WORTH VALLEY MAG COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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0500 127 005 or text 2EARN to 88802 www.solarwall.co.uk We will hardly remember what it is like to do a full weeks work with all the bank holidays we've been enjoying of late. Let's hope for another Royal occasion for next year and see if we can replicate the bonus time off! If the weather does a repeat performance we will be laughing all the way to the 2012 Olympics.

"Enough giddiness", I hear my friends say, "Remember, we are in a recession

and times are tough!" I think, "Not nearly as tough as war time Britain in the 1940's with rationing and the fear of bombs dropping from the sky." Thank goodness it is the



The Bronte Vintage Gathering is also taking place on the weekend of the 14th/15th See page 23 for the amazing line up of events and activities: there is fun for all, even the family dog! On Saturday night you will find FREE entertainment with live music by NU2, the U2 tribute band. We are looking forward to the Jamie Oliver Pass it on Cookery demonstrations and especially nudging teenage readers to take up the challenge (because Mum isn't likely to be putting the tea on the table when you are at Uni or when you are living on your own after leaving home!) See www.bronte-vintage-gathering.co.uk for the full list of goings on.

Best of all, the Bronte VIntage Gathering benefits Manorlands, the Sue Ryder hospice in Oxenhope.

(Thumbs up for that.) Oh, and fingers crossed that the weather cooperates. Have a snazzy month of May







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Flower Girl by Rebecca Ross

Down cobbled hill, and heather'd dale, up winding lanes, and shadowed vale, the flower fairy winds her way a radiant speckle against overcast grey.

Amongst the mundane and gloom she lands, and watches bloom joy in the faces of those that open doors, bright blossoms won from foreign shores.

Quarrels mended, eternally friended a vibrant reminder of being remembered.

In no way necessary, yet somehow essential, the flower girls bundles have the potential to make visible the gossamer threads that tie

together lives, and unearth affections that lie covered under obligations and weeds neglected for habit and everyday needs.

But the flower girl knows which blooms will bring from frosty Midwinter the joys of Spring.

So blossom-blessing delivered , she returns to above onto the next, sowing her seeds of love.











The sun is shining and though my infant strawberry plants are just beginning to flower I can almost

taste the sweet, aromatic fruits that will follow. With the onset of summer comes a heightening of the senses – a change in atmosphere; everything takes on new depth and colour. Blue skies and the fullbodied warmth of the summer sun release the voluptuous aroma of springs blossoms

and summer fruits, evoking thoughts of lazy summer days, salt sea air carried on coastal breezes, succulent strawberries dipped in champagne which intoxicate the senses, sunripened peaches with rose-tinted skins plucked straight from the

tree and eaten whilst still warm; a sense of holiday; beach barbecues crisp salads and the salty stickiness of char-grilled meat and fish. Be it from garden, field or sea, the warm summer earth offers up a rich diversity of sun-kissed edible pleasures which are with us for the most transient of moments. The British strawberry in particular seems to carry the very essence of summertime, and its flavour must be captured and enjoyed during its short lived seasonal reign. Strawberries that have been frozen or tinned will never captivate the senses in the same way as a fresh sun-drenched summer strawberry can; strawberry conserves carry the imprint of glorious summer days as does homemade strawberry syrup made with the juiciest seasonal fruits . I make bottles of the stuff during strawberry season and feel

quite bereft if we run out before the next season begins.

The short-lived nature of seasonal summer foods bestows upon them a potency, a vibrancy that seems to signify life, health and a sensuality exclusive to summer foods at their peak. Sweet and tender young garden peas eaten straight from the pod, the golden flesh of a sweet scented peach, and tightly budded asparagus tips dripping with butter. Summer food is all about

by Claire Smith of No.10 The Coffee House



simplicity, about making the most of rising temperatures, slowing down the pace and savouring the intensity of flavour developed during weeks spent basking in the blazing summer sun. To my mind nothing beats the experience of enjoying a native, seasonal fruit

or vegetable straight from the plant, such as a Florida orange which almost drowns you when you bite into it, having been filled to capacity by the sun during the growing period.

