Ablate, 27 Anew, 29 Ever.

Town Council Update

New Flagpole

The new flagpole is now in place and is looking great!

The installation was certainly a challenge. However, Settle once again has a flagpole on the top of Castlebergh. Thank you again to Dry Rigg Quarry - Tarmac for funding the replacement pole



Victoria Street Parking Issues

We are aware of the ongoing issues with parking on Victoria Street, including the recent situation where an emergency vehicle could not pass through. In his July report Councillor Staveley noted that: 'This has been an increasing problem as behavioural changes along this stretch of road have failed to appreciate the importance to commercial, agricultural and of course emergency service traffic being able to move freely along the

road as a main access to properties in Upper Settle and along Malham Moor'. Settle Town Council fully support Cllr Staveley in his enquiries with North Yorkshire Highways and hope that a solution can be found.

Meanwhile the Council's working group set up earlier this year to look at representations made by residents about traffic and parking concerns in Albert Hill will also be reviewing representations made to our 20mph (20's Plenty) survey and other highway 'pinch points'. At the time of going to press North Yorkshire Council was discussing a report described by them as an 'ambitious new approach to managing speed limits'. The report will be discussed at a future meeting.

Christmas Lights switch on event

SAVE THE DATE – This year's Christmas Lights' Switch on Event will be taking place on Saturday 25th November. The event is currently being planned but we expect to hold a Christmas Market, have performances from the local school children / entertainers, the Christmas Lights Switch on and of course a visit from the important man in red.

If you would like to be involved in this year's switch on event either as a volunteer, performer, a raffle prize donor or wish to have a stall at the Christmas market, please do get in touch. The Council are also looking for sponsorship to enable this worthwhile community event to take

place.

Councillor Vacancy

We are still looking to fill one remaining vacancy on Settle Town Council. To qualify you must be at least 18 years old, on the register of electors in the Settle Parish or have lived or worked in Settle or have lived within 4.8km of Settle for the last year. To find out more about joining the council please contact the Clerk.

Bond Lane Play Area

The Council have set up a working party to look at updating the children's play area at Bond Lane. The Council are keen to consider the views of the local children who use the play areas and will be looking at various funding sources to consider a revamp of this well used facility. Further updates and news will follow.

If you would like to contact the Clerk, Katie Lee Jeffreys, please feel free to email clerk@settle-town-council.gov.uk

Settle Market Update

Welcome to our new stall holder -



Abdul of Queen Olives

Abdul has been trading since 2016 selling his fresh produce of Mediterranean snacks including various types of olives, feta cheese, sundried tomatoes, vine leaves and a variety of nuts.

He also offers savoury and sweet treats such as samosas, bhajis, baklavas and numerous flavours of



Turkish delight.

Come pay Abdul a visit and pick up something to try!

Our market is held every Tuesday in the Market Square in the centre of town.

If you would like a stall at Settle market, please email market@settle-town-council.gov.uk

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ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH
ECO GROUP

LET'S TALK LOCAL

Sunday, 17th September

2pm – 5pm

What makes Settle and its surroundings such a special place? It's an area full of independent specialist shops, businesses, entrepreneurs and people with extraordinary skills and talents. We want to demonstrate just what a vibrant place it is.

So, for 3 hours at the Methodist Church on Church Street we will have speakers, presentations, activities and displays of such variety that you will wonder why you have ever needed to shop online or traipse around a shopping mall.

There will be three main speakers:

2.15pm - Simon Farro (Courtyard Dairy) will tell us all about how our local cheese shop became world-beating.

3.15pm - John Dawson, peasant farmer (his own words) of TV fame will explain why you should put your trust in local farmers.

4.15pm – Dan Nelson, our very own town cobbler and shoemaker will demonstrate his skills that have been handed down through generations.

Meanwhile, refreshments will be available as you wander round the displays and activities in the hall

and other rooms in our community centre.

ACE (Action for Climate Emergency) will be inviting you to join the rooftop solar revolution by becoming part of Settle's Energy Local Club. If you have missed ACE's presentations on this, come along and meet the experts who will show you how to get involved. You can read more about it in ACE's own article in this magazine.

Amongst other displays, there will be Rachel our local potter who would love you to help her and get your hands dirty at the same time (young and old!).

Chris recycles scrap metal into the most amazing sculptures.

Settle Hub will be showing you how to slow cook some winter warmers.

.....and lots more.

Also, do visit our Eco Garden. You will be amazed how a blank tarmac yard has been transformed in just one year.

The event is completely free and we invite you to join us to celebrate Settle and its surroundings.

Support your local producers

Trust your local producers

GO LOCAL

THE JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

are planning a talk on Tuesday September 12th 7.30 in Victoria Hall entitled 'Why We Still Can't Afford the Rich' - a return visit by the author Andrew Sayer

Leading social scientist Andrew Sayer shows how the rich worldwide have increased their ability to create indebtedness and expand their political influence. Why We Can't Afford the Rich exposes the unjust and dysfunctional mechanisms that allow the top 1% to siphon off wealth produced by others. Against the backdrop of rising economic inequality, Why We Can't Afford the Rich tackles the myth that the rich are vital wealth creators. Andrew Sayer's book is a relentless, multi-sided attack on the fabulously rich people in our society and their neoliberal political supporters. Andrew will update us on facts and figures about inequality in Britain today and how it harms us all. Followed by a discussion.

All are welcome.

LANGCLIFFE VILLAGE SHOW

SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST,
2023.

Doors open at 1.30pm

Vegetable, culinary, arts and crafts on display in the Institute with flower arrangements and photography in the Church - raffle.

