

A scenic landscape photograph of a golf course. In the foreground, a large, leafless tree stands on the left, its branches framing the scene. To the right, a stream flows through a series of manicured hedges. The middle ground shows a green golf course with a sand trap. In the background, there are rolling hills under a bright sky with a sun flare on the left.

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

March 2013

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Judging by my utility bills, it has been a long hard winter. But the promise of spring around the corner cheers me up and I aim to switch off the central heating by Easter. Woolly jumpers will be on hand and I have ordered another load of wood after reading this month's article by Spanner Man (p26); hopefully, my solid fuel stove will keep the chill away.

The property market feels like it might be pepping up...Easter is a great time to think about making a move.

Thanks to Jonathan Sharp, our resident farmer and Rural Matters columnist, I will never look at the white stuff I pour on my cornflakes every morning in quite the same way (p12).

I say it every year...How about participating in the Manorlands 10k on Mothers Day? (p21) I did it with my 80 year old mother a few years ago and the family still talk about how she beat me to the finish line. But I'm not bitter :) Have a great March.



Liz Barker, editor @LocalGlobalGirl

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Say you saw it in the Aire Valley Mag!

COUNTRY COOKING & FORAGING FOR FOOD

For the promotion of Health & Wellbeing by Cath Bromwich



I have a fabulous allotment and it has reaffirmed for me the connection between growing and eating well. Knowing what you are really eating is a topical subject right now and there is no better way

to be sure of that than to grow it yourself. There is nothing growing on there right now except weeds as despite the weather a few dandelions have already appeared... and these are edible! Yes, finally, something useful to do with them!

Traditionally people relied on what we now see as weeds to boost their diet at the end of winter when stocks were run down and they needed nutrients from plants. Maybe you have an older relative who eats nettles in spring? The French eat dandelion leaves in salads and I make a beautiful nutty-flavoured syrup out of the flowers to use in cakes...

so if you see someone picking hundreds of them in a field then, yes, that may well be me!

Besides their nutritional value, eating wild plants make us more aware of nature and our environment and can add interest and variety to a diet dictated by the supermarkets. They can save us a little money as well as tasting so much fresher, and there is some satisfaction to eating a weed that was rude enough to grow in your vegetable patch. By Easter there will be quite a variety of greenery growing for free all around us.

There are a few simple guidelines to follow when foraging: first and foremost, know for sure what you are picking! Avoid anywhere too close to traffic or where dogs are walked or where weed killer may have been used. I find the best place is up on a moor or country lane. For obvious reasons wear gloves to pick nettles. Only take the very tops in spring; more about that at a later date.

Tasty tip: Cook nettle tops in a little water until wilted then cover with a cheese sauce in a dish and grill until cheese is bubbling and brown.

Traditional recipe for interest: Easter pudding

I have heard this talked about in Cumbria and they are made with leaves from hedgerow plants common to North-West England although Bistort is the main leaf ingredient in all variations. This is served alongside your Easter roast lamb.



From Mrs Scott of Wigton (Great-Great-Grandmother's Recipe) 'A Taste of The Lake District', by Theodora Fitzgibbon', Published 1980

Ingredients: 1lb young bistorts and young nettle tops; 1 large onion; 4oz pot barley; 1 egg; a large knob of butter; 1/2 tsp salt, pepper.

Method: Chop the greens and onion finely and sprinkle the washed barley among them, adding the salt. Boil in a muslin bag for about 2 hours. Before serving, beat the mixture in a dish with 1 egg, a large knob of butter, salt and pepper (some people mix in a cup of oatmeal at this stage), then make into a cake and fry in fat.

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

by Jenna Holmes Arts Officer Brontë Parsonage Museum



Refurbishment in progress: This photo was taken in January 2013. We hope you will come along and see the final result.

In January and early February the Museum was closed to the public, but behind the scenes we were having the busiest weeks of the year. A team of specialist decorators carried out the first redecoration of the Parsonage in 25 years, with new bespoke wallpapers, paint colours, curtains and painstakingly woven rugs. The project has been a very exciting one, and has taken two years in development, using up-to-date forensic techniques by academics at the University of Lincoln. The Museum also used archive references including Brontë letters, scraps of original wallpaper and watercolours in our collection to find out how the house would have looked when the Brontës lived here. The house now looks much as it did in the 1830s and 40s but also includes some of the features that Charlotte introduced as part of her facelift for the house during the early 1850s (when she spent some of the income she had earned from Jane Eyre, Shirley and Villette).