One of my most memorable meals was taken in Portugal on the Algarve in a little restaurant overlooking the sea. This meal consisted of a platter of various fruits and cheeses, warm olive bread, olive butter, garlic butter, olives and fresh walnuts. The walnuts tasted like ripe fruits rather than the dry and slightly flaky nuts we know over here, and the fruits and olives were bursting with fresh flavour. We washed the whole thing down with a crisp white wine and this simple meal tasted like the food of the Gods.

Dare I mention that summer seems to have arrived early this year, let's make the most of it.

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Residual Hauntings By Jenna Holmes, Arts Officer, Bronte Parsonage Museum Photo: Simon Warner courtesy of Catherine Bertola

There's a ghostly presence at the Parsonage - the echoes of Charlotte Brontë's voice can be heard in the Dining Room. It's not a real supernatural occurrence of course, but the results of a project we've been working on with artist Catherine Bertola.

Catherine's work brings forgotten history back to life, for example recreating historic wallpaper patterns in dust on the floor of derelict buildings, or making traditional lace patterns of her own underwear. Because the museum wages war against dust on a daily basis, and the Brontes' underwear is far from lacy, she decided on a very different approach for the Parsonage. Inspired by a 1960s sound experiment. Catherine has 'captured' the sound of the Dining Room. She recorded herself reading aloud extracts from Charlotte Bronte's letters into the room, then played this recording back into the space, recording this in turn and repeating the process again and again, until the sound of her voice fades and the room begins to sing. This is the unique resonance of the room, and it makes a strange musical sound, a bit like wind chimes or whale song. You can hear this playing intermittently in the Dining Room, like a ghost or memory

of the house as it once was. Catherine spent hours making the recordings, and because she needed complete silence, we realised how noisy the house is today, even before or after closing time, competing with the vacuum cleaner and creaky floorboards, hourly clock chimes, a bleeping credit card machine and once, when we thought we'd exhausted every other possible noise, a hooting owl in the trees outside. Alongside the sound piece. Catherine took three photographs of herself 'performing' some of the domestic rituals of the house, to bring a sense of ghostly movement back to the rooms. Here she is circling the Dining Room table, as the Bronte sisters did every evening, and although it looks like the movement is swift. Catherine had to creep around the table incredibly slowly, pausing at certain points to create the three figures. The images remind us of a photograph taken years ago at the front door of the Parsonage. The house was empty when the picture was taken, but when it was developed (pre-digital days!), there was the definite shape of a grey crinolined figure just inside the front door. So although art and science is behind the current ghostly goings-on, there are still some mysteries here that are harder to solve...



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XII this talk of the 1940s and roval weddings got me to wondering about what delicacies guests at the big wedding of 1947 were served. When the Queen. then the Princess Elizabeth, married Prince Philip, in November 1947, it turns out the menu was Filet de Sole Mountbatten: Perdreau en Casserole. Haricots Verts, Pommes Noisette and Salade Rovale: Bombe Glacee Princesse Elizabeth; Friandises; Dessert. This broadly translates as a fish starter followed by partridge stew, green beans and mash, a salad (why?), and then ice cream for pud. You may be pleased to know that this failed to inspire me to any recipe at all this month, so I looked closer to my more humble Yorkshire roots and came up with a stunning way of using a glut of rhubarb which could not help but impress any passing royal, should you really need to do SO...

1 packet aingernuts

1 packet plain, buttery biscuit (like Foxes crumble ones)

100a butter

Mash up the biscuits to crumbs, melt the butter, mix well together and press into a 9 inch baking tin (or something broadly similar).

photo: Angie Aspingll @ Aspingll Ink 2011

8-10 sticks of rhubarb, trimmed and washed 100g of sugar (or less depending on how sweet you like your rhubarb)

a little water

4 sheets of gelatine, soaked in cold water

Chop the rhubarb, and simmer gently in a pan with the about half of the sugar and water (enough to come about half way up the rhubarb). Cook for 5 mins and taste to see if it is sweet enough for you, and add more sugar if needed, Simmer until soft and falling apart. Drain most of the juice off into a cup for later. Add the soaked gelatine to the hot rhubarb and stir well until dissolved.