Entry charge: Adults: £1-00,
Children free



This year we celebrate the 80th birthday of the Gigg Flower Show.

Set up in 1943 to egg on the concept of "Digging for Victory", the show celebrates the talent and hardwork of our gardeners, artists, bakers and crafters - both adult and child. This is an "Open" show which means that entries can be made by anyone, not just locals. **It takes place on Saturday 12 August** with entries being taken at Giggleswick Parish Rooms on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th August. Schedules are available online via our Facebook page or in local shops. Even if you prefer not to put your baking, crafting, photos, flowers or veg into the show do come along and enjoy an afternoon of quintessentially British culture.

**Please remember that these notifications are primarily for
COMMUNITY GROUPS (ie non-commercial) and so are,
alas, often out of date**

**THERE ARE ALSO A LIMITED NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL (=CHARGED
FOR PER SESSION) ACTIVITIES** PRINTED IN GREEN

**Please check with the contact before trying to attend a new
challenge!**

Every Month

Settle Town Council meetings are on the first Monday in the month (excl
Bank Holidays) 7 p.m. at Settle Town Hall BD24 9EJ.

Agendas and Minutes will be posted in the Market Place Notice Board
and on the website www.settletownncouncil.gov.uk

Contact the clerk, Rebecca for further details, [clerk@settletowncouncil.
gov.uk](mailto:clerk@settletowncouncil.gov.uk) 01729 823617

EVERY TUESDAY

Settle Market, Market Place. Indoor Market at the Royal Oak – very early
until late afternoon.

Community activities

Giggleswick Gardening Group: First Monday in the month. Litterpicking
section. 10.00 am. Church Porch, St Alkelda's, Contact Tony Carroll

Rotary Club: 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at 6.30pm in the Maypole,
Long Preston. All welcome. Secretary David Blackburne 01729 822445

Music

Settle Voices Choir: Every Monday (term time only). Catholic Church
Hall, Tillman Close, Craven Terrace. 1- 3pm All welcome. For information
contact Liz Eastman (01729) 823777

Langcliffe Singers: Every Tuesday Rehearsals at St John's Hall Settle, 7.30
– 9.30pm (term time only). Contact (01729) 825806

Settle Orchestra: Rehearsals every Friday evening during term time, St
John's Methodist Hall, 7.40 – 9.40pm . Strings especially welcome! Con-
tact (01729) 825806

St Alkelda's Church Choir: first Sunday in the month Sung Evensong, (Book of Common Prayer) 5.00pm Giggleswick Parish Church

Black Horse Jazzmen; Every First & Third Thursday. The Talbot 8.30 - 10.15. Sitters in welcome

Recreational

Settle Photographic Group: Every third Monday, St. Johns Methodist Church Hall and on Zoom, 7.30 – 9.30pm and on the 1st Monday of the month, October – April. Visitors welcome. £4.00

Settle Rifle Club: Every Monday 7pm Giggleswick School cadet range (behind St Alkelda's Church)

Settle Bridge Club: Every Tuesday 7.00 – 9.30pm. online bridge using the RealBridge platform and every Thursday 1.30 - 4.30pm in person bridge at St John's Church Hall. For more information see <https://www.bridgewebs.com/settle/> or contact Rosie Sanderson 01729 825944 rosiesanderson19@gmail.com

Settle Chess Club: Every Monday evening 6pm to 8ish at Settle Social Club, 10 Duke Street. All standards welcome. <http://settlechessclub.uk>

Monthly Whist Drives: Every second Tuesday Golden Lion Hotel, Horton-in-Ribblesdale 7.30pm. Tel. (01729) 860206

Action on Climate Emergency (ACE) Settle and Area: monthly Green Cafe second Saturday of each month 10.30 - 12.30 at Settle Methodist Church. Details about individual Cafes on the ACE website www.acesettleandarea.org

Settle & District Gardening Club: Fourth Wednesday of the month January - May & September - November at the Quaker Meeting House 2 pm to 4 pm. Visitors welcome £5

Ingleborough Archaeology Group Third Monday of the month from October to April. Talks 7:30pm at Ingleton Community Centre. May to September monthly local guided walks/visits, For details, please see: ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk or email: ingleborougharchaeologygroup@gmail.com

Sport and physical activities

Austwick Piccalillis Pickleball Every Tuesday morning at Eldroth Village Hall 10-1 Every Thursday evening at Giggleswick School 6-8. Every Saturday morning at Giggleswick School 9.30-11.30

Table Tennis: Every Monday Hellifield Village Institute 7.30 – 9.30pm
Contact John Flitcroft (01729) 851358

Langcliffe Table Tennis Club: Every Tuesday evening 7.00-9.00pm at Langcliffe Institute. All standards welcome. £2 per session. 3 tables available. Bats and balls provided. Contact: Shelley Woolley 01729 824189

Line dancing: Every Monday 7.00pm - 9.30pm. and Friday 2.00-4.00pm St John's Church Hall All welcome. Proceeds to charity

Settle Badminton Club: Every Tuesday (Sept - April). Giggleswick School Sports Hall. 7.30 – 10.30pm Contact Ian Reid 07854 211114

Badminton: Every Tuesday Hellifield Village Institute 7.00 – 9pm. Contact Bob Moore (01729) 851660

North Craven Strollers: Every Wednesday meets at Millennium Garden, nr Booths Car Park, 1.30pm

Settle Harriers: Seniors Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm, Juniors Tuesdays 6pm. Contact Chris Beesley (07713247923)

Tennis: Regular social and competitive tennis for all standards including beginners at Austwick Tennis Club. See <https://www.austwicktennisclub.co.uk/> for details of regular sessions.

