

AIRE VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

June 2017



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Welcome to June and a magazine full of sizzling summer offers and hot local events.

You can save 30% on new windows from Bingly Windows this month. This offer, exclusive to our readers, is one not to be missed. Read more on page 4 & 5 and get in touch for your free quotation.

The Roebuck in Utley is under new management. Call in and say hello to the landlord, Franklin, and be sure to use the 25% discount voucher on page 15.

Our Walking in the Aire series continues with a pull out map in the centre of the magazine. The book by the same name is available to purchase and would make an excellent Fathers Day gift!

The Steam & Ale Trail will delight many (p7) and the Haworth 1960's weekend returns with more family fun than ever (p20).

Have a fabulous month! **Liz Barker - editor**

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Say you saw it in the Aire Valley Mag!

A cause for celebration at Bingley Windows & Cobbydale Construction



June marks the anniversary of the acquisition of Bingley Windows by Cobbydale Construction. Cobbydale Construction owner and MD, Steven Edwards, is celebrating by expressing his gratitude to past and present customers and also by acknowledging the continued dedication and hard work of his team who have enabled the expansion to take place. "It is the skill and expertise of all our tradesmen & the staff behind the scenes who continue to deliver value and quality of service that has underpinned our success." "Being customer focused, caring about the workmanship, and running the businesses

with integrity are equally important values for us," Steven explained.

"We have improved our product range and can supply A-rated energy efficient products at competitive prices," Steven continued. "We have our own glazing operation in house and we undertake lead work, stains, and triple glazed units. It also enables us to reduce the wait time to fulfil orders. We can create a window replacement in hours if necessary. This of course, can be very helpful to our customers as it limits the stress of having to live with a window or door that is not secure."

Security is high on the list of attributes when considering doors and windows. All of Bingley Windows products include insurance approved locks. Doors come with anti snap barrels as standard.

In addition Steven explained that he is consolidating the operational and administration functions, streamlining processes, and investing in the latest technology. "The result is that we are able to provide a broad range of services across the home improvement sector giving all our customers peace of mind and reassurance that we can deal with any requirement from fitting a single window to



example, was an excellent solution and one I wouldn't have thought was possible. The work was done within the timeframe estimated and at the agreed price. All in all it was an excellent service and the level of workmanship was spot on. I will continue to call Steven and his team for my home improvements. It is reassuring to find a trustworthy local business, or in this case, two businesses, Cobbydale Construction and Bingley Windows."



building a house... and everything in between."

Mrs. Barker of Stanbury recently had a new shower room installed and a door replaced in her property.

"I was impressed with the way Cobbydale Construction and Bingley Windows dealt with my renovation work. The men were courteous, fastidious, and cleaned up after themselves. I received regular updates so I understood what was happening when; this made the experience stress free. I also appreciated them helping me come to decisions about what I wanted. Putting a cat-flap in the glazed door, for

A special Anniversary Offer is being extended to Aire Valley Magazine readers. To take advantage of this substantial 30% discount across the A-rated energy efficient window ranges, mention the Anniversary Offer. It is only valid for a limited time. Phone Bingley Windows to arrange for a home visit and a no-obligation free quotation. Say you saw it in the Aire Valley Mag!

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Keighley & Worth Valley Railway



Photo by A. Kissack

prepare for their day's duty and, if a "civil's weekend" (which is now almost every weekend due to the amount of effort it takes to keep the line in tip-top condition), the civil maintenance 'gang' will assemble. Each weekend a team walks the length of the line to inspect the track and you will often see a gang of volunteers out fettling and maintaining the railway's infrastructure. The buffet staff will be getting the kettles boiling and the shop staff opening up the retail outlets, ready to greet passengers in need of refreshment or a flag to wave excitedly at the passing trains.

We have station staff ready to direct passengers to the main event in Haworth, help them on and off the train and check that the doors are safely closed prior to departure, as well as provide help and advice to first-time visitors.