300a philadelphia cheese 200a white chocolate 300 ml tub of double cream

Melt the chocolate very gently in the microwave with a tablespoon of the cream , stirring after each 30 seconds until melted. Whip the cream until just starting to thicken, then stir in the creamcheese. Mix the chocolate into the cream mix and whip together until smooth and light. Gently swirl the rhubarb and gelatine mix into the cream, and spoon onto the biscuit base. Chill for an hour or two before enjoying with a drizzle of the reserved rhubarb juice. Nel Hargrave www.worthbaking.com

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and private art gallery for Judy. It is both remarkable and fitting that the Lord

Mayor and Lady Mayoress should cut the

ribbon for this inaugural exhibition at this

property because it was discovered that

the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress

have also resided in this same historical

abstract painter who has works in several

reputable public and private collections

in various parts of the world having lived

and worked in 8 different countries and

Haworth first as a guest of friends already

introduced the idea that Haworth might

make a good home and place to work for

her as well. Judy was living in Italy at the

time but had decided that she wished to

return to England where she had lived

previously.

traveled to many more. She came to

residing on Haworth's Main St. who

house on Main St. some years ago!

Judy is an acclaimed professional

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famous historical past connection to the Bronte family however, Haworth is often associated solely with the past while the

It is hoped that this exhibition will show

how Haworth is the perfect environment

for all creative people who appreciate the

magic of this area and are seeking the

freedom and friendship offered by the

multi-cultured residents. Because of its

present and future are overlooked. The purpose of this exhibition is to explore Haworth both 'Now and Then' to show that Haworth's creative past must continue to be a reference for modern creative people today.

All works of art at this exhibition will be for sale with the proceeds being shared with the Haworth Village Association working for a better working community. Anyone wishing to find out more about the artist's work, should visit the artists website; www.judysale.com



Deborah Steel, Jennifer Steel, Ian Barron and Antonio Capozio from Haworth have planned an adventure to Peru in August this year. The friends have always wanted to visit South America and especially Peru, so they decided to book a 3 week excursion to include the Amazon rainforest and the ancient Inca ruins of Machu Picchu.

It was Debbie and Jenny's mum who mentioned that Haworth was twinned with Machu Picchu. This inspired the girls to contact Rita Verity from the Haworth Twinning group to see if there was anything the friends could do to help



with establishing closer links or perhaps utilise their skills and abilities whilst out in Peru. Further contacts were made and eventually the 'Trek for Specs' project was created.

Debbie is a Specialist Orthoptist (an eye care professional) at Bradford Royal Infirmary, Jenny is an Optometrist at Boots Opticians Keighley, lan is a Chef at The Grouse Inn Oldfield and Antonio is a Dispensing Optician at Brosgill Opticians



Ilkley. With three out of the four having a broad knowledge base in optical care it was decided that an eyecare related expedition seemed logical.

The Haworth Twinning group put them in touch with Leander Hollings and the charity MySmallHelp. (To read more about MySmallHelp and the work in Peru please visit www.mysmallhelp.org/support disable person in peru)

The four members of the 'Trek for Specs' team are collecting donated adult and children's glasses and taking them to the communities around Ollantytambo, Peru. They aim to assess people for their specific need for glasses and match their requiremnt to the donated supply. If there is not a suitable match available then the funds raised will go towards purchasing suitable glasses for those most in need. The 'Trek' that the team will be making is the 4 day Inca Trail finishing in Machu Picchu. It is a difficult 26 mile camping trek with long ascents and steep downhill

sections of Inca steps. Combined with high altitude passes of 4200m and rapidly changing weather conditions they expect a tough challenge.