Settle Area Swimming Pool: a wide variety of sessions for adults and children – including lane swimming; fun sessions and water based exercises. Dry space activities including static cycle 'spinning', high intensity training and more gentle exercise see <https://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk/> for timetable.

Chair-based exercise classes for Older Adults: **Mondays 12noon** Langcliffe Institute, **Wednesdays 11am** Limestone View, **Thursdays 10.15am** Horton-in-Ribblesdale Village Hall, **Balance & Leg Strength Class for Falls Awareness - Settle Swimming Pool.** Call Jo Wulf for further details.07966 981985

Indoor Bowling: Every Wednesday Hellifield Village Institute 10am – 12 noon. Contact Bob Moore (01729) 851660

Scottish Country Dancing: Every Thursday St John's Hall 7.30pm with a fully qualified Scottish Country Dance teacher

Nordic walking: **Yordic Walkers Mondays/Tuesdays 9am & Fridays 10.30am - Moderate to vigorous 1 hour walks, Racing Snails Fridays 2pm - slow & steady Nordic walks, 30 mins £5.** Please book in advance: jowulf@wolfracks.co.uk / 07966 981985

Support Groups

Amnesty International letter writing group. No longer meeting in person but continue their work on-line. Enquiries (01729) 268912Age UK North Craven Trips for the over 60s. For destinations and prices etc. contact Sandra on (01729) 823066

Women's Groups

Settle Women's Institute Every first Wednesday St.John's Church Hall, 2 p.m. New members always welcome

Giggleswick with Settle Mothers' Union Every second Wednesday St Alkeldas Church, Giggleswick, 2pm Contact: Branch Leader, Catie Jones, (01729) 822676 for more details

Giggleswick Women's Institute Every first Thursday in the month we meet at 7.00pm at Settle swimming pool, Kendal Road, Giggleswick. New members & Visitors are always welcome. Follow us on our Facebook page.

Yoga classes

Vinyasa yoga: weekly classes for all abilities including beginners. Thursdays, 17:30-18:30, Long Preston Village Hall.

Email yogabyscarlett@gmail.com or 07532 264561 to book

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 21 September 7.30pm, St John's Methodist Church

Craven Conservation Group invite you to a talk "Wild Haweswater" by Lee Schofield, author of "Wild Fell" - well known in natural history/conservation circles.) (£5-00 Non Members, £1-00 members) WWW.CRAVEN-CONSERVATION-GROUP.ORG.UK

Thursday 12 October 7.30pm, St John's Methodist Church

Craven Conservation Group invite you to a talk, "The River Ribble: Improving and protecting its ecosystem" by Jack Spees of the Ribble Rivers Trust (£5-00 Non Members, £1-00 members) WWW.CRAVEN-CONSERVATION-GROUP.ORG.UK

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**CELEBRATIONS IN THE GRAVEYARD
RAISING MONEY FOR LOCAL
CHARITIES.**

This summer's popular graveyard trails, run by Settle Graveyard Project, are in full swing, celebrating the lives of local characters of bygone days. We have already discovered the unsung heroes and heroines of the Victoria Hall. On the next few Sunday afternoons, 6, 13, 20, 27 August, we discover some 19th century 'Sporty Folk', the 'Hazards of being a Doctor', some 'Artists and Romantics' and the last one at Settle churchyard, 'Accidents and Lucky Escapes'. Then we find some fascinating 'Giggleswick Folk' at Giggleswick Church on 3 September and finally some 'Long Preston Stars' in Long Preston graveyard on 10 September.



All trails start at 2.30pm except the trail on 20 August, Artists and Romantics, which starts at 2pm. They are free to attend with any donations going to local charities — thanks to your support nearly £10,000 has

been donated to date. Places are limited so booking is required. To book your places call 07488 135625, email graveyardtrailbookings@gmail.com or sign up in person at The Folly in Settle. Seats are available if required and we'll be inside the church if it rains! Refreshments are available afterwards at Settle and Giggleswick churches.

If you fancy a trip out to Ribbleshead you'd be welcome to join the graveyard trail at St Leonard's church at Chapel-le-Dale, the burial place of many navvies and their families. It's on Wednesday 23 August starting at around 12.30. It is part of a walk, starting at Ribbleshead Station at around 10.30, to meet the trains, run by the Friends of the Settle to Carlisle Line. It's free and you don't need to book so come along, either for the whole walk or just the graveyard trail.

For latest news and updates visit Settle Graveyard Project Facebook Page.

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angela@theovenmaid.co.uk
www.theovenmaid.co.uk
07312 644 733

This cartoon first appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 6th May 2023 - the day of the coronation.

I regard Matthew Pritchett as probably the finest cartoonist I have ever followed and this cartoon is so apposite to this article I am unable to resist using it - I did ask for permission but I have had no response so will, in its absence, seek forgiveness.



NEW VOTER ID: REPORT FINDS 14,000 WERE DENIED VOTE IN MAY LOCAL ELECTIONS

The April edition of Community News featured an article on changes in election law which under the 2022 Elections Act meant that people would have to have their identity

confirmed by presenting photo ID to staff at polling stations before being given a ballot paper.

The impact of this on the 4 May local government elections was studied by the Electoral Commission who published an interim report last month. This found that about 14,000 people were turned away from polling stations at these elections because they lacked the right ID, with the overall number denied a vote likely to be considerably higher (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media-centre/improvements-needed-ensure-voter-id-does-not-become-a-barrier-voting>).

The commission said initial evidence suggested voter ID disproportionately affected people who have disabilities or are unemployed, with some correlation also apparent with factors such as ethnicity.

