ORTH VALLEY

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

September 2009



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September is my favourite month. The summer holidays are behind us and the anticipation of autumn and the change in season brings excitement and somehow a crisp new hope. The light is also beautiful at this time of vear. The short drive from Haworth to Laneshaw Bridge (Colne) is breathtaking; the heather is at its peak and a walk around Wycoller is always welcome. The cover this month hints at the magazine's spotlight on a certain village in the Worth Valley...hmm, can you guess which one? Photographer and Oakworth resident David Driver very effectively captures the spirit of the moors and the wild western feel of the outer reaches of the

Enjoy! Liz

Worth Valley.

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WINED AND DINED by Claire Smith

from No.10 The Coffee House, Main Street, Haworth



Reclining upon the steps leading down into my sister's garden, the gentle clink of china as she makes tea. drifting from the kitchen, I run my fingers through

tufts of velvet leaved sage, spearmint and chocolate mint, inhaling each individual aroma as it ascends and permeates the air around me. Even the inedible but seductively named; "hot lips" salvia seems to lay claim to culinary connections, its scent being reminiscent of home grown tomatoes.

A tour around the garden takes me past borders which are a cacophony of colour-Japanese anemones, purple loosestrife wild poppies, penstemon, crocosmia, rudbeckia, cornflowers, agapanthus, double headed daisies and marigolds. There are wild corn cockles, buddleia, phlox, hypericum, campanula and foxgloves, and a young oak planted by my father which, having outgrown my mother's garden has had to migrate to this one. Many of the plants are adorned with ripening seed pods. There are wild strawberry plants, their runners spreading all over the borders in amongst the flowers, and all along the little wall separating the beds from the lawn, a gathering of bees and butterflies soaking up the sun.

A couple of lavender lined steps take me down to the greenhouse; its glass walls are heavy with clusters of slowly ripening tomatoes. Ripening from the bottom up, they are deep red at the

base, vellow- green, at the stalk and sunset orange in the middle, My sister has always loved creating heavenly gardens and over the years I have been a grateful benefactor of her skill. My small garden currently boasts strawberry plants growing in hanging baskets, wild strawberries, which produce the sweetest, most succulent little fruits. lavered from runners into fresh pots of compost to form new plants, and pots of herbs grown from seed in the greenhouse, all of which have eventually found their way into, soups, sauces, chutneys and syrups.

When it comes to food, you cannot beat home-grown ingredients. The lady responsible for inspiring my last article has since delighted us with a glorious basket of home-grown fruit-strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants and gooseberries, jewellike in their beauty, perfectly plump and sweet; and a punnet of small sun kissed tomatoes, firm round and utterly delicious. I am now hooked, regularly scouring farmers markets and awaiting my weekly organic box with eager anticipation.

Throughout September gardens everywhere will be yielding crops of crisp English apples, Cox and Worcester, juicy yellow pears, dusky plums and autumn raspberries the colour of ruby's; tomatoes (nicknamed "love apples" in France), early squashes and runner beans. Late summer lunches in the garden; crumbles and a hearty supper on cooler days. The first signs of autumn, and the last lingering kiss of summer.

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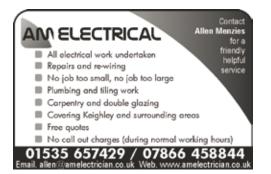
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Special Invitation

an evening at the Brontë Parsonage Museum

Tuesday 15th or Wednesday 23rd September, 7.30pm

Residents of Haworth and the surrounding area are invited to attend a special, evening at the Brontë Parsonage Museum.

This free event will include a guided tour of the museum, a visit to the museum's Library and a special opportunity to see some of the treasures of the museum's collection at close quarters. Wine and refreshments will be served.



This event is taking place as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund supported project to improve the presentation of the historic rooms of the Parsonage. As well as finding out more about the museum and its collections, there will also be an opportunity to discuss with staff new displays for 2010.