You will need to visit the Parsonage to see the new scheme in its full glory – and there will probably be a few surprises for those who know the Museum well! – but here are a few examples of what we've been up to:

In the Dining Room - often the focus of the

house because it's the room in which the sisters' famous novels were written - we've reintroduced Charlotte's own decorative scheme from the early 1850s, using details from her correspondence. The curtains are still in the process of being specially woven, in crimson, to match Elizabeth Gaskell's description: 'The parlour has evidently been refurbished within the last few years... The prevailing colour of the room is crimson...' Forensic analysis told us this room was papered both before and after the time of Charlotte's 'gentrification', and the paper we have chosen is a contemporary design, in scarlet to match the curtains.

One of the most dramatic changes is in Mr Brontë's study, which is now a pretty pale green. Clear evidence existed that this room was papered, and that there were several shades of green used. The panelling of the door was picked out in one shade, and the surrounding areas another. The wallpaper is reproduced from one of the period to match.

We hope that you will come along and visit the Brontë Parsonage Museum to see the final result. The Museum is open every day from 11am - 5pm in March. Church Street, Haworth BD22 8DR 01535 642323

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Bread and Butter pudding extraordinaire



Creative people will always find a way to create. When Anthony Hartley's Damside Mill workshop caught fire in December, it left him without a place to create his furniture. So he transferred his creativity into the kitchen in his Oxenhope home. Having never baked before, he started with homemade bread, and is (happily for his friends) working through the baking classics. He recently wowed guests with this delicious take on a family favourite. He insists that the quality of the preparation and ingredients will make all the difference – just like in his furniture.

- About 8 slices of good white bread, buttered with good butter and crusts cut off
- 300ml of single cream and 300ml of full cream milk
- 4 medium or large eggs
- 35g caster sugar and a spoonful of icing sugar
- An orange and a lemon, zested
- Sultanas, currants or other dried fruit
- An ovenproof dish about 1.25 – 1.5 litres (find out by measuring out some water and then pouring into the dish – if its within about an inch or two of the top, that's fine), a heat proof 1-litre jug & a roasting tin big enough to put the dish in.

Cut each slice of bread into 2 triangles, and line the bowl (sides and bottom) with overlapping slices. Sprinkle over the sultanas.

Make a custard by beating the eggs in the jug and adding the lemon and orange zest. Then heat the milk, cream and sugar together (gently, don't boil), making sure the sugar has dissolved. Pour slowly into the eggs and stir well. Pour the custard over the bread, and sprinkle with icing sugar to prevent a crust forming on the custard. You can leave this to stand until ready to cook, or just for about half an hour to allow the custard to seep into the bread.

Heat the oven to 150 / 300 / gas 3. Place the dish in the roasting tin on the oven shelf, and then pour in enough warm water to the roasting tin to come about half way up the pie dish. Bake for 30 – 40 minutes until set and with a golden top



Anthony Hartley with one of his other delectable creations



Keighley aims to gain Fairtrade town status by 2014. An ambitious bid was launched at a business breakfast hosted by the Keighley

Town Centre Association on February 15th. Backed by the Co-operative Group, Suma Wholefoods, and a number of enthusiastic individuals, including KTCA, Richard Dillon, the chief campaigner, gave a presentation explaining the goals of a fairtrade town and the criteria for gaining accreditation:

To become a Fairtrade Town five objectives must be met; the town can work towards them in any order.

1. Local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices and canteens).
2. At least four Fairtrade product ranges are readily available in the area's retail outlets (shops, supermarkets, newsagents and petrol stations) and two products served in local catering outlets (cafés, restaurants, pubs).
3. Local workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.
4. Media coverage and events raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.
5. A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support.

Mr. Dillon pointed out that much of the criteria may already be met but a steering group is required to ensure the town is on track for the 2014 time frame and to plan future activities.