It also said that 4% of people who did not vote said it was because of voter ID – a tally that could run into hundreds of thousands more.

Ministers need to carry out additional work on the system – used for an entire election for the first time in May – to make sure people are not prevented from voting, the report recommended.

Craig Westwood, the Commission's Director of Communications, Policy and Research, said:

“The evidence suggests that the vast majority of voters were able to pre-

sent an accepted form of ID at the May elections; but, it also shows that some people were prevented from voting in polling stations due to the requirement, and significantly more did not attempt to because they lacked the required ID.

“Overall awareness was high and achieved in a matter of months, but we can see that people who lacked ID were less likely to know they needed to show it. We don’t want to see a single voter lose the opportunity to have their say. We are working to understand the challenges people faced, and will make recommendations that, with the engagement of Government and wider electoral community, will support the participation of all voters.”

The results indicate that further work is required in order to ensure that elections remain truly accessible to all; to ensure the Voter Authority Certificate works well as a back-up for those with no accepted ID, that it is well set-up, delivered and communicated. The Commission is undertaking further research ahead of making recommendations for improvement, to be published in September.

Speaking at the May National Conservatism Conference in London former government minister Jacob Rees-Mogg said that the ID plans were a “clever scheme” by his party to swing voters in their favour.

However, he suggested that the plans had “backfired” due to older Conservative voters being less aware of the changes at the recent local elections.

“Parties that try and gerrymander end up finding their clever scheme comes back to bite them, as dare I say we found by insisting on voter ID for elections”, the former Brexit minister said.

“We found the people who didn’t have ID were elderly and they, by and large, voted Conservative. So we made it hard for our own voters and we upset a system that worked perfectly well.”

When he was Leader of the House, under Boris Johnson he previously defended the policy. You can hear a recording of his conference statement at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwqDJAYO5As>

Meanwhile changes to the rules governing proxy and postal voting were announced on 23 May. In a written statement, the Department for Leveling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) said people would need to provide a national insurance (NI) number or another form of identity when they applied for a postal or proxy vote, which was not the case before.

People will also have to renew applications for a postal vote every three years, rather than the current five. Another change will mean peo-

ple can only cast proxy votes on behalf of a maximum of four people, including a maximum of two UK-based voters. Currently, there is no limit for casting proxy votes on behalf of family members.

The new measures will be introduced by a statutory instrument, a type of secondary legislation that is very rarely subject to parliamentary debate and is usually not even voted on in the Commons.

Age UK said the plans appeared to be “a sledgehammer to crack a nut”, and was concerned the proposals would not have proper parliamentary scrutiny.

Barry White.



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The survey showing the best sites for solar panels across Settle, Giggleswick and Langcliffe (the local substation area) are now on our website: acesettleandarea.org. The results cover all buildings whether domestic, community or commercial. We are in touch with local installers and the distribution network operator (Electricity North West Ltd), who oversee grid connections, and hope to facilitate site visits and potentially cost savings by grouping installations for properties. Get in touch on the email below to find out more.

Settle Energy Local Club – where are we up to?

We now have funding to recruit a short term, freelance adviser (initially 25 days over a 4-6 months period starting from September) to work with the first directors to get the Club set-up and the first members recruited – whether as consumers, generators or both. We anticipate being able to ‘go live’ in early 2024 working to Green Energy UK’s timetable (as the electricity company involved). If you are interested in be-

coming the adviser do get in touch. And we are now taking expressions of interest in club membership - on the ACE email below.

ACE’s Summer Activities

Flowerpot Festival (15th July - 3rd September) – we are delighted to be entering the festival for the first time this year – come and find our entry outside 1 Tillman Close.

Saturday 12th August - Gentian Hunt on Keasden Moor (10.30-12 Noon). Join Andrew Pease, ACE’s Biodiversity Group lead, for a hunt to find marsh gentians and if we can find some what we can do to next to protect and encourage more to grow. Meet Andrew at 10 am at Settle Pool to share cars up to Keasden or near the site at St Matthews Church, Reebys Lane, Keasden. LA2 8EU. More information from Andrew on the email below.

Saturday 19th August (10.00-1pm). Fairtrade Coffee Morning at Settle Quaker Meeting House. Kirkgate, BD24 9DX. Come along for coffee and a chat. Liz Roodhouse from Fairtrade Skipton will be bringing for sale gifts from Namaste in Skipton, cards from Rwanda, Palestinian olive oil and dates and some embroidery, woven purses and bamboo socks from ‘From the Source’ Skipton, Whitakers Fairtrade and vegan chocolate, other food items and more. Find out about ethical investing with ‘Shared Assets’ and talk to Rosie Sanderson about ‘Plastic Free

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Saturday 16th September (10.30-12.30pm)

Green Cafe at St John's Methodist Church Hall – participate in the annual review of our work and AGM, followed by a talk by Andrew Newton about the work of the Woodland Trust. Join us first for refreshments 10.30-11am. Free, All Welcome.

Website: acesettleandarea.org
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Social media: Facebook & Twitter as ACE Settle

Sarah Wiltshire

ACE Settle Co-ordinator



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COVERING SETTLE
& ALL SURROUNDING AREAS

This article refers to a consultation over the proposal to close the great majority of railway ticket offices. This consultation has now closed (at the time of publication) but the stupidity and gross insensitivity of the proposal makes it unlikely that the matter will rest there... (Ed)



Rail companies across the UK are proposing to close the majority of station ticket offices. Our own Northern Rail is no exception with Settle earmarked to shut. I've not heard this celebrated by anyone locally, with many against it. But does it matter, when many stations are already unstaffed and Northern is recommending a 'Journey Maker' staff member be available on the station 9am – 1pm daily except Sundays?