As you will appreciate, running the core timetable requires all of the above, and it's even more demanding when we run the 1940s weekend operation. With so many special events to meet passenger demands and to encourage more people to visit the area, we really do need your help to keep the increasingly elderly wheels turning. Please do visit the website to see the range of activities and roles that it takes to run the railway and to see the number of events that we have planned.

Matt Stroh KWVR Chairman

To make our contribution to the likes of Haworth's 1940s weekend work requires our first volunteer to clock-on at 4:30am... and to help do our important bit to alleviate traffic pressure in Haworth, it takes dozens of volunteers throughout each day to run one of our most intensive timetables ever.

And the 4:30 start is not that unusual when we are having to light the fires in plenty of time to raise steam in our locomotive fleet that includes one loco that we run regularly that was built back in 1899. The skill of the steam-raiser means that when the operational crew arrives, the loco has been warmed through at just the right pace to raise steam when it's needed for the first trip of the day. Meanwhile, the guard will have arrived at Oxenhope to inspect the carriages for the day's operation, but the evening before our band of volunteers will have been out preparing the coaching stock by washing them and preparing the steam heat system to ensure that they are pre-heated for when the first passengers board on Saturday morning. Around an hour before the first train is due, the stations will be readied for the day, signalmen will





10-11 June 2017
SAT: 11.00-22.00 SUN: 11.00-18.00

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Starting at Oxenhope Station, hikers will have the opportunity to do a warm up and enjoy entertainment including stalls and music, before boarding the Starlight Hike express train which will take passengers to Oakworth, where the walk will begin. Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice relies on the public's support in order to be able to provide specialist palliative and end of life care to patients living with life changing conditions as well as supporting their families and loved ones. It costs £9,000 per day to keep the hospice running, so public support does really make a difference.

Tickets are now on sale at www.sueryder.org/starlighthike/Manorlands for an early bird offer of £12 for an adult and £5 for under 16s. For more information please contact Hayley Ibbotson on 01535 640431 or email her at Hayley.ibbotson@suerydercare.org.

The ever popular Starlight Hike is back and participants can once again enjoy walking under the stars, whilst remembering loved ones and supporting the work of Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice on Saturday 30 September 2017. The hike will feature the Starlight Express train thanks to the support of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway.

Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice

Manorlands Hospice Starlight Hike

Saturday 30 September 2017. Starting at Oxenhope Railway Station.

Join us for a walk under the stars, remembering loved ones and raising funds for Manorlands Hospice along our 10k route.

To register visit: www.sueryder.org/starlighthike/manorlands or call 01535 640430.

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Airedale Hospital



Have you visited Airedale Hospital recently? Have you noticed the refurbished outpatients reception area with Friendly Café and Shop? Did you use the Wifi? All paid for by Friends of Airedale Hospital a local charity whose objective is to improve the patient experience. It provides those little extras that make a difference to any visit to or stay in hospital. Firstly, over 350 volunteers provide a range of services. There are drivers who help people get

to hospital, guides who help patients and visitors find their way around, help with feeding

patients and those who work in some 35 areas of the hospital. Secondly, they provide equipment and facilities that the NHS won't fund that can make a difference such as the vehicles for the transport service, exercise therapy equipment, comfy chairs and TVs in waiting rooms and ward lounges, flowers for the chapel, mobility equipment and The Clothes for Dignity service. Every other Saturday volunteers organise a social event in the restaurant, collecting patients from the wards, organising entertainment and providing refreshments.

All this costs money. Funding comes mainly from profits from the cafés and

shops in both Outpatients and in the Main Entrance Foyer. Friends of Airedale also run car boot sales and receive donations from grateful patients.