Every penny raised will go to the charity, MySmallHelp. The whole trip is completely self-funded as any summer holiday would be; the difference is that they have chosen to dedicate some of their time to a worthy cause. Debbie, Jenny, Ian and Antonio are not asking for money towards their trek. flights or accommodation. They are simply asking that if people would like to support the charitable work then please make a donation. This can be in the form of a few pounds or a pair of old spectacles, either would be much appreciated!

 To make a monetary donation please visit www.iustaivina.com/Deborah-Steel0 • To make a spectacle donation please take your old specs to any of the following; Sonias Smile, 85 Main Street, Haworth or Boots Opticians, Keighley.



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Last month's winner was Sheila Batch from Oakworth. The location was The Old Sun Inn, Haworth Google Earth ©



The weekend of the 14th and 15th of May will once again see the streets of Haworth filled with colourful, costumed characters, enthusiatic to recreate the 'good old days' of 1940's wartime Britain Following the sucess of last year's event and after significant growth, activities will take place beyond the Main Street to include Central Park and other venues in the village., Further attention has been given to parking and first aid provision. We are pleased to bring you this pull out map and schedule to help you get the most from the weekend plus a round-up of photos from previous years...



Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

Sudoku

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

Test your skills of logic with Sudoku: Every row, column and box of 3x3 cells must contain the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. Level: Easy



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19

1940's Weekend Jimeffible of Wents

SAT 14TH MAY

- 9 6.30 Vintage Fair with vintage fashion & collectables Old School Rooms
- 11 4 Military vehicles and camps on display in Haworth Central Park
- 11 4 Vintage vehicles on display on Haworth Main St
- 11 4 ENSA show by Paul Harper on stage halfway downMain St
- 12 3 Natasha Harper forces sweetheart performing on Black Bull Balcony
- 11.30 Winston Churchill address to the crowds on stage on Main St
- 12.00 Winston Churchill address the crowds on the Black Bull balcony.
- 1.00 Winston Churchill and Lady Churchill lunch in the conservatory at Embers
- 1.00 Raid on a brothel at 32 Main St
- 1.00 Bradford Marching Pipe Band play outside Edinburgh Woolen Mill
- 1.30 Bradford Marching Pipe Band lead the land army parade down Main Street
- 1.30 3.30 Jive dancing on the esplanade in the Park with Miss Tallulah and Shack Shaking Jack accompanied by UK 1940s Radio Road show.
- 2.15 Winston Churchill addresses the crowds on the Black Bull balcony
- 2.30 Battle of Britain Memorial Spitfire flypast
- 3.00 Local lad Mick Hodgson gets an army haircut for charity, stage on Main St
- 3.30 Parade of Re-enactors down Main St led by Bradford Marching Pipe Band
- 3.30 -5.30 52 Skidoo playing outside at Haworth Old Hall

SUN 15TH MAY

- 9- 4.30 Vintage Fair with vintage fashion & collectables Old School Rooms
- 11 4 Military vehicles and camps on display in Haworth Central Park
- 11 4 Vintage vehicles on display on Haworth Main St
- 10.45 Remembrance Service at St Michaels and All Angels Parish Church
- 11.00 Two minute silence in remembrance
- 12.30 4.30 ENSA show by Paul Harper on stage halfway down Main St
- 12.30 3.30 Natasha Harper forces sweetheart performing on Black Bull balcony
- 12.30 Winston Churchill and the Queen lunch at the Haworth Old Hall
- 1.00 Raid on Brothel at 32 Main St
- 1.30 3.30 Jiving on the esplanade in Haworth Park with Miss Tallulah and Shack Shaking Jack accompanied by the UK 1940s Radio Road Show
- 2.00 The Bradford Marching Pipe Band play outside Edinburgh Woolen Mill
- 2.00 The evacuees arrive at top of Main St to disembark the vintage bus and walk down Main St escorted by Haworth Home Guard
- 2.15 Winston Churchill and the Queen greet the children at the bottom of Main St
- 2.30 The evacuees enjoy a street party in the park
- 2.30 Bradford Marching Pipe Band lead the Land Army Parade down Main St
- 3.30 Parade of re-enactors down Main St led by Bradford Marching Pipe Band.
- 3.30 Jan Francis performing outside at Haworth Old Hall

All timings are approximate and can be subject to change. Please see event map for location of all attractions. Events will take place throughout the weekend on Main Street, West Lane, Central Park and at Haworth Station.