Please note that numbers are strictly limited and to be sure of a place early booking is strongly recommended. Bookings are on a first come, first served basis. Bookings can be made for either 15 or 23 September. To book, please contact Sonia Boocock, Brontë Parsonage Museum, 01535 640192/sonia.boocock@bronte.org.uk



Often in museums you see a door with a sign marked 'private', I know myself that I often wonder what might be hidden behind that door. In most cases, it is probably something very boring, like the staff kitchen or the photocopying room, but that is definitely not the case with the Parsonage library. It is a secret gem tucked away behind a private door at the back of the Brontës' kitchen. Most people don't know it is there. The library is a cosy room with large windows and book-lined walls. It wasn't here in the Brontës' time, but was added by Reverend Wade, who took over the Parsonage when Patrick Brontë died. It is now the heart of the museum operation, where Ann and Sarah, the collections team, have details of everything you could possibly ever need to know about the Brontës at their fingertips. We don't actually keep any of the valuable items in here (they are safely locked away) but it's where researchers come to have a

look at the collections and some of the special items that may (or may not) end up on public display. There is something very special about seeing the handwriting of one of the Brontës up close, or their jewellery, or their shoes, out of the glass cases of the museum and just there right in front of you. The family seems suddenly very 'real' and it is not unknown for people to break down in tears at the sight of Emily's notebook or Charlotte's little shoes, up close for the very first time. As part of some recent funding from the Heritage Lottery to redevelop the Brontë Parsonage Museum, local people are being invited to a range of special events to give their say about how they think the museum should be displayed, and one of these events is an exciting opportunity visit to the Parsonage library. You will find more details on the adjacent page and I hope you might be tempted to come and have a peek 'behind the scenes' for yourself.

Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!







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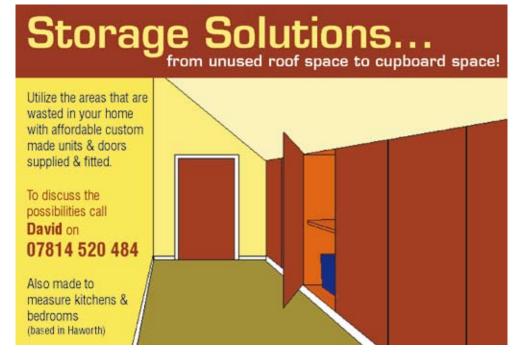
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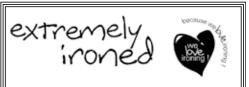


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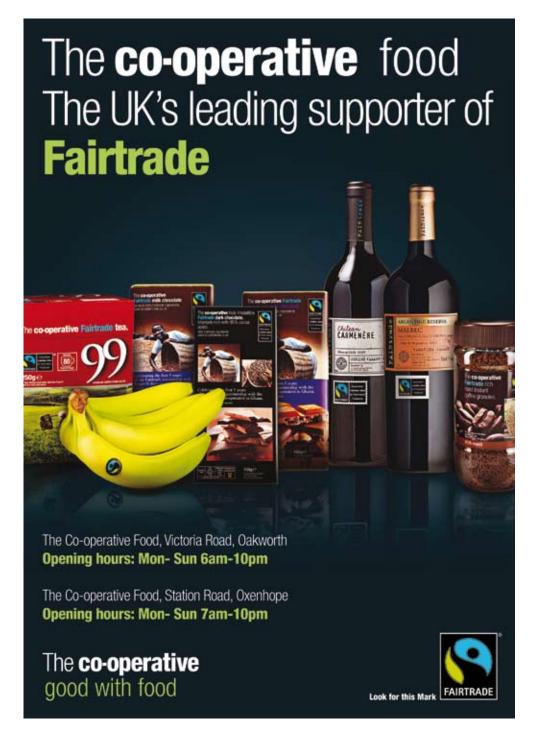
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Oromo Coffee Company representatives visited Haworth last month as special guests of the Haworth Fairtrade Group. Abiyot and Jarso, (above, left and right) two Ethiopian members of the North West Oromo Community, were invited to take part in Haworth's Fine Food Festival to raise awareness of their exceptional coffee and OCC's unique status as the first ever community to community direct trading coffee initiative: dubbed the fairer than fair trade business model.