The consultation preamble couches a need to modernise in response to changing ways customers access services, but having already introduced online convenience and mobile apps no additional options are proposed or indicated as required. Portrayed as 'modernisation' this consultation is actually about a reduction in options at most stations for a large number of customers. Yet this year

1 in 6 (17%) Northern journeys involve tickets bought at a ticket office, significantly higher than the national average.

For some it must be the preferred option, for others the only practical and dignified option. For example I know a man with complex disabilities, unable to master a computer or smart-phone who can travel independently only by obtaining journey plans and tickets from the ticket office. Despite disability being a protected characteristic in law it is entirely foreseeable that the proposed reduction will discriminate against disabled people accessing trains independently.

Age is also a protected characteristic and contemporary data shows older people have the lowest proportion of smartphone ownership*. Many lack ability or confidence to safely make online purchases without falling victim to scams so wisely or necessarily opt to use ticket offices. To avoid age discrimination offices need to be open when trains are running.

My local station, Settle, has particular additional issues in relation to the proposed closure of the ticket office. Here Northern's own data (Changes to NTL Ticket Retailing July 23) shows around 30% of journeys use tickets bought at the office, including over 5,000 cash payments per annum. Some possible reasons for such high usage are the population demographic (37% are aged 65 and over, cf 18.6% nationally) and a

preponderance of visitors unfamiliar with the area. Settle station is of course the start of the iconic and celebrated Settle-Carlisle line as well as providing a vital and environmentally friendly link from the rural market town to the remainder of the UK. It is unconscionable to leave so many without their preferred means of accessing the service and to have vital tourism so ill-served.

Settle has experienced periods when the automated ticket machine has been out of order for several days at a time. But most importantly, without accompanying staff the down line platform is not accessible to anyone with prams, wheelchairs or mobility problems. Current staffing already discriminates against such users taking later trains. The Journey Maker proposals in the consultation would make it not possible to visit and return from the nearest city (Leeds) or travel from Carlisle to Settle and back along the scenic line.

The current arrangements provide a service clearly much valued by a significant proportion of customers, they address age and disability discrimination quite effectively, and support the vital local tourist industry. There are no metrics in the consultation for the value of well-delivered human service and its positive impact on customers' perception and experience of the company, yet it is no less important and presently well-served.

The proposals fail Northern Rail's own commitment 'to put customers and communities at the very heart of what we do' and to make services accessible to everyone (as required by law).

Paul Kelly

* <https://www.uswitch.com/mobiles/studies/mobile-statistics/> February 1, 2023 accessed 14/7/2023 (includes extensive source references)

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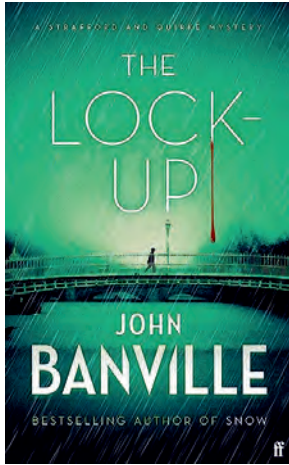
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MORE SKULDUGGERY IN IRELAND



I should perhaps apologise to readers of the Community News for reviewing two murder mysteries on the trot, and for covering the same author twice in twelve months. But the book and the author I want to review are so good that I hope no apology is needed.

The Lock-Up (2023) is the latest novel of Irish author John Banville, born in Wexford in 1945. Under his own name, Banville wrote seventeen novels, all of them serious literary pieces; one of them, *The Sea*, won the Booker Prize in 2005. Then, under the pen name Benjamin Black, Banville began writing crime novels set in 1950s Dublin and featuring forensic pathologist Dr Quirke (no forename given). Benjamin Black proved to be hugely successful, to the extent that he began (so Banville said) to usurp his creator's good name, so "I shut him in a room with

a pistol, a phial of sleeping pills and a bottle of Scotch, and that was the end of him". Thus John Banville has now reverted to writing as John Banville....



John Banville

The Quirke crime novels introduce Detective Inspector St John Strafford. Both men are damaged goods. Quirke, born poor, and brought up by vicious priests in a Catholic orphanage, has been twice widowed; in fits of depression he drinks heavily. Strafford's wife lives apart from her husband, communicating regularly but only by telephone. Strafford and Quirke are linked by the murder of Quirke's second wife, Evelyn. Sent out to Spain to arrest a known criminal, Strafford finds himself in the Quirkes' hotel, in close proximity to the them. Shots are fired. The criminal mistakenly shoots and kills Evelyn and is then shot dead by Strafford. Evelyn's death becomes the elephant in the room of the Strafford-Quirke working relationship. Three novels, first *Snow* (2021), then *April in Spain* (2022) and now *The Lock-Up*, probe the psychology of both men – and how skilfully Banville probes! His insights into human nature are mesmerising. They make you wonder again why the best crime novels are

not more highly esteemed in the literary world.

The Lock-Up begins with the death of Rosa Jacobs, a young Jewish PhD candidate at Trinity College, researching the Jewish diaspora in Ireland. She is found asphyxiated in the exhaust gas of her own car in a Dublin lock-up. Suicide is assumed, but very soon Quirke establishes that someone knocked her out with chloroform before finishing her off with the car exhaust. The ensuing murder investigation discovers that Rosa had connections of sorts with a wealthy German family, the Kesslers, who are residents of County Wicklow. The Kesslers have seemingly nefarious connections with the Israeli Ministry of Defence and, duplicitously, with the Egyptian security services. Rosa's sister, Molly, a journalist in London, comes to Dublin for her sister's funeral. She and Quirke are drawn to each other and begin a clandestine affair, highly improper given the police investigation. They are not careful enough in concealing it; Strafford himself and Quirke's daughter, Phoebe, hover between suspicion and certainty. Distrust between Strafford and Quirke is painfully ratcheted up by Strafford's interest in Phoebe.