The latest exciting development is the **Friends of Airedale Lottery**. A chance to win £25,000 whilst helping your local hospital where friends and families have been treated. Entries cost £1 weekly and you receive a 6 digit number. Match all 6 numbers in the same order and you win £25,000. Match 3, 4, or 5 numbers and you receive prizes of £5, £25 or £1,000. 50p of every £1 entry goes to the charity. More details can be found on the website www.friendsofairedale.co.uk

Groovy Happening Saturday 3rd June 2017

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Simon Cowell



James Phelan, nephew of the late Paul Daniels joins us with his brand new one man show! James Phelan presents a night of light hearted, prank focused magic; utilising audience participation to comic effect.

Described by The Radio Times as having "a cheeky charm" the show is presented through this personality and is both jaw-dropping and laugh-out-loud funny!

He has been storming it online in the last twelve months whilst gaining a lot of traction in the national press, gaining almost 200,000 social media followers alone.

For tickets and further info visit www.giac.org.uk or phone the box office on 01535 630223

@glusburnarts

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Sudoku Puzzles

	3		7	1				
6								3
		2	8		9			7
9								1
		8	1	7				
	6							4
5			1	2	3			
	2							5
			7	8				9

	8	2		5				
			7		6			
3		6		2				9
1		7						
8	6						1	4
						5		3
	5			9		3		1
			1		4			
				7		6	4	

		3						7
				7	5	3		8
9				8		5		
	3	7				6		
			6		4			
		1				4	2	
		5	3					6
3		4	8	2				
7							9	

	2	4					3	
8					7			
				1	2		5	
							7	6
							8	4
		3					8	
4	5	2						
			8		5	9		
				6				5
		9					1	7

To solve a sudoku puzzle, each row of nine squares must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each column must also contain the numbers 1 through 9, and each box must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

To advertise call Jo or Liz on 01535 642227

Where in the Aire Valley? COMPETITION

Where is the red x located in the photo to the right? ?
 This month's prize is generously donated by East Riddlesden Hall

Family Ticket (Up to 2 adults & 3 children)

Email your answer to:
mail@worthvalleymag.co.uk

The winner will be selected from all correct answers received by 23rd June 2017.



Last month's location was Sutton Park Pavillion. The winner was Debbie Reid

@Google Earth

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The Friends of Silsden Library are delighted to announce the Opening of Silsden Community Library on Monday 5th June at 10am

Peter Cannon, Chair of the steering group, praised the commitment of his fellow group members and the volunteers who had come forward to staff the library. "Due to everyone's hard work we have managed to complete the training, organise the rotas and even re-paint the library in record time. We hope that the community will enjoy having their facility back again and look forward to meeting customers old and new. We would also like to thank Silsden Town Council, Skipton Building Society and Bradford Council's Keighley Area Committee for their generous donations"

The library will be having an **Official Opening Event on the morning of Saturday 24th June with a ribbon cutting ceremony, an exhibition of art work produced by Silsden residents, refreshments and activities for children.** Come and join us in celebrating the success of our library.



- ◆ Silsden Community Library is part of the Bradford Library Services and will continue to offer the usual library services.
- ◆ School aged children can sign up for the summer reading scheme this summer and will be able to take part in the Zoo Lab visit in August.
- ◆ In the autumn story time sessions for pre-school aged children will start.

The new opening times from Monday 5th June are:-

Mon	10am - 4pm
Tues	10am - 6pm
Wed	CLOSED
Thurs	10am - 4pm
Fri	10am - 4pm
Sat	9.30am - 1pm
Sun	CLOSED



Find us on **Facebook**
Silsden Community Library
 and our webpage at www.silsdentownhall.org.uk



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Walking in the Aire

by Lee Senior

Keighley to Park Wood, Thwaites Brow, Twines & Thwaites (circular)

Maps required: OS297 Explorer Lower Wharfedale & Washburn Valley
Walk Distance: 2.3 miles (3.7km)

This walk can begin at either Keighley bus or railway station. Whichever start point you choose both link up in Keighley town centre after a few minutes at Coney Lane off East Parade. The description assumes a starting point at Keighley Railway Station.