Chef Chistophe Novelli (above.centre) was "impressed and privileged" to meet the two men and equally delighted to take samples of the premier Harar brand of coffee home for tasting.

The Oromo Coffee Company is a unique not-for-profit social enterprise. It is made up of Oromo refugees now settled in the UK, with full residential status who do not. want to be reliant on welfare benefits. Its partners include the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (OCFU), the Lorna Young Foundation, Bolling Coffee, and Tameside Council. By purchasing Oromo coffee you are not only ensuring a good price for smallholder farmers belonging to the OCFU, but you are also helping communities in the UK. OCC can supply individual outlets, community groups, institutions, retailers and wholesalers. contact: office@oromocoffee.org

A co-operative is a group of people acting together to meet the common needs and aspirations of its members, sharing ownership and making decisions democratically. co-operate with one another for mutual benefit.

Fair Trade

Reaping the Dividends, the story of the co-operative movement.

Reap the dividends of Mikron Theatre Company's insight into the Cooperative Movement from its roots in the early part of the 19th century when the Industrial Revolution resulted in exploitation and misery for many working people.

Did it all begin at Toad lane in Rochdale in 1844? We shall wander down the aisles of history to bring you the true story, told, of course, with a mixture of music, humour and sadness.

Fact:

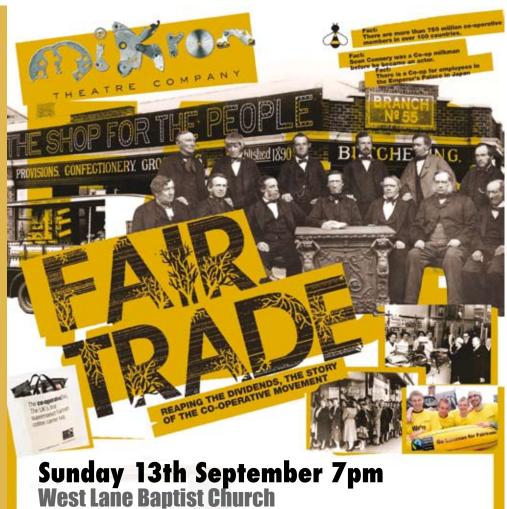
Sean Connery was a Co-op milkman before he became an actor.

Fact:

The Co-op carries out over 160,000 funerals a year.

Fact:

There is a Co-op for employees in the Emperor's Palace in Japan. For more fun facts and an engaging evening, book to see the Mikron Theatre's show in Haworth; details on the followning page...



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tickets £7 (£5 concessions) or £20 family ticket tel: 01535 647776 (daytime only)



Chris Blackwood & Rebekah Hughes

RURAL MATTERS by Rachael Moore

There have been several dairy farmers in the Worth Valley who have ceased milk production in the past few months (including my parents) and I'm sure they wont be the last. "What has this got to do with me?" I hear you say. Well a lot actually – if you support local business, less dairy farmers will go out of business between now and the next time I write.

Having grown up on a family dairy

and sheep farm in the heart of Bronte Country, I take this privileged way of life for granted. I know too well that milk comes from a Holstein cow and wheat is milled to make bread, but how



many of the next generation do?

I thought the Worth Valley Mag would be the ideal opportunity to keep you updated with rural affairs that not only affect farmers, but affect us all, every single one of us.

Taking the decision to do a degree in Rural Enterprise and Land Management, graduating last summer, I didn't want to be a farmer. I wanted to work for a wage, leave work at work and progress in my career. So, this lead me to the land agency profession and am currently training to take chartered surveying exams next spring.

Now, I realise what an honour it has been growing up on a family farm, there's no place like it. Works starts when the sunrises and doesn't finish til the jobs are done. And as for payment...what's that? Dad says "I think you've just about earned your tea"!! typical eh! I love it, and deep

down I think I'd be a farmer, but there's such a lack of confidence in the industry itself.