With the Tour de France on the horizon, Keighley has a unique opportunity to showcase its ethical credentials and take a stand for fair trade on the global arena; Fairtrade Keighley

hopes to establish itself and be ready for the occasion.

Quick off the mark, Fairtrade Keighley get started just in time to run in sync with the Fairtrade Foundation's wider campaign of Fairtrade Fortnight. This years theme is

'Go Further With Fairtrade'

Feb 27-March 10

Wednesday February 27th Palestinian Olive Oil farmers will be welcomed to Keighley by Deputy Mayor Sally Walker at a special Fairtrade meeting. Local Fair Trade wholesale distributor, Premcrest, will display their range of Fairtrade products.

Later in the morning The Co-operative Membership will meet with retailers Fair and Funky of Holmfirth and Keighley social enterprise Smallworld to take part in the creation of Fairtrade Orchard, an art project using packaging from Fairtrade goods. The respective businesses will work together with Keighley primary schools with the aim of presenting the completed piece to the towns councillors and traders.

Saturday 3 March at Central Hall on Alice Street, 7pm-10pm is the screening of Black Gold with pre-film Fairtrade drinks supplied by The Co-op. All welcome. contact Richard Dillon r_dillon29@yahoo.co.uk

Soaring sales in 2012, showing public support for and business interest in Fairtrade goes on expanding and deepening.

The Fairtrade Foundation's new CEO Michael Gidney says: "Fairtrade sales continue to confound expectation in the midst of the current tough economic climate. The UK public have developed a lasting appetite for food and goods traded on fairer terms with producers, and forward thinking businesses are responding energetically to this by providing a wider range of products."

Estimated retail sales of Fairtrade products in 2012 reached £1.57 billion, a 19% increase on sales of £1.32 bn in 2011.

Contact Richard Dillon r_dillon29@yahoo.co.uk for more information. or find Fairtrade Keighley on Facebook

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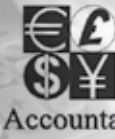
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RURAL MATTERS The Circle of Life by Jonathan Sharp

A cow has to have a calf to produce milk and to be most efficient she should have one every year. Fertility is one of the most critical factors to manage on the dairy farm. The photo here is of a Bray Breeding board; it shows the herd's fertility status at a glance. Each of the magnets you can see is a breeding female on the farm, they are coloured differently on each side; the one showing white are new calved, the green ones have been on heat, orange ones are served, purple confirmed in calf, yellow dry and blue in the transition group. The pointers move round every day (manually) so I can tell when a cow in due to calve or to dry off etc. It is one of the most useful pieces of equipment on the farm and the first thing I look



at in the morning. My Bray Breeding board was bought second hand at a farm sale for £43 twenty years ago and represents some of the best money I've spent related to my work.

The transition group are the cow three weeks pre calving; they get a special diet to prepare them for the next lactation and imminent calving. It includes a mineral formulated by the vet to make sure the cows are in tip top form and it does work as we have very little calving problems. If calving is easy then the transition into the next lactation should be easy. The next challenge is getting them back in calf again! New calved cows wear a collar

that monitors their movements letting me know if the cow is sick (less than normal movement) or in heat (more movement). Cows mount each other when in heat this is a throwback to the day when they were wild. Males live apart from the rest of the herd so that was a way of signalling that their services were needed.

We start serving at 40 days post calving, that way we should be fertilizing an egg that was formed while the cow was dry. If we don't serve them until 90 days we're dealing with an egg that was formed while the cow was milking heavily and tends not to be as fertile.

We have the vet every Friday morning scanning cows to make sure they are in calf and to check for twins. We run at 6% twins but about twice that are scanned with twins and either lose one or both calves so those cows are rescanned at 80 days.

I hope I'm not getting too technical with my explanations about dairy farming but I would like you to get an idea about what goes in to providing you with that white liquid you pour on your cornflakes in the morning!



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St Stephen's Court, Steeton

This charming double fronted cottage on a private road offers delightful family sized accommodation, sitting room, dining kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom with front garden and rear patio, cobbled parking area and garage. EPC rating D.

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Tufton Street, Silsden

This attractive well presented stone built terraced property has been tastefully updated. Briefly comprises sitting room with modern kitchen, two bedrooms and modern bathroom. Outside there is a front paved area and a yard to the rear with an outbuilding. Separate single garage. Ideal first time buyers EPC rating D.