With our back to Keighley railway station, leave the cobbled forecourt by bearing left along Bradford Road. Continue past the petrol station on East Parade to the road junction with Coney Lane. The route from the bus station links up here.

Turn left here along Coney Lane, crossing the narrow road bridge carefully, using the footpath if possible. The road can be surprisingly busy.

Go under the railway bridge directly in front of us via a narrow archway. The bridge carries the delightful K&WVR steam railway on its way from Keighley to Oxenhope.

Continue up the tarmac footpath ahead. As the path swings right we cross over a disused railway line. Proceed on the minor cobbled road ahead rising gently to meet Moore St. Take this side road to reach Parkwood Street at the top.

Turn left before crossing the road near Parkwood primary school. Continue along the road for a very short distance. Turn right and walk up Brow St (the second road on our right after the primary school). Keighley Young People's Centre is noticed immediately on our left before we reach

the top of this short road.

At the top, turn left onto the wide, uneven track. Good views of Rombalds Moor are apparent now in the far distance. We almost immediately pass a play park on our left. Go along the track a little further. Ignore the first wooden gate on our right and also ignore the next two paths (both with no gate).

Very soon afterwards we reach our waymarked path pointing right, into the wood. This is Park Wood from where this area of Keighley takes its name. Our route is directly opposite Haynes Street. Take this obvious cobbled path which soon starts to climb.

Continue as the path takes us deeper into the woods over the next few minutes. Continue upwards, still climbing also ignoring the stepped path branching off on our right. The uphill path eventually twists markedly. Why not pause for a moment to catch your breath here and enjoy the quietness of this underrated urban wood.

Soon a handrail appears to our left. You may need to use the rail to give you a "pull up" as the climb has been quite noticeable thus far!

Go through the wooden gate. After a little more climbing we reach a residential cul-de-sac at Long Lee. Continue ahead crossing the cul-de-sac to rejoin the cobbled path which soon splits.

Ignore the fork to the right. Instead keep ahead on the level cobbled path crossing a track. Stay on the path in front of a row of houses set back on Spring Terrace to our right. Again our path is cobbled until it emerges at the end of Aireview Terrace. Now we cross the minor road



(Low Spring Road). Follow the gravel path directly in front. A gentle brief uphill section leads us to a lone boulder. Continue ahead. From here the path noticeably widens. Follow this track to the end to emerge at Thwaites Brow Road in Thwaites Brow.

Our walk continues by turning left down the road, quickly beginning a descent down the hill. This interesting and very distinctive road is known locally as the "Twines".

Vehicles do use the route but traffic flows are generally light, especially during off peak times. The road soon becomes cobbled and noticeably steep. Take care if the cobbles are wet. The panoramic views are stupendous as we carefully wind our way down the hill. Eventually the road gains a tarmac surface and levels as we weave through a small industrial area at the bottom.

Continue ahead to reach a road junction at Thwaites village.

We turn right over Thwaites Railway Bridge over the busy Airedale railway line. We quickly reach another road junction. Our walk back to the town centre takes us left here onto Dalton Lane. The last

ten minutes of our route is on this road, heading through some of Keighley's interesting industrial heritage.

Of note is the wonderfully historic Dalton Mills, a former textile mill which is gradually being restored.

Continue along Dalton lane to its junction with Bradford Road, adjacent to the college complex. Turn left here for a very short stroll to Keighley railway station and the end of our walk.



Lee Senior lives in Airedale and is a very experienced walker. He has walked 19 Long Distance Paths to date; the longest being the 192 miles, Coast to Coast. Lee has

also completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge walk five times. Since becoming a dad shorter walks have also become the norm.

Lee's first walking book "Walking in the Aire" is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/walkingintheaire/> When not out walking, Lee's other interests include horticulture and playing chess.