Speaking of which, the average age of a farmer in the UK is 58. This is not an ideal situation for our country to be in. What happens when they get incapable of farming – who takes over then? Farmers don't retire you see. They have the retirement party and sell off their old

tractors and tackle they can't keep in the garden, but next thing you know, they've bought a pen of lambs to fatten over winter because "they were cheap"! The face of agriculture

is evolving all the time, bigger farms swallowing up those small holdings, average herd and flock sizes increasing along with productive capacity. The industry is now run more business like, with less personal reliance and less selfsufficiency. But not at mum and dads. My dad hates broccoli and cabbage, but strangely enough encourages my brother to plant it in the garden - he's sure the UK is going to starve should we have to go to war! Seriously though, buying local keeps local businesses alive - THEY NEED YOU: use your local milkman, local greengrocer, local butcher, your local farmer - You'll need them one day.

Well, now that I've got that off my chest, I'm going to make tea for 17 lads tonight; its silage time and whilst the weather's fine, these lads work all night. Until next time, enjoy the summer, eat seasonally and buy local.

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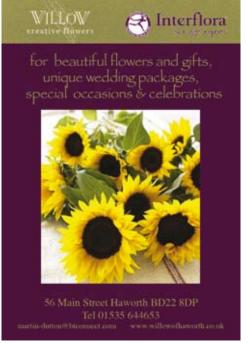


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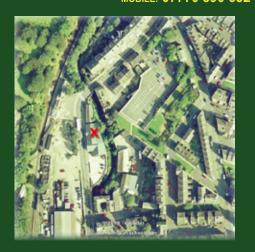
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Can you identify the building or landmark indicated by the red cross in this photograph?

This month's prize is A Free Day Rover Pass on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

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The winner will be selected from all correct answers received by Sept 15, 2009



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The July/Aug winner was Angela Butterfield from Haworth, the location was Oakbank School.

Google Earth ©

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

If you're the type that can't resist a bargain then this month's website should delight you! My Voucher Codes UK is the UK's largest website for online discounts, special offers and deals and allows thousands of people daily to find and share promotional codes and offers for over 2000 UK online stores. The site has a useful search engine for finding the products or shops you're interested in and allows users to vote and leave live comments on how the discount worked for them as well as tips for other shoppers. Users can also subscribe to daily emails which alert you to the latest money saving vouchers on offer. Printable vouchers are also available for purchases in store. Best of all - It's free to use! www.myvouchercodes.co.uk





First, prepare the pearl barley – it usually needs soaking and cooking for at least an hour and a half.

Lightly cook the vegetables for around 10 minutes, and then place with the barley in the bottom of the soufflé dish. Warm 150 ml of the milk and melt the stock cubes into it – pour over the vegetables

Cook the courgettes in half a pint of milk with salt, pepper and nutmeg over a low heat until very soft, and then pour off half the remaining milk in the pan. Puree the courgettes with a whisk, blender or by mashing it and then pushing it through a sieve with a spoon. Allow to cool and check the seasoning – it often needs a little extra salt and pepper.

Separate the eggs and stir the yolks into the courgette puree. Whisk the egg whites until they are firm, and stir a tablespoon or two into the puree. Then add the rest of the whites and fold them in with a figure of eight shape (don't beat them as the air will come out and you will get scrambled eggs!)

Pile the mix on top of the vegetables and reduce ovenheat to 170 (150 fan) or gas mark 3, and bake for around 40 minutes. Do try not to peep! You can keep it longer in the oven if it still seems a little runny - just cover the top with some greaseproof paper to prevent it burning.

Oakworth Village Life

It's a well warn cliché but Oakworth Methodist Church is situated right in the heart of the village and the village is right at the heart of all it does. The

church is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year – 50 years since the vast Wesleyan Methodist Church was demolished and the present modern, multi-purpose building rose in its place. The needs of the community it was built to serve have changed quite dramatically

during those fifty years and the building has been extended and re-ordered to

meet those needs.