But who murdered Rosa Jacobs, and why? Rosa was known as a troublesome activist on matters regarded as very touchy in 1950s and 1960s Ireland, and still today – abortion, contraception, the rights of travel-

lers, the malign influence of the church, and more. Almost certainly she had enemies. As Strafford and Quirke investigate her murder, they accumulate well-founded suspicions about the Kesslers. Herein lies a problem. Kessler senior may have had assistance from the Catholic church in covering up war crimes; and it doesn't help that Kessler junior is gay and fancies Strafford. The Church must have all this kept quiet at any cost. To do its dirty work it chooses Bishop Tom McEvoy, an old school chum of Strafford's boss, the soon-to-retire DCI Hackett. Over a drink one evening McEvoy muses, though short of making a threat, that the church might have something to say about Hackett's pension if, say, he kept pursuing the Kesslers. The dialogue between McEvoy and Hackett makes for an unforgettable scene – to my mind one of the finest Banville has written.

While the number and complexity of relationships between key characters may seem challenging, Banville's elegant pen transforms them into lucid and well aired prose. Banville draws his readers in, using contrasts and tensions to highlight the heart-breaking capacity of human beings to draw apart from each other. There is much 'apartness' in the book. Rosa and Molly Jacobs have broken away from their grieving, introverted father, and, as Jews, are set apart from everybody else anyway. Catholics and Protestants, in

the persons of Quirke and Strafford, are likewise set apart by experience, wealth and expectation but united by toxic distrust. The Germans and Israelis form yet another axis that, in the Irish setting, is highly distinct.

However carefully you look through all the skulduggery the identity of Rosa Jacobs' murderer remains entirely unguessable until Banville lets it out, right at the end. I like to think that The Lock-Up leaves loose ends hanging for later. What will become of Quirke? What will become of his relationship with Strafford? What of Strafford's relationship with Quirke's daughter? And of course, what crimes will bring them into new conflicts?

Long before I might have found The Lock-Up, my book group friend Margaret thrust her copy at me, and for that I am greatly indebted to her. We both hope that between Strafford and Quirke there is still lots to go wrong!

Bob Young

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BREAKFAST IN KAFFEELONIA, CRETE

Every time I log on to our aged PC two things happen. Firstly, I mutter thanks that it is still alive; secondly I am reminded by the photo I have uploaded as wallpaper of the reasons why two confirmed shade seeking non-beachaholics have spent more holidays on Greek islands than we have exploring Europe's highlands. Nothing makes you feel so good as the sparkle of a turquoise sea, especially when viewed from a quiet path on an uninhabited peninsula bursting with colours and sounds of Mediterranean nature. Add in the shapely 5000-foot summits of the Tripti range as a background beyond the gulf, definitely no shade up there this time of year.

Of course, there are downsides. If you are someone who needs the aroma of an outstanding fresh coffee to activate your senses then you won't fully appreciate the delights of the quieter Greek Islands. Note well that most phrase books advise you to ensure you ask for "Eno Nescafe" because "Eno kaffee" will secure you a version of Turkish coffee, sludge only drinkable with enough sugar to send you hyper for the day. In larger resorts you might track down an Italian family restaurant with enough steam and Heath Robinson pipes to puff out an espresso or two but not in a package hotel.

May 12th. We had checked in at 1.30 a.m., so it was will-power plus hunger that got us down to breakfast in time the next morning, especially as both our mobile phones had transmitted wake up sirens at 3.15 warning of an earthquake 40 miles away. Ours was "a small and friendly hotel" with a buffet breakfast which could be enjoyed on a covered jetty lapped by the amazingly clear waters of Elounta Bay. It felt so special sitting at our table watching fish dart through the sun sparkled sea, that toast and water would have been okay for breakfast. However, not only was there a generous range of hot and cold food, and a large basket of oranges with a machine to chop and squeeze them, but next to it a help yourself coffee machine of a quality to satisfy the most skilled barista. Just watch fresh beans cascading into the top, make your choice of coffee and wait, enjoying the sound and aromas of grinding and steeping followed by the measured drip of excellent coffee. Ignoring the fresh bread and fruit I triumphantly transported my precious americanos back down the jetty.

The next morning our jet-2 lag had worn off and in spite of another earthquake alarm, (10 miles closer this time), we were up early for breakfast; so were a lot of other guests and the queue for the coffee machine had 8 or 9 people in it. The man in front of me turned round abruptly and said knowingly "expect

a very long wait.” Assuming we were all in holiday mode I smiled and said something inane like “I expect we will enjoy it even more then”. A withering look dismissed me as senile, and I was ignored until another man joined the queue behind me who was happier to grouch about the unacceptable queue and was devastated to learn that cappuccinos took two minutes each.