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SoulTrain to headline Fundraising Night for young Ryan



Ryan is four years old and lives in Riddlesden. At the age of two he was diagnosed with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy. This affects Ryan's legs and makes walking very difficult. He tires easily, falls over daily and struggles to climb the stairs. Playing football and riding his bike are impossible but there is hope that one day Ryan will be running around the playground with his friends. Ryan has been offered life-changing spinal surgery at Leeds Children's Hospital - Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy. This will release the tightness in Ryan's legs

and help him to lead a more independent life. The operation isn't funded by the NHS so his parents, Carla and Gordon Weatherall, along with family, friends and supporters have been fundraising for the £40,000 needed for the operation and years of physiotherapy. Ryan's fund is currently at £35,000 and to help raise the final £5,000, a **Soul and Motown Fundraising Night will be held at Victoria Hall in Keighley at 7.30pm on Saturday 17th June.** Entertainment will be provided by SoulTrain, a lively 11 member band and hosted by Kiki DeVille who appeared on The Voice in 2014. The evening includes a raffle and auction. **Tickets are priced at £12pp and can be bought via www.ryanswishtowalk.com/big-band-fundraiser, by emailing ryanswishtowalk@gmail.com or by calling 07989 508948.**

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Friends of Haworth Park & Haworth 1960s Weekend

To ensure that Haworth Central Park maintains Green Flag Status it is vital that the space is well used, including public events. So with that in mind a couple of years ago, The Friends of Haworth Park decided to bring back The Sixties Weekend. A group of willing volunteers, mostly local residents, came forward and put on a successful weekend last summer and they're doing it all again on the 24th and 25th of June this year.

Eleven bands will perform on the bandstand throughout both days, with The Sheratons and The Sillie Billies making a welcome return. The Pretend Beatles will be rounding off the weekend which is very apt as 25th June is World Beatles Day! Some of the bands will be playing in various pubs and performers on Main Street will add to the atmosphere.

Stalls, food and drink outlets and children's rides will ensure that there is something for everyone at this fabulous, fun, family event.

FoHP thank the 60s Weekend committee for their hours of hard work and all who support them. We hope that everyone has a groovy time.

Sarah Granby On behalf of FoHP photos by S Hogg



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COMMUNITY PAGES

The Healing Rooms meets every **Wednesday** (except 3rd & 31st May!) **3-5pm** at **The Shared Church, Church Green, Keighley**. If you have a physical or emotional need feel free to drop in to see us. Alternatively, email keighley@healingrooms.org.uk for more information.

Steeton Bobbins WI meet the first Tuesday of each month at **7pm** at **Steeton Hub**. More info contact Diane Pritchard 01535 653748.

Craven Mosaic and Crafts Group meet **Thursdays at 12.30pm to 3pm** at **The Cricket Pavilion**, Royd Hill, Sutton. www.cravenmosaicandcrafts.co.uk

Book Club at **7.30pm Steeton Hub** is every second Wednesday of a month. **Every Tuesday 1.30 - 3pm Games & Social Club at Glusburn Institute**. Enjoy an informal afternoon playing your favourite games or just enjoying a hot drink & chat. Table Tennis is also available. £2 including refreshments. More info call 01535 630223 or 07834 713735

1st Wednesday in each month

Breathe Easy Aire Valley 1.45 - 3.45 at the **Steeton Hub** BLF Respiratory Support Group Contact Ann Caden 07720810294 or

email: anncaden@yahoo.co.uk

Time for Me (Carers Resource) is a monthly group for carers and over 50's. Fun activities and friendly support at **Steeton Hub**, Stone Grove. More info call Carolyne 01274 449660.

Dementia Friendly Keighley seated exercise classes are every Monday **11.15am - 12pm** at **Central Hall, Keighley, BD21 3JD** More info call Maggie 07971 527525 or email info@

dementiafriendlykeighley.org.uk.
The Silver Line Helpline for older people Information, friendship, advice Calls are FREE: 0800 470 80 90 FREE, confidential 24 hour service www.thesilverline.org.uk. For a group talk/presentation about The Silver Line Contact the Community Engagement Volunteer, Jeanette House, Tel: 07873459188.