More recently, a lot of work has gone into tidying and replanting the grounds and generally keeping the church in good shape

for the many visitors who make use of the facilities. The warm, flexible, welcoming suite of premises is now in use every day of the week.

Call at the church on a weekday morning and you will be met by the sound of young children enjoying themselves at Playgroup. Unless it is a Tuesday – then your nose will

inform you that lunch is being prepared for the Senior Citizens Luncheon Club, serving by David Howarth over 40 lunches, freshly cooked on the premises by volunteers each week.

In the afternoon, you could find the Church Ladies' Group listening to an interesting speaker, the after-school Fish Club in one of their sessions or one of the Third Age Groups either enjoying a

music appreciation session or singing for pleasure.

If you come up the drive during the evening the sound of music and laughter will greet you before you reach the doors! It could be the Village Morris

Men practising their dance routines or the Kydz Youth Theatre preparing for their next

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production. It may be one of the Uniformed Organisations in full swing – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers all meet each week. In the winter months, it will probably be the young people rehearsing for the next Pantomime – now the highlight of the village calendar in February – eight shows enjoyed by over

1200 people from far and wide

A warm welcome awaits you, whether you are there to worship God on a Sunday morning, visiting one of the church social events or join one of the many community groups outlined above. Check the church website at

www.OakworthMethodists.org for more information.





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The Veritass office is situated in the village next to the Health Centre. The company has been established for nearly twenty years and has been built up through recommendations and currently employs nine local people. Veritass' achievements were recognized this year when Alison Jenkins, the company director, was selected as one of the business leaders in the millennium and the company is now included in the publication of "Who's Who of Britain's Business Flite"

Veritass can arrange all types of insurance and the staff offer a personal service. They are there to discuss any problems or queries either by calling in the office or telephoning. They deal with a wide range of insurers and are currently negotiating a scheme with an insurance company who will offer discounted motor insurance rates for people in the village and surrounding areas.

People are returning to Brokers. They are realising that the service and cover received from direct writers is inferior to the service and cover offered by local brokers. Statistics show that a high proportion of cover arranged on the Internet is not correct and this can lead to policyholders being uninsured and possibly receiving motoring convictions.

Veritass are also currently offering assistance to clients considering Equity Release. For more information visit their website www.veritass.co.uk or ring Alison on 01535 640457.

Oakworth's hidden gem







Oakworth Park is the remainder of what was formerly the private grounds of Sir Isaac Holden's house and garden.

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Holden was an industrialist and inventor in the 19th century. He built a grand and illustrious estate containing huge glassroofed wintergardens and an unusual summer house made from a steel framework with a hypertufa rock shaped facade. Grottos and caves were also formed from the rock and can still be seen today. The park was given to the people of Oakworth by Holden's family in 1927 some 20 years after Holden's death. Friends of Holden Park seeks to preserve and protect the remaining features of the park for all to enjoy.

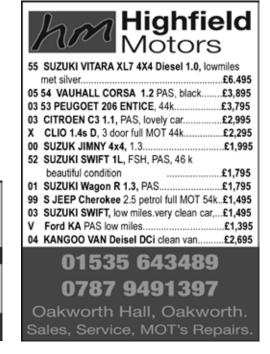


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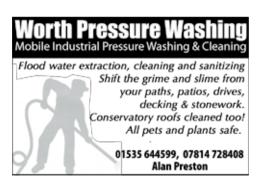




















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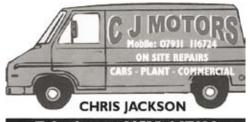


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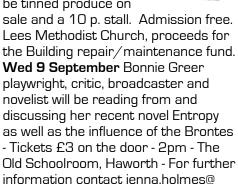
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Sat 5th September, Scartop Sunday School: Fellowship evening with guest speaker Mr B Gemmell. The subject will be 'ls This the Last Hour?' and there will be a free hot supper, as well as book and media stalls. All are welcome. Contact Teresa: 01535644241