1940'S PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

The photos on the previous pages were all taken by press photographer Paul Barker as part of a photography course designed to lead students beyond wobbly snapshots. Paul is offering to take aspiring 'snappers' out to cover The1940's weekend as if on assignment for a newspaper. The fun sessions include 1 hour of tutorial followed by 3 hours taking photos & enjoying the events that unfold in Haworth. (Sessions are being held both Sat & Sun from noon) "40's weekend is a terrific opportunity to get a taste of what it is like to be a press photographer. Almost everywhere you look there are potential pictures, but to make a snapshot into a good photo either means watching very carefully or giving things a nudge. Everyone in costume at 40's weekend is more than happy to

be photographed so it is a perfect situation to practice setting up a picture. You also have to be quick with the camera, and if it is a bright day you need to use fill in flash. These are all things that will be covered in a quick session before we embark on covering the event."



For more details call 07830 207123 or email paul@paulbarker.com Make the most of your 40's weekend!

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Sunday - Fun Dog Show - ENTRIES at 12 Noon and JUDGING at 1 p.m.

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when I'm in the middle of my tea it'll be someone in a call centre from the other side of the world trying to sell me something I don't need. We've done quite well at getting rid of cold callers in the last few years after registering with the telephone preference service. Now we only get the occasional call and despite firing off the odd expletive back at them I do feel some sympathy for their task. It must be soul destroying to spend all day repeating the same hopeless patter for a pitiful wage, so when I took a call from one the other week l decided to have a bit of fun with them. "Who is this"?. she asked. "You called me - you must know who I am? Who are you?", I replied. "Can I speak to your manager?", she asked somewhat bizarrely. "I'm at home. So is my manager. Can I speak to your manager?", I replied. "It doesn't matter", she went on. "I just want to speak to you about your electricity". "Hang on a minute, I'll put you on to the bill payer", I said, passing the phone to my three year old. "Hello, what's your name? My name's Luke", he gurgled. Unbelievably, I could hear the woman asking him who his current electricity supplier was and if he would be interested in

WORTH VALLEY DAD

getter a better deal on his bills". "Do you like Thomas?", he said, referring to the steam engine. At that point I told him to say "bye bye" and put the phone down. Sometimes children are a great weapon in the battle against boredom! Talking of weapons I will be bearing arms for the 40's weekend in Haworth. Last year my friend lent me some typical civvies clobber from that period and I got to brandish a double barrelled shotgun in the beer garden at the Old Hall. Any other day of the year and there would have been police helicopters and tasers, but 40's weekend is a chance for my generation to relive the innocent war games of our childhood, albeit in slightly more authentic style. No doubt all the usual characters will be there - Captain Mainwaring, the Spiv, Churchill and the shady looking Nazis. Every year more and more people seem to squeeze in to the heaving throng on Main Street. There seems to be something about the style and general mood of the 40's that still holds a great appeal. They were austere times and with the current recession the mantra of those times - "make do and mend", is said to be making a bit of a comeback. Programmes like "Super Scrimpers" encourage us to save money by darning socks, freezing left overs and getting better deals on our fuel bills. Maybe I shouldn't be leaving that responsibility to my three year old!

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Thurs 5 May Local Council Elections at your local polling station. Visit www. aboutmyvote.co.uk for more info! Sat 7 May 'May Flowers' Coffee Morning. at Lees Methodist church. Bring & buy, lots of stalls. Admission is free and proceeds go to building refurbishment fund.