May until 5th November Welly Walk at **Bolton Abbey**. Tree climbing, tunnels, slides, bridges and beams, amazing fun, forget being clean!!! Follow the Welly Walk signs and enjoy a free woodland adventure trail from the Stepping Stones to the Cavendish Pavilion.

Sun 4th June - 9.30am - noon Business Table Top Sale £1 entry on the door Sellers to contact Jill Cook on 07794 366439 Silsden Youth & Community Centre, Elliott Street, Silsden (Behind the Fire Station)

Mon 5th June 10am Silsden Community Library re-opens. Daily opening times Mondays, Thursday and Fridays 10am - 4pm, Tuesdays 10am - 6pm, Saturdays 9.30am-1pm (closed Weds and Sundays)

Weds 7th June 2pm - 4pm Singing for Pleasure for over 50's (meet fortnightly) at **Steeton Methodist Church, Steeton**. £2 inc refreshments. Please come along.
Thurs 8th June 7.00pm South

Craven Community Library
 Author Talk by AA Dhand - **Meet the author of 'Streets of Darkness,'** an enthralling and fast-paced, Bradford-set crime novel. Tickets are £2 including refreshments & can be obtained from South Craven Community Library, Main St, Cross Hills, BD20 8TQ. Tel 01609 534502 e-mail: enquiries@sccls.org.uk

Sat 10th - Sat 24th June Bumper Book & DVD Sale - South Craven Community Library, Main St, Cross Hills, BD20 8TQ Very reasonably priced items on sale during library opening hours: Sat 10-12, Mon 2-7, Weds 10-1, Thurs 2-5, Fri 2-7 Proceeds go to the community library funds to maintain the library.

Sat 10th, 17th & Sun 11th June 2pm - 4pm Bandstand Concert at **Ilkley Bandstand**. Free entry.

Mon 12th - Sat 17th June Fur Coat & No Knickers at **Keighly Playhouse**.

Sat 17th June 11am The Real Wuthering Heights, the History & Life of the Withins Farms talk by Steven Wood & Peter Brears at Keighley Local Studies Library. Free Entry.

Sun 18th June 12pm Sutton Funday in the Park with stalls, attractions & fun fair.

Sat 24th June 10am Silsden Community Library opening celebrations event. The Library will be having an official opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony, free gifts for

children and refreshments..
Sat 24th & Sun 25th June Haworth 1960's Weekend. Music, stalls, live bands, performers, vintage vehicles, beer tent, cocktails, children's petite funfair and much much more. The village will come alive with the sound of scooters, motorbikes, minis and other vehicles cruising in for the weekend's festivities. Come along get dressed up and have a fun weekend in Haworth.

Sun 25th June 12 noon Big Bike Sunday at Skipton Auction Mart. £3 entry The money raised this year will go to Manorlands, Yorkshire air ambulance and Blood bikes (who help the NHS by transporting blood and donor organs around the country)
Sat 1st July - A Grand Day Out in Silsden Park 11am to 4pm - family fun to celebrate Silsden's much-loved park on the day that the 2017 Tour de France starts.

Sat 1st July 2pm Summer Fair at St Thomas' Church, Sutton. Strawberry teas, cakes, plants, games, books, raffle, tombola & stalls. All Welcome.
Sun 2nd July 9.30am - noon General Table Top Sale £1 entry on the door.

Sellers to contact Jill Cook on 07794 366439. Silsden Youth & Community Centre, Elliott Street, Silsden (Behind the Fire Station)

Sun 2nd July 10am - 4pm Skipton's Sheep Day (High Street). It's a fun packed FREE event for all the family and celebrates Skipton's heritage, its Anglo Saxon name being 'Sceap Tun', meaning Sheep Town.