Sat 5th September, Table Top Sale in aid of Haworth Cat Rescue:

At West Lane Methodist Hall, Haworth. 9.30am to 11.30am

Sat 5th September, 10th anniversary coffee morning: In addition to the usual gift stall, book stall and refreshments, there will be tinned produce on



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Thurs 10th September, creative writing workshop at Cobbles and Clay: friendly and informal day, suitable

for beginners as well as those who are a little more practised. Writer Glynis Charlton will help you get going with a variety of enjoyable exercises. Cobbles and Clay, 60, Main

St, Haworth. Tel. 07884 478912 or email glynischarlton@googlemail.com
Thurs 10th September to Sun 13th
September, Haworth Arts and Music
Festival: See page 33 for full schedule.
Sat 12th September, 'Woodfest on the Farm': A night of great music in a new marquee on the farm featuring popular local band China Sky and
DJ Abs. Licensed bar and friendly rural crowd. At Highcliffe Farm, Lees
Moor, In aid of Manorlands Hospice,

tickets are £7:50 and available from Manorlands 01535 640430.

Sat 12th September, Ladies-only Midnight Walk in Ilkley: For anyone who missed our ladies-only Midnight Walk in Bingley and Keighley in June, how about entering the llkley version and supporting Manorlands in the process. This is a great way to get in shape and help the hospice while spending a fun Saturday night with the girls! www.suerydercare.org/ midnightwalks or 01535640430. Sun 13th September, 'Match the Pigeon': Walk in aid of Manorlands hospice within the beautiful Bolton Abbev Estate. You walk whilst a flock of racing pigeons, released 168 miles from home, fly back to their lofts in Skipton. Your challenge is to try and arrive at the finish line at the same time as the first pigeon home. Win a flight of your own for two in a helicopter over the Yorkshire Dales! All are welcome, www.matchthepigeon.org or Tel. Andrew Wood on 01535640432 Sat 19 September Barbara Taylor **Bradford** Internationally bestselling novelist will be making a special visit to Haworth as part of a UK tour celebrating thirty years since the publication of her famous novel A Woman of Substance and discussing her new novel Breaking The Rules. - Tickets £5 and must be booked in advance - 7.30pm - The Old

Schoolroom, Church St, Haworth - jenna.holmes@bronte.org.uk/ 01535 640188.

Sat 19th September, Music For the Deaf: evening event in aid of the Yorkshire charity 'Music for the Deaf'. Talk from inspirational guest speaker, Paul Whitaker, founder of the charity. Tickets cost £7.50 each and this will include a light supper. Contact Pat and Duncan Clark on 01535643792 or visit www.haworthrotary.org

Sun 20th September, The Bronte Big K Mountain Bike Challenge: For more details ring Manorlands Fundraising Office on 01535 640432.

Mon 21st September, Oxenhope Pre School AGM: At the Lamb Inn, Oxenhope at 8pm. Everybody welcome, new committee members wanted!

Sun 27th September, Haworth Vintage Fair: For people who love vintage, retro and collectables; the very best of vintage from 1900 to 1980. Over 20 stalls selling lovely treasures: fashion, homewares and collecatbles. Refreshments available and first 100 visitors recieve a free goody bag. 10.00am to 5.00pm at the Old Bronte School Rooms.

www.haworthvintagefairs.co.uk
Sun 27th September, Cafe Church

led by Rev. Alf Waite: Informal service which starts with a buffet lunch before going into a time of worship. Lees Methodist Church. all welcome.

Wed 30th September, 'Key Stations on the Worth Valley Line': 6 mile circular walk; fields and moorland paths viewing three stations on the Worth Valley Railway. Meet David Oates at Haworth Raliway Station at 11.00am. Packed lunch required.

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(P.S. Michael also runs two meetings in Wilsden on Monday evenings at 5.30 and 7 pm-ring for more details) www.slimmingworld.com



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When you eat a chilli the pain receptors in your mouth tell your brain that you are eating something hot. Your brain responds by raising your heart beat and releasing endomorphins that act as pain relievers and give you a general sense of wellbeing. This is why we like eating chillis (and why some people become addicted).