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The Silsden Team

SUDOKU

The objective of sudoku is to enter a digit from 1 through 9 in each cell, in such a way that: Each horizontal row contains each digit exactly once; Each vertical column contains each digit exactly once; Each subgrid or region contains each digit exactly once.

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

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

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

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

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Where's Lee in the Aire Valley? COMPETITION

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Last month's winner was: Brian Edwards

The correct answer was Sutton C of E

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TOP TECH TIPS by Michelle Thompson of Cloud

Security Software – which one is best?



There have been significant strides made in improving built-in security in operating system software (Windows, MacOS, iOS & Android), but still the market is awash with security products purporting to be 'all the security you'll ever need' for your PC, laptop, netbook, tablet or smartphone. Some are free (yay!), but many can prove quite expensive (boo!), some are even malware themselves (eek!). Many of the 'total protection' products do so much scanning and protecting behind the scenes that your computer performance takes a nosedive. If you look at various product reviews online you'll see that the answer to the 'which one is best' question varies, but it takes skill to see through reviewer bias and it's important to assess the results over several months to get a true picture of performance, reliability and consistency. Free products often rank highly in these tests as the core malware scanning engine is the same as for the vendor's paid-for product (minus the extra 'bells n' whistles'). Most 'free' products are only 'free for home use'. If your computer is for business use, a paid-for security product is recommended, because vendors respond quicker to customers who pay for their software. If you run into a problem on a computer that holds business-critical data, you don't want to wait 48 hours for a response from the helpdesk!

I think placing all your trust in any security software (free or paid-for) is, well, foolish (like having a car with great brakes, but driving without watching the road, or eating unpasteurised cheese you know is past its use by date). Spending money on software you may not actually need is...[expletives omitted to

maintain decorum]. If you don't need all the 'bells n' whistles' why pay for them?

Whichever security software you choose, cybercriminals & hackers will always be one step ahead. All security software works on a mostly reactive basis and relies on regular updates (usually every day). New threats may pass under the radar. To steer clear of trouble you actually need to do some steering yourself! Be proactive and 'use your loaf'!

Be on the look-out for phishing and scam emails – bin them immediately! Avoid dodgy websites, gambling sites, file-sharing/free download services etc. Ignore prompts to install apps which interface with Facebook. Now, I know what you're thinking - '...but that's all the fun bits!' Well, perhaps some of them. But didn't I just mention 'using your loaf'?

It's very easy to block access to the majority of unsafe resources from your home network by using the 'Internet Safety' services offered by the larger ISPs, or by implementing security rules on a PC or router-based Firewall. It's well worth consulting a professional on this though. A few pounds now, getting advice on security, may save you a fortune.

Sensible people avoid dodgy areas of cities after dark. If they have no option but to 'venture into The Hood' they certainly keep their valuables out of sight and steer clear of dark alleys! Why not adopt a similar attitude to your internet usage? Avoiding altogether those 'cyberplaces' that could put your computer and personal security at risk is, well, common-sense! Coupled with the built-in security in your operating system and a well-known free security product this is usually enough for many users. It won't ruin your computer's performance and won't cost a lot either!

If you want to know more, visit www.getsafeonline.org

For Runners and Walkers

A multi-terrain 10K route linking parks and scenic paths, suitable for all abilities, run for your Mum!

For further information and to enter online go to www.bigk10k.org.uk or phone 01535 640176 or email andrew.wood@sueryder.org for an entry form.

Adult entry early bird £10, then £12 after 22 February
11 - 18 year olds £6
Corporate Entry for a team of 5: £40

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Ref 107764 Sue Ryder is a charity registered in England and Wales (1181204) and in Scotland (SC0331978)

**Mothers Day
Sunday 10 March
9.00am Start
Victoria Park
Keighley**

Distributing Real Community Connection

It has become apparent over the years that our readers look forward to their magazine arriving each month and they soon let us know if it doesn't get there safely.

We have a trusty back checker who knocks on doors once the mags are out, asking people if they've received their copy and reporting back to us.

We have high expectations when it comes to the distribution of your magazine. And our success lies with our team of 40 local people who, every month, whatever the weather, turn out to post your copy through your door.