Sun 9th July - 3pm Silsden Town Band at the Silsden Band Stand

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM



We're getting ready for an incredibly busy June in the Museum. On Friday 9 June our annual Brontë Society Festival Weekend begins, when Brontë Society members from across the UK and abroad visit Haworth and enjoy a packed programme of events. The director of the National Theatre's *Jane Eyre* (now touring) will be joining us, as will Skipton-born writer Blake Morrison (author of *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*), who will share his lifelong fascination with the Brontës.

On Thursday 15 June, we're delighted to welcome Hebden Bridge-based artist Kate Lycett to the museum for a special Meet the Maker evening. Kate specialises in painting landscapes and townscapes, and the Brontë Parsonage now features in her portfolio. Museum entry is free to local visitors after 5.30pm, and there will be 10% of Kate's range in the shop if you want to treat yourself.

Towards the end of the month we're getting into the spirit of the Haworth 60s weekend with a nod to the 50th anniversary of Mike Nichols' *The Graduate*. Come along to hear free talks at 2pm about the Mrs Robinson who allegedly had an affair with Branwell whilst he was employed as tutor to her son; an affair that led to his dismissal and subsequent decline.

We begin **Monday 26 June** – the 200th anniversary of Branwell's birthday – on a cheerier note, with a birthday breakfast at the place where Branwell was born in Thornton; Emily's café. Guests can enjoy a delicious selection of pastries, while Ann Dinsdale, our Principal Curator, shares her experience of 'living with Branwell' over the past 27 years. Back at the museum, and throughout the day, there will be informal talks about Branwell, an opportunity to paint Branwell – or yourself! – into the iconic Pillar portrait – and there will be a screening of documentary film *A Humble Station?* which explores Branwell's time in the Calder Valley.

The birthday celebrations end with Poetry at the Parsonage on **1 July**. The Old School Room will play host to open mic throughout the day, and become the stage for 'Poetryopolis' in the evening – a feast of a treat for poetry lovers, featuring readings from Simon Armitage, Patience Agbabi, Jacob Polley, Kei Miller, Zaffar Kunial and Clare Shaw. Don't miss the opportunity to hear some of the most vibrant poetic voices on the contemporary scene!

Brontë Parsonage
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A purposeful trek by Pam Howarth

After nine months of planning, training and fund raising I had finally arrived in Cusco, Peru, South America, to trek the Inca trail to Machu Picchu! I was one of 13 women, aged between 26 and 65, from all over the UK, who had worked for months to get sponsors for this trek and raise money for Breast Cancer Care. Nine of the 13 had been through breast cancer themselves, and between us we'd raised more than £70,000.

Sunday, April 2nd, 6.00am.

We left the hustle and bustle of Cusco by coach and drove along country roads to the Sacred Valley. We drove through small villages and climbed higher and higher along narrow roads. Then as we came over a hill we saw the glacier Veronique, which is as high as Kilimanjaro, at over 5000m; we could see the snow on top. After a couple of hours we arrived at a makeshift bus station to meet our porters. There were 13 of us and 20 porters to carry our tents and cooking equipment, and two guides to lead the way. There were locals selling all sorts of souvenirs, including bandanas; I bought one as it's a good idea to wear it over your nose if you have to use a portalo! One of our group gave a little boy a banana and he kissed it, then came back with his little brother for another. We set off, rucksacks loaded, trekking

poles in hand. The adventure began. We walked along through farmland, passing cacti with prickly pears on top and fertile fields. I passed an old man propping a wheelbarrow on his knees while his son rendered a wall and his wife sold fruit. After a few hours we stopped at a farm. For one sol (25p) we used their loo, which was a bit like an old outhouse. A pretty little girl of about eight collected our coins and never stopped smiling. The people are really lovely and friendly. We passed trees with avocados growing, and the whole place was so lush and green. We trekked at a steady pace and were able to walk 14km today, which was classed as the easy day!