We think chillis have been grown in Ecuador for over 6000 years and were brought to Europe by explorers like Christopher Columbus. Peppers are an integral part of many cuisines from South

and Central America to India, South East Asia and Turkey, mostly in hot countries where they grow well.

In Yorkshire we have them in many dishes. They can be stuffed with a soft cheese, or put in curries, chilli con carne, on nachos or on pizzas. Or you can buy many chilli-fied foods such as cheese with chillis in, salad dressings, marinades, dips, sauces, chutneys and jams. This means that you can add it to sandwiches; pour it over salads; dip bread, crudities or other foods in it; add it to stir fries; put it into gravy for your bangers and mash. If you really become addicted you could find a way to work it into every meal, but for most of us it's just a great way to spice up our diet. (pun intended)

by Graham Williams, The Cheese Place www.thecheeseplace.co.uk

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SEPTEMBER 10th-13th

Pre-festival taster - 8th September

Church Including a Film of the 2008 NYAH Festival in Cavan

Rooms

8.00 p.m. Prometheus - Premiere of at Hall Green Chapel by Andrew King Through Evening - Music Sessions in Pubs

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Old School Rooms

Through Day on Main St. Silsden Singers and Haworth Band; on the Worth Valley Railway - Music Session on the train 2.30 p.m. till 6:00 p.m.: Acoustic Cafe -

Main Street

8.00 p.m.: PALS Premiere of Drama and Vocal Piece PALS, telling the story of the men of Bradford who joined the Pals Regiment to fight in the Great War at the Old School Rooms

8:30 p.m. Beck Sian at the Wuthering Heights pub Stanbury

THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Daytime at Stanbury School Irish Music with NYAH, Paul Jermyn and Tim Moon. 7.30 p.m. Launch Event at Haworth

8.30 p.m. Nyah Music Event Old School

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

drama by Phil Knight at Old School Rooms 8.00 p.m. Photography Talk and Exhibition

11.00 a.m. till 4 p.m.: Family Arts Event at

Acoustic music at Cobbles and Clay on

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

On the Worth Valley Railway - Music Session on the train

2.30 p.m.till 6:00 p.m. - Acoustic Cafe -Acoustic music at Cobbles and Clay on Main Street

5.00 p.m. THE OAK IN MY SPINE: Premiere of a new work by Tim Moon. A piece with drama, costume, music and dance that explores what English culture really is. Featuring traditional and contemporary English songs and music played on instruments from around the world including sitar, bouzouki, harp and electric guitar. The piece forms part of a much wider project using English culture - Old School Rooms

8.00 p.m. LES BARKER - The world famous bard will be reading his incredible poetry that will have you rolling in the aisles. His work has recently featured on a series of albums which raise funds for computers for the blind. On them his poems are read by a glittering array of actors including Prunella Scales, Timothy West, Jenny Aggutter, Terry Wogan and many more. This event is kindly funded by The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway (www.kwvr.co.uk) at The Old School Rooms

8.00 p.m. ACOUSTIC SESSION at The Wuthering Heights, Stanbury

7.00 p.m.Fair Trade - MIKRON THEATRE with FAIR TRADE... Reaping the Dividends, of the co-operative Movement. West Lane Baptist Chapel 7 p.m. (Fringe event. Tickets £7 or £20 for family)

TICKETS FOR NYAH, PROMETHEUS, PALS, OAK IN MY SPINE AND LES BARKER ARE £5. SEASON TICKET FOR ALL 5 £20.

Tickets available from Haworth Tourist Information Centre.



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aiding in the people. The journeys and the warm highs and damp to

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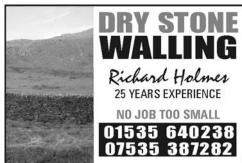
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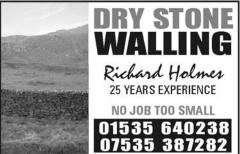














BRONTE COUNTRY - BEATS - "CREDIT CRUNCH"

Despite (or perhaps even because of) the "credit crunch", the Eagle Intermedia Bronte Country website continues to pull in visitors to Haworth and the Worth Valley area from all over the world.