Sun 8 May Oxenhope Produce

Market at Millenium Green from 10am-4pm

Mon 9th May Stanbury & District WI 7:30pm West Lane Baptist Church. New members welcome. contact: kathleen.stevens@talktalk.net Thurs 12 May 7pm Conversazione: Radical Women at Bronte Parsonage Museum, Conversaziones were aatherinas held by the Victorians over tea and cake. Catherine Bertola hosts a Conversazione on the topic of Radical Women as part of her exhibition, ioined by writers Lucasta Miller and Jane Robinson to discuss the Brontes through to the bluestockings. Tickets £14 includes evening admission to the museum and refreshments, 01535 640188/ ienna.holmes@bronte.org.uk Fri 13 and Sat 14 May 7.30pm 'We'll Meet Again' presented by Haworth West Lane Baptist Amateur Operatic Society at the West Lane Baptist Church, Haworth. The concert will feature songs, sketches and monologues from the 40's.The audience will be invited to join in with well known songs from that era,

so come along and enjoy the fun. Adults £7 children £4. Tickets available from Vera on 01535 643425 Sat 14 May Anais Mutumba singing Live at Glusburn Institute. Jazz, Soul and R&B. Tickets only £5! Buy online at

COMMUNITY PAGES

www.glusburninstitute.org.uk or from ticket office. Doors open at 7pm and there is a licensed bar.

Sat 14 May 10am-4pm 'Your Church Needs You' Spring Fayre at Haworth Parish Church. Stalls, refreshments and children's corner.

Sat 14 May KWVR Evening Wine & Dine on Steam Train. For more information visit www.kwvr.co.uk or to make a booking call 01535 645214 Sat 14 and Sun 15 May 1940s Weekend in Haworth. Locals and visitors alike get kitted out in 1940s gear to enjoy a wide range of nostalgic events. Visit www.haworth1940s.co.uk Sat 14 and Sun 15 May 1940s Weekend Vintage Fair at The Old School Rooms, Bronte Parsonage, There will be fashion and collectables. and tea rooms for refreshments. Sat 14 and Sun 15 May Bronte Vintage Gathering. Great day out! Popular country show and steam rally. More information at www.brontevintage-gathering.co.uk and page 23 Sun 15 May 2-4pm Bag & Brag Used Fashion Event at Victoria Hall, Keighley. Indoor used fashion sale. A chance to buy preowned high street clothes, bags, shoes, accessories and children's wear. Tables/rails available to book. Visit www.bagandbrag.co.uk Sun 15 May 10am-4.30pm Keighley Model Railway Club Open Day at KMRC Clubrooms, Aire Valley Business Centre, Knowle Mills, Sun Street, Keighley. Operating Layouts in all scales - bring your own trains

to run! Off-road free parking and full

catering. Adult - £3.00 Child - £2.00, Family (2+2) - £8.00. More details and location map at www.keighleymrc.org. uk or call Charles on 07973 776108. **Tues 17 May Fashion Show by The Complete Clothing Company** 7:30pm St James' Cross Roads, Church Hall. Ex-chain store fashions will be on sale at bargain prices!!! Admission £2 to include refreshments.

Wed 18th May De-Mystify Me Computer Drop-in Surgery 2pm til 4pm

and 7pm til 9pm at Keighley tableTennis Centre on South Street, Keighley. Bring your own laptop, or show the CloudfreeIT team your software query on one of theirs. The first two sessions held in April raised £25 from donations to the appeal for Scott Story, who hasDuchenne Muscular Dystrophy, as featured in Keighley News on 30th March. Thanks to KTTC and to all those who attended. This month's nominated charity is Leeds & Bradford Dyslexia Association.