Monday, April 3rd, 6.00am.

This was our highest climb to 4215m and known as Dead Woman's Pass. We set off at a steady pace and I was doing fine. Our guide Justino was at the front with our doctor at the back of the group and the other guide, Lewis, in the middle. They communicated on walkie talkies. I found myself at the front and found my pace. I counted in my head to keep a rhythm. It was slow going but steady. We were climbing through rain forest that was like something from Jurassic Park. I felt strong and great; I could see the peak in the distance and the path was winding its way up the side of a steep mountain. We stopped for lunch. People were quiet now, as it was getting tough. One of our group was quite ill, she had been sick and was getting dehydrated. The doctor agreed that she needed to go back, as if she were to carry on they would need to helicopter her off. They assigned her a porter to take her back down, which would take one and a half days even after hiring a one-eyed mule from a local farmer for her to ride. We were all very sad for her

as we had become close and all felt her disappointment, but she would meet us again at Machu Picchu. The lack of oxygen was noticeable. We walked down steep granite steps for the next four hours, passing humming birds, wild orchids and amazing waterfalls. It was harder for me going down than climbing up. Night was falling as we got closer to our camp and we were greeted by the croaking of hundreds of frogs!

Tuesday April 4th, 5.00am. We were up as the sun was rising over the mountain. From above the clouds it was breathtaking. Today was going to be the longest day. After a long and steep climb we looked back to see the peak of Dead Woman's Pass from yesterday and how far we had come. At the summit of today's peak, Runkaraqay, we built a cairn of rocks. We each placed our own rock on the pile and paused, deep in thought. It was very quiet and still. We each had our reasons for being on this walk and this was the

point at which these reasons seemed to grow in our consciousness. As each of us took time out in our own private world, it was clear that we had come together as strangers but would leave as close friends. When we got up and walked on it was along very narrow pathways, with sheer drops. It was hard, and as the light began to fade we were now walking in small groups with head torches lighting our way. We arrived at camp late and we were all exhausted and drained. I had been asked to collect tips from everyone to give to the porters, which makes up an important part of their wages. After our meal we gave

these out and thanked them for looking after us.

Wednesday April 5th, 3.30am.

We had an amazing breakfast of pancakes and quinoa porridge and they had even baked us a cake! Today was my favourite day. We saw the sun rise in a haze over the mountain tops. Birds were waking up and singing. The smell of the dew on the trees

and plants was so fresh. We walked through rainforest. Now we could see the Urubamba river again and in the distance we heard the train heading towards Aguas Calientes. With our hands we climbed the monkey steps, or "Gringo Killers" as the locals called them; it was great fun,

and then our destination, Machu Picchu, was in front of us.

I could only imagine how Hiram Bingham must have felt when he re-discovered Machu Picchu in 1911. We were here, this destination that we'd been dreaming of going to for so long.

Machu Picchu is one

of those places in the world, like Easter Island, or maybe the Pyramids, that has a mysterious, even mythical quality, but it was no longer myth, it was reality. Here we were. We'd made it.

As we finally stepped through the Sun Gate it was shrouded in cloud. Some of us burst into tears, then we all hugged, and then we waited. We stood in silence as gradually the clouds drifted away and revealed the magnificent Sacred Site of Machu Picchu below us. We had done it. We had trekked the Inca trail. - Pam Howarth



Pam Howarth, local resident

Say you saw it in the Aire Valley Mag!

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Chris (Bristles Chimney Sweep Service)

I have advertised with the Aire Valley Mag now for a number of years to which I have had a fantastic response, I feel that the magazine is an honest publication that local people have learnt to know and trust. I know from the feedback that I have received from my customers that this little book is not only an interesting read but also provides a solid base for local business to promote their services. I can only thank Joanne and the team for consistently providing a quality publication that is well presented, has great distribution and is favoured above other such magazines that we receive through our letter boxes. May all your great work continue!

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