Last December's double edition was delivered by the team slipping and sliding on ice and snow, one suffering a painful fall. (I won't name you Mr A!) and some falling over, thankfully injuring nothing more than their pride.

February was a challenging month as well but did they complain? They just got out there and did what they had to do.

We think it's time you met these fantastic people and starting this month it's our intention to begin introducing them to you.

Meet teenage students, Chloe and Joe,

two of the distribution team who are also a couple. Chloe has delivered the Worth Valley Mag in Oakworth for the last

18 months (with the support of her mum) and Joe has delivered the new Aire Valley edition in the Fell Lane area for 4 months.

They're a reliable, hardworking pair, both



keen footballers who spend time coaching the under 9's at Oakworth football club. I asked Chloe if she had a message for the readers and she said, "If you young people are interested in earning, this is good. It would also suit older, retired people because it's good to walk around in the fresh air". She said she liked the mag because "It supports local businesses and creates opportunities for people like me". She added that the funniest thing to have happened whilst she was out delivering was the day she got stuck in a garden because spiders had crawled onto the top of the gate. She's terrified of them and dared not open it. She had to wait for her mum to come and let her out! (Aaaw!)

Joe told me that he enjoys delivering the mag because he likes being active and walking around the area where he lives and seeing people who he knows. He said "The mag is free for everybody, the adverts are good because they're all local and it helps keep us busy". He also commented on the quality of the photography, in particular, the front page pictures of local places.

I asked him "Who's your favourite reader?" and he replied, "My dad!"

Be sure to say hello to Chloe and Joe if you see them!

Diane (Distribution manager)

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COMMUNITY PAGES

Every Thursday 'Our Space' night. Talks/workshops on holistic healing. Cost £1 to cover heating and refreshments. All welcome. 7.30-9.30pm at **Crystal Space, Aire View, Silsden BD20 OAN**, Tel 07546 109072 for more info.

From 28th February **Keighley Art Club** has two new Exhibitions to look at, as well as the Mural in the Old Police Station. The first is in the Cafe in the Civic Centre, North Street and the second in Inc Creative, Cavendish street, which is just above the bottom junction, Entry to both is free. Both are open weekdays and Saturday. **Thurs 7th March** Entries close for the BigK3 (2 bike rides and a 10K) and and the Sue Ryder Yorkshire Triathlon. Call 01535 640430.

Sat 9th -Sun 10th March East Riddlesden Hall - 10.30 am until 4 pm. Treat Mum to something really special. Make Mum a beautiful smelling gift using herbs from the garden, complete with a handmade label. Then treat your Mum to a delicious cream tea in the tea-room. Normal Admission Charges Apply.

Sat 9th & Sun 10 March Bronte School Rooms Haworth 10 am until 4 pm Mother's Day Craft & Gift Fair.

Sun 10 th March Keighley BigK 10K run walk. Entries still welcome, entry on the day available subject to capacity. See www.bigk10k.org.uk or call the fundraising office on 01535 640430.

Mon 11th until Sat 16th March Making Waves at Keighley Playhouse 5 Devonshire Street, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD21 2BH Phone: 0845 126 7859 Website: www.keighleyplayhouse.co.uk

Mon 11th -Sat 16th March - Skipton

Please support local trade

Music Festival - Skipton Town Hall

The festival is held annually in March and lasts for a week. The climax of the festival is always the Saturday evening concert where there is the opportunity to hear again some of the outstanding performances of the week. The evening concert is a relaxed and enjoyable celebration without the stress of competition For more info call Ann Ware telephone 01756 793195.

Weds March 13th Talk and presentation about the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

The Oddfellows 7.30pm to 9:00pm 4 Henry Street, Keighley for more info ring George on 01274 560937 Free Entry

Fri 15th - Sun 17th March Manorlands Jailbreak

Jailbreak from the authentic cells within Keighley Civic Centre in aid of Manorlands. 36 hours to get as far away from the town as you can with no money. For more see www.sueryder.org/jailbreak2013 or call fundraising office on 01535 640430.