Launched way back in 1997, the Bronte Country website was originally set up by Eagle Intermedia Publishing Ltd. as an initiative to help promote the Bronte Birthplace and its environs in Thornton on the outskirts of Bradford. However the site quickly expanded to include tourist information on Haworth and the Worth Valley as well as other places in the West Yorkshire and East Lancashire Pennines having associations with the Brontes. The area was of course already world famous for its literary connections, but the internet has proved a highly effective medium in communicating interest and helping visitors plan their travel arrangements.

Today the Bronte Country website attracts hundreds of visitors a day from all over the world, and has (along with Eagle Intermedia's other Yorkshire tourist information sites) no doubt made a significant contribution in boosting the local tourism economy both here in Haworth and the Worth Valley as well as further afield.

This view is backed up by the Bronte Country website's existing advertising clients, which include hotels, quest houses and self-catering holiday cottages in the area. Says David Sisley, of the Apothecary Guest House in Haworth: "I am delighted with the bookings and interest which I have received since joining the Bronte Country website. Bookings have increased, and I am receiving enquiries from all over the world because of my listing."

With the "credit crunch" continuing to bite there is every indication that more people in the UK will take their holidays at home rather than abroad, while a weak pound could well lead to more visitors coming in from abroad. Whatever the economic climate, it is clear that the internet in general, and the Eagle Intermedia Bronte Country website in particular, will continue to pull in visitors from all over the world. All we need now is the weather!

For more information please visit the Eagle Intermedia Bronte Country website at www.brontecountry.net or telephone (01274) 480853

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KRIS HOPKINS ON FACING THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD

Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley.

Despite Germany, France and Japan all coming out of recession in recent weeks. the United Kingdom continues to suffer from the economic downturn and the effects of this are clearly being felt here as much as anywhere else in the country.

As a local boy educated at Oakworth Grammar School and Keighley College, I am particularly conscious of the impact it is having on young people in the area.

A recent report published by the Prince's Trust revealed that unemployment amongst 18 to 24-year-olds across Bradford district had risen by 61 per cent in the last year. Additionally, it claimed that one in five young people who have iust received their GCSE results could be forced on to the dole queue by the age of 21. These are startling and depressing facts. Sadly, this recession has left our younger generation facing the gloomiest outlook with regard to jobs since the 1929 economic crash. Companies have been forced to shed jobs or close altogether and, even when the economic downturn finally comes to an end, this trend is likely to continue for some considerable time afterwards.

Whilst young people may be powerless to do anything about the bigger economic picture, they can commit themselves to getting the qualifications and skills they need to enable them to get a good job as soon as the situation improves.

Working with the schools, local education

providers must also never stop considering what more can be done to give young people the chance to succeed in the classroom and in the world of work which will follow - and then they must act.

And the parents must also challenge their children and, crucially, be prepared to be challenged themselves.

My proudest moment as Kris Hopkins is Leader of Bradford Council and the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Leader of Bradford Council came earlier this year helped

> launch the "b someone" campaign to boost skills and educational attainment across the district. The primary focus of the initiative is to encourage adults to help develop children's educational skills by spending time with them and making learning fun. Life for all of us can be hectic but by involving children in everyday learning activities, such as reading, counting, cooking and playing, and making them fun and interesting, youngsters can undoubtedly come on in leaps and bounds.

Aside from parents, grandparents and other adults can also have a massive influence on a child's life, especially when it comes to learning and developing skills. For example, shopkeepers can play their part by asking young customers to work out their change rather than simply handing them a fistful of coins.

So, whilst we are obviously going through a difficult economic period at present, it is a time for all of us locally - young people in particular - to stand tall and aspire together rather than putting our collective heads in the sand.



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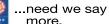












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