Thurs 19 May 7.30pm Talk by Blake Morrison at West Lane Baptist Church. Writer and journalist Blake Morrison discusses his work, including his upcoming stage play inspired by



the Brontes. Blake Morrison's memoir 'When Did You Last See Your Father' was made into a film starring Colin Firth and Jim Broadbent.Tickets £6, 01535 640188/jenna.holmes@ bronte.org.uk

Fri 20 May 10am-4pm Flower Borders Creative Textile Workshop.

Learn a range of simple yet highly effective techniques to produce a beautifully textured flower border, workshop taught by Sally Danys of Lapwing Crafts. Visit www. lapwingcrafts.co.uk or pick up a booking form available from Cobbles and Clay in Haworth.

Fri 20-Sun 22 May KWVR Diesel Gala popular annual Diesel Gala returns once again. To book call 01535 645214

Sat 28 May KWVR Evening Fish & Chip Special. Your train will take you for two leisurely trips up and down the branch, and your ticket includes a complimentary fish and chip supper. Each train will have a full bar, serving real-ale, spirits and a variety of hot and cold drinks. For more information visit www.kwvr.co.uk or to make a booking call 01535 645214.

Sat 28 May 12 noon Table Top Sale at Parkside Social Club, Haworth. Will be outside if weather is fine.



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De-Mystify M

the column for your computer queries in association with our friends at CloudfreeIT

Experiencing problems with your computer that aren't serious enough to warrant calling for the services of a support engineer, but which, nonetheless, irritate you to the point of insanity? If so, you're not alone.

If so, you re not alone. Email your queries to mail@ worthvalleymag. co.uk (if E- Mail is your problem, then post your query to AVM/WVM Mags, Crosslands Barn, Main St., Stanbury BD22 OHB). We've got £25 CloudfreeIT computer accessory vouchers and goody bags up for grabs! The email/letter of the month will be published here, so get writing to us now! Your name will only be printed with your permission and your address won't get printed at all. Whilst we wait for your queries to start filling our inbox, here's a super query raised by a visitor to the first De-Mystify Me Drop-in Surgery sessions last month...

Q. I make long journeys and like to listen to music en route. In my new car there's no multi-disk changer, but the CD player can read MP3 disks. I've been advised to convert my normal audio CDs to MP3 format and then burn all the tracks off several CDs onto a single recordable CD. I know I need to use my PC for this, but what does 'ripping and burning' mean? Where do I start?

A. First you copy the contents of your audio CDs to your computer and convert the music to compressed files ('ripping'). You then choose the music tracks you want from a list on your PC and these files then get written ('burned' by the CD drive's laser, not a blow-torch!) to a recordable CD. There are many different software products available on the market for doing this. Exact steps vary from product to product, and we don't know what software you've got, so it's hard to provide specific instructions for your PC. Here's some general tips that should help you on your way:-

I. Check your computer has a CD or DVD writer installed – look at the symbols on the front of the CD drive. It's no good ripping the CDs, if the drive isn't a burner (writer or re-writer)!

2. Check what software you've got. Most Windows PCs have media plaving software built-into the operating system. Look out for 'Windows Media Player' on yours to start with -it's ideal for ripping and basic CD burning. If you haven't got this, then try downloading it from Microsoft's website. Some 'third party' CD/DVD burning products e.g. Nero or Roxio Creator have extra functionality. Better to save the clever stuff for later though! 3. Most software has a Help function, so use it to search for what you want to do e.g. 'convert to mp3' or 'create a CD' etc. You'll be directed to product-specific step-bystep instructions. Open your media player software and start 'Help' (press the F1 key/select 'Help' from the menu bar/ click on .

4. The higher the 'bit rate' you set the software to use during the 'ripping' the better the sound quality, but the more space each track will take up on your computer (and the recordable CD). Some products allow you to convert music files to other formats or reduce the bit rate after ripping to squeeze more tracks on a CD; others won't, so experiment!

If you find it difficult to explain your query in writing come and show us instead at our Drop in Surgeries. The happy chaps at CloudfreeIT will share their knowledge and smooth your furrowed brow in return for a small donation to their nominated charity. See Community Pages for details of the next ones.

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