Sat 16th March Antique & Collectors Fair

held at the **Octagon**, Bfd Road, Sandbeds, Keighley, up to approx. 40 stalls, car park, on main bus route, disabled access, excellent cafe bar on site ... opening times: 10am - 4pm (early trade entry 9am) tel. 07866 171722 (Worth Valley Fairs)

Sun 17th March Lavenderfields Craft & Gift Fair 10am until 4 pm at Mercure Hotel (formerly Bankfield, Bingley BD16 1TU) Free Entry.

further info 01535 211486 www.lavenderfieldsevents.co.uk (supporting Cancer Research UK)

Sun 17th March Time Detectives - Archaeology Fun Day at University of Bradford, Communal Building, Richmond Rd, Bradford, BD7 1DP

11 am until 3 pm. Free entry. A mixture of 'drop in' activities and taster sessions for all the family, as well as an assortment of workshops. Archaeology-inspired art Kidz Digz - become a Time Detective Medical Mystery - discover how disease can be identified from old bones. CSI: South Pennines - help unravel the clues at our crime scene. Discover dinosaurs! Rock 'n' Roll - find out about the rocks that shaped our landscape. Flint knapping demonstrations. Meet the Vikings! Free workshops (see website for details - booking advised).

Sun 17th March Olicana to Calvary walk by the Keighley branch of the Ramblers Association Circular walk of 8 miles Starting at Ilkley Old Bridge down by the river this is a walk through history as the walk title suggests. Please wear appropriate clothing & footwear and bring a packed lunch for the break. Meet on the south side of Ilkley Old Bridge for a 10.30am start. Please contact Allan on 01535-664691 beforehand if you are new to the group.

Tues 19th March Skipton Town Hall at 7.30pm. Skipton Music is thrilled to welcome back Kathryn Stott

who once again brings an emerging international artist to complete our series of concerts as she accompanies the Norwegian trumpet virtuoso Tine Thing Helseth. They will play music by Georges Enescu, Paul Hindemith, Maurice Ravel and more. Full details on www.skiptonmusic.org.uk. at 7.30pm. Tickets: Adult £15 Schoolchild £1. Available from www.skiptonmusic.org.uk, 01756 799912 and on the door. **Sun March 24th 7 miles Millennium Way Circular Walk** Meet Martin Dyche at 10:30am at Wesley Place car park, Silsden. An undulating walk with some stiles and good views. Bring a packed lunch!

Weds 27th March Keighley Astronomical Society at 6.30pm - Star Centre, Keighley Campus, Leeds City College, Bradford Road, Keighley. £3 entry fee. email currdomain@sky.com or call 07976 632989 for further information.

Fri 29th Mar - Mon 1st April Easter Egg Hunt Bolton Abbey 10am-4pm Join us to see if you can find all the hidden Easter eggs through Strid Wood. The Easter Bunny will be outside the Cavendish Shop in its hutch to meet girls and boys and give away free chocolate eggs to all those who take part.

Fri 29th - Mon 1st April - Easter Trails and Springtime Crafts at East Riddlesden Hall 10.30am until 4pm. Take part in this eggciting Easter trail... Will you finish it and claim your prize? Join a host of exciting activities! Including a trail round the garden and lots of other eggs-tra fun things to do. Trail sheet: £1.50 per child (includes arts and craft activities)



Ramblings from *The Spanner Man*

Biomass i.e. burning materials like wood, forest residues (branches, wood chips, dead trees, branches, tree stumps), and rubbish is one way to generate heat in our homes. In the North of the UK the use of domestic biomass is becoming more and more popular, with sales of wood and multi fuel stoves at an all-time high.

When it comes to purchasing wood for this purpose things get a little bit complicated. All the other fuels are sold in units: cubic meters, kilowatts, weight or litres. Wood can be sold by weight or volume. To further muddy the waters, different wood has different properties to consider. Hard wood burns longer than soft wood, but soft wood is very good to start a fire. Wood contains approx. 40% - 60% moisture (water). Buying by weight is only relevant when you know what type of wood you are purchasing. Another factor to consider is whether it is seasoned (dried out over time) or Kiln dried. Consequently, it is better to know how much you are paying per cubic metre or cubic foot.