Later in that first week an unseasonal wind roared north from Libyan deserts, (no warning for that), so we breakfasted inside the restaurant and were able to witness the full madness of the coffee queue. A line of Brits determined that being on holiday would not divert them from a crusade



against the coffee machine. “Surely they can afford a faster machine”, “Greeks have no concept of time”, “we’ve got a machine at work takes ten seconds to fill a mug,” “probably powered by one of those windmills on the hill, nothing but sticks with hankies on the ends”, “my phone says that last cappuccino took 176 seconds”, “wake up, yours is done, move your cup”, “don’t just read the

instructions, press a button”. The threatening body language and muttering rose to a menacing crescendo if a member of staff dared to open the machine to top up the beans or when the machine beeped and went into self-clean mode. I wish I could convey the steam of aggression wafting across the breakfast tables from the angry queue, a clear warning of what coffee addiction can do. I

am ashamed to admit that the queue was 100% English guests and virtually all male; it would seem that coffee machines are like garden barbecues only to be operated by men.

Not that long ago if you joined fellow Brits at breakfast abroad you might have to suffer the woes of the tea-deprived and hear how many tea bags you could smuggle through customs inside your jacket lining if you avoided the pyramid ones or learn of the amazing mini immersion heater you could stick in your cup of water and get tea to brewing temperature even with European electricity sockets. It seems we have forsaken our national beverage to become the world experts on coffee.

One morning the machine stopped working, flashing wild messages in Italian. The queue closed up trying to translate what it was saying, they hopped from foot to foot and bobbed up and down. Thankfully there was no music playing; a couple of twangs from a bouzouki and I think the whole queue would have held hands and as one danced a furious sirtaki out the door, down the jetty and leapt into the water to take it up with Scylla. I wish I could write that none of this really happened, but it did.

The weekend. Innocent newly arrived guests in the queue but usual thugs as well. Below the machine were white china cups with saucers but no trays. This meant no guest could get more than 2 cups on each visit. The lady at the front filled her two cups then slid them to the side and pressed for another. She then turned, smiled at the queue, and loaded another cup. No one said anything but the brown mist was rising. I assumed the attack would come when she tottered away with her stack of cups filled with hot liquid, but she pushed her last cup to the side and walked off. She had an accomplice behind the machine who was sliding the cups through the various bread baskets to a convenient table. Silence from the queue including me as I knew this was not an opportunity for an amusing quip; I didn't fancy a haircut from the blades of the orange mangler. I never saw her again.

Second week, cloudy morning, breakfast inside. Two bullies in the queue started shouting at the girl setting out a bowl of yoghurt "YOU HAVE GOT TO GET US ANOTHER MACHINE!" She was bewildered as were other staff who came to protect her. All the diners were embarrassed including the rest of the queue who shuffled back to their seats as the hotel manager offered a flask of boiling water, presumably for Nescafe. I wondered why this outburst over such a trivial thing when there were plenty of targets for frustrated fury back home. Then again, perhaps that was the cause; months of delayed ambulances, A & E queues, unanswered phones at energy companies, sewage escaping everywhere, airport delays, vanishing trains, corrupt politicians, and the Russians; something had to take the blame. Why not an Italian speaking coffee machine? Wars have started over far less.

On our last morning I joined the queue saying loudly you should see what's happening up around the rooftop swimming pool. Staff are collecting all the towels from unoccupied sun loungers and putting them in black sacks.

At last. the coffee machine was all mine.

Barry Forster

HAGLÖFS *inov* salomon S

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OFSTED: REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST (PART 2)

In the previous Newsletter, moved by the death of Ruth Perry, I wrote the first half of an article about the first Ofsted Inspection of Settle High School which took place in the 1990s. For those who haven't read it, what it mainly conveyed were the preparations for the inspection of the Head of Art, Peter Huby. He was viscerally opposed to the inspection regime which had been set up, in his view, to frighten teachers and to subdue the profession rather than to maintain standards by monitoring and then supporting schools in the drive for excellence. By the time the dozen or so inspectors arrived, he had set up round the school a number of larger-than-life cut outs of Magritte-style faceless inspectors with their bowler hats and briefcases. In addition, he had an actor friend of his (David Pearce) play the part of an extra inspector who had his office in one of the entrances to the school. The stage was set: now read on!

The second phase of Peter's challenge to the inspectors involved making a film of what was going on in the school during the inspection. This mainly involved footage of David in his 'office' doing inspector-type things such as looking in his filing cabinet, making notes, etc. At times he would emerge to take measurements of children's heads to add to his collection of data. At first glance, he gave the impression that he was completely in control and engaged in a rational enterprise, but as time went on his behaviour became increasingly bizarre: at one point he cuts odd shapes out of paper and pins them to the wall, and another time he manages to set fire to his desk and has to clamber up to stamp it out. All the while there is a soundtrack of Peter explaining his ideas about Ofsted, using quotations from Václav Havel's essay 'The Power of the Powerless' to explain how we can come to 'live in a lie', which is what Ofsted forces teachers (and indeed its own inspectors) to do.

The climax of the film was to take place on the football pitch immediately outside the classroom that had been provided for the inspectors as their office, so it would have been impossible not to have had a good view of the events. Let me describe it for you. A football game is in progress when suddenly the whistle is blown and everyone stops playing. Out of the school emerges David in his full inspector's gear with brief-

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case and umbrella. Walking ahead of him is one of the school's teachers. They reach the cricket nets and the teacher is turned around, bound to one of the stanchions and blindfolded. A charge is read out and a star is pinned to his chest. I still find what happens next shocking but it has to be watched if the full force of Peter Huby's challenge is to be appreciated. David pulls out a gun (one, I should stress, which does not fire bullets although it looks and sounds terrifyingly authentic.) He then proceeds to 'execute' the teacher and a line of inspector cut-outs before turning the gun on himself to end the madness that his existence has become. To finish, students stretcher off the bodies and the whistle sounds for the football game to resume.