Currently, the Worth & Aire valleys we can pay as much as £6.01 per cubic foot and as little as £2 per cubic foot for wood, often sold in netted bags. The best thing to do is to buy in

bulk if you can and keep it dry before you burn it.

Make sure your wood/multi fuel burner is in good condition and that the doors and vents can be shut off and sealed properly. This is the most efficient way to control the rate of wood you burn per hour and the heat output. The fire grate should be clean and the flue mustn't leak. As with a central heating boiler, which should be serviced annually, a stove and its flue should also be serviced annually. Leaky stoves, that is uncontrolled air ingress, use more fuel and do not burn at the correct temperature.



The golden rules for getting the best out of a biomass or multi fuel stove: **1.** Make sure the stove is in good working order, **2.** If it's broken or leaking at all get it fixed before using it! **3.** Buy as much wood as you can store in a dry place, let it dry out as long as you can before burning it. **4.** Summer wood prices are usually cheaper; plan ahead and purchase in advance of the winter months. **5.** Make sure your house is sealed and insulated as much as possible.

We all know that the cost of heating is going up whatever type of fuel we choose. Understand how you are purchasing your fuel and what unit of measurement is being applied. Shop around and ask for a bulk discount.

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Encore for Gemma!



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Gemma



Palampur, India



My name is Gemma Louise Craven and this summer I am volunteering in the deprived village of Palampur in India. On this expedition I will be teaching impoverished children English along with many other life skills. I will also be helping re-build the recently flooded village of Palampur, providing more permanent infrastructures and comfortable lifestyles for families.

This type of expedition is something I have always wanted to do, and my current education at Durham University has made it possible. In order to participate in this expedition I have to raise £1,300, which goes straight to the Future Sense Foundation. To help me achieve this total I have organised a concert at Bingley Little Theatre on the 7th of April. At which the Leeds Operatic

Theatre Group, Encore, will be performing. Tickets are £7 and include a supper of pie and peas, a reasonably priced bar will also be available. The night will start at 6:30pm and finish at approximately 9pm. Tickets are available to buy from Bingley Little Theatre or on request by emailing: g.l.craven@dur.ac.uk

Aside from the charitable target of £1,300, I also have to raise an additional £1,300 for the cost of my expedition. Therefore I am also looking for kind donations to help me with the cost of this, any other donations can also be given through my just giving page: <http://www.justgiving.com/Gemma-Craven/>

I would appreciate any help however big or small to support the children of India, for any queries please contact 07593020334 or g.l.craven@dur.ac.uk

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AIRE VALLEY MAG
COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

KEEP TRADE LOCAL



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Happy Mothers Day!

Put a New Twist On Old Ideas for Mothers Day!

Mothers Day is the official day to show our love and appreciation for those who birthed us, raised us or cared for us in our lives. It is a special day which is set aside to honour these amazing women who have given of themselves to create and mold us into the people we are today. Often we scour magazines, shops, and the web looking for creative mother's day ideas which will show her this time just how much she means. Ironically, there really is no gift which we can give our mums which will compare with the sacrifices they have made but there are ways to turn those generic presents into creative and unexpected ones.

This year, surprise your mum by going out of your way to do something different. Something which took you a bit more time and planning rather than a quick purchase is ideal. A gift from the heart is always the best way to go and will create treasured memories.

Believe it or not your mom DOES still want to feel young and beautiful! Take her to a spa for the day, or perhaps to a professional photographer for a photo shoot? Think of something she would enjoy, something to rejuvenate her or make her feel loved. How about planting a garden for your mum? Another green idea is to plant a kitchen herb garden. This is a fabulous gift for someone who loves to cook. Or put together a beautiful recipe book containing all of her secret recipes; get together with the family to collect the recipes which have been shared over the years. Incorporate everyone by having pages such as "Susie's Favourite" and so forth to make it extra special. Include comments about the items to make mum feel extra special. For example, "This recipe is one of my favourites, I remember Mum cooking this every Easter and it is the best!" *Mothers Day is Sunday, March 10th*

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A Change in the Year
It is the first mild day of March
Each minute sweeter than before,
The redbreast sings from the tall larch
That stands beside our door.
There is a blessing in the air,
Which seems a sense of joy to yield
To the bare trees, and mountains bare;
And grass in the green field.
William Wordsworth

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