What, you may ask, did the inspectors make of all this? The word on the street was that they demanded the film be handed over to them, even though it was to be presented as a piece of coursework (they had the power, they reckoned, to confiscate coursework.) Fine: when they had disappeared with the confiscat-

ed coursework, Peter would create a second, identical, version of the film. No one can verify this so many years after the event, but it could make sense. Whatever the case, it must have disturbed them, surely?

As I wrote in the previous edition, not everyone was at ease with this act of resistance and there were inevitably repercussions. I don't think the Art Department was given a glowing report and Peter left the school not long after which of course meant that the school and the profession had lost one of the most creative and inspiring teachers that we had ever known. But the film took on a life of its own. At first, VHS copies circulated in schools, especially those which were about to endure their own Ofsted inspection. But later, an edited version appeared on YouTube and this is where you can view it for yourself if you have access to the Internet. It can be found by simply typing 'The Art of Peter Huby' into your search engine. Once you have found the site, click on the heading 'Films' and you will find it listed there.

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As well as having a huge creative talent and a penetrating intellect, Peter also had great foresight. He could see where such a system would inevitably lead and he has been proved right. His act of resistance did not stop what was going to happen but it lifted the spirits of some of us and exposed the true nature of the system which relied on making teachers afraid of a 'power' greater than themselves; a system which would lose balance and rely more and more on 'Data' to measure what was going on. Better would have been to use some data but to put more trust in teachers and work with them to identify the strengths and weaknesses of schools so they could together celebrate success and eliminate those weaknesses. Recently there have been some hopeful signs that the tide is turning, but it will always be too late for Ruth Perry.

Postscript

If you do access Peter's site, not only will you find the Ofsted film that I have outlined above, but you will get a good idea of what kind of person we lost from the profession. You will discover images of the extraordinary house that he and his partner Linda have built near Kalamata. You will discover the other films he has made and you will be able to view his many paintings and sculptures which were recently shown in a retrospective exhibition in the University of Hull Gallery. You will be able

to read articles he has written and you can learn about the novels he has published.

Pete Eastman

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PUBLIC LIVING ROOM AT SETTLE QUAKERS

Our Public Living Room is open to anyone who wants to come along at Settle Quakers on Mondays and Thursdays every week from 10.30am to 1.30pm. All our groups and activities carry on all year round – no summer break for us!

We offer hot drinks and meals (but please come before 1pm if you want feeding), our visitors can play card games or Connect 4, there is always a jigsaw to do, craft activities or help with cooking, but no pressure to do anything if people just want a chat and some company.

All Public Living Rooms are run on similar lines and the first one started in Sheffield in 2016 but now there are many around the world. They were originally run by a charity Camerados and early ones were based



in libraries or as pop-up events in shopping centres or hospitals. Public Living Rooms try to encourage visitors to stick to these six Camerados ideas: understand its ok to be a bit rubbish, don't try to fix people, have

fun, mix with people unlike yourself, disagree respectfully, if someone is struggling ask them to help you.

We are very grateful to some regular visitors who come along to offer their skills, like Clare, (pictured with Harold) who comes to do free hand massages most Thursdays. These are very popular and her relaxing oils send Sam the dog to sleep! Plans are in the pipeline to do some structured cookery lessons with Thomas Croll of the Kitchen Crew: soap making and beeswax wraps and, as the weather improves, we will do more trips to the allotment and gardening for those that fancy it.

Hub staff are always on hand to have a chat with people who may need a bit more support in general or with things like understanding bills, advice about energy saving, filling in forms or directing them to other organisations for support if necessary.

Any questions email Jo hub@settle-communityandbusinesshub.org.uk or 07977 040329

EVENING PUBLIC LIVING ROOMS AT SETTLE QUAKERS

We had planned to do some outdoor evening Public Living Rooms but the weather so far has been against us.... so we decided to move them indoors!

We briefly ran a few evening Temperance Bar events at the Settle Quaker Meeting House in the evenings just before lockdown. The picture over is

Dave - being Temperance bar man! We had a small amount of funding for room hire and buying fancy cordials, teas and snacks. We also had card games, dominos, board games available and so in some ways this was very similar to what we do now at the Public Living Rooms.

The idea is to offer an early evening social venue where people of all ages (and well behaved dogs) can come and socialise without the presence of alcohol. In Settle after 5pm the only venues open are pubs which are not always appropriate for families with children or for people wishing to avoid drinking.

There will a jigsaw and simple games if people want to play, which also means if people come on their own there is always a way of meeting and connecting with others in a safe and friendly environment.

Dates confirmed - Saturday 5th August and 19th August

4-8pm Quaker Meeting House in the small meeting room

All these will be alcohol free events, offering simple food like soup or a

curry, snacks, cake and hot drinks and cordials. If you want to bring your own board games that is fine too. No charge but we would appreciate donations if people can afford to contribute.

Offering a 'pay what you feel' evening venue also makes it easier for people to come along who perhaps could not normally afford an evening out. Doing something 4-8pm would also offer a simple way for families or those struggling financially to join us and have a meal without worrying about money.



Thanks to Yorkshire Housing who are supporting these evening events with a small community grant. The idea has come from some of their tenants who want to give these another try.

Any questions or suggestions or offers of help please contact Jo on hub@settlecommunityandbusinesshub.org.uk or call her on 07977 040329.

Next issue **OCTOBER** Closing date for copy and advertising the beginning of the previous month, or **FRIDAY 1st SEPTEMBER**. Material received after that date MAY not be included.

Electronic submission (as an e-mail attachment preferred) to e-mail address below. Hard copy to Castleberg Outdoors, Cheapside, Settle who have kindly agreed to act as a receiving point.

EDITORIAL

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