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COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

March 2026



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March 2026 – What Lies Ahead?
March brings light. Thank goodness for that! The days stretch out, the first shoots appear, and there's a quiet sense that something new is unfolding. Spring doesn't rush; I love that. And it feels hopeful.

The external world can feel fast, noisy and uncertain. Change moves quickly. Expectations pile up. It would be easy to feel overwhelmed. But here, we have something steady: community life, local relationships, shared history, and a sense of belonging.

Mother's Day falls this month on the 15th. It is a chance to pause and feel grateful for the women who shaped us. I'll be especially thankful for my own mum, a daily reminder that resilience, love and humour carry us further than worry ever could. As 2026 gathers pace, maybe the key is not to chase everything, but to stay grounded. Rooted. Authentic. To nurture what truly matters and let the rest settle. Spring is on its way. And so, quietly, are new possibilities.

Let's grow well ~ together.
Have a lovely March.

Liz Barker, Editor

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When I turned sixty, I did something quietly radical. I accessed my pension pot! For most of my life, I had looked after other people: family, home, responsibilities and rarely paused to ask what I wanted. Sensibly, the money could have gone towards the mortgage or another round of improvements to the house. But this felt different. It was post-Covid. The world had shrunk and shifted. I wanted to mark the year with something that said, 'now it's my turn.' So I bought a campervan! It felt indulgent. Slightly rebellious. Wonderfully freeing.



What I craved wasn't crowds or airports or complicated itineraries. I wanted adventure, but on my terms. Safe. Self-contained. In control. Simple pleasures. The ability to make a cup of tea wherever I happened to be. Or to just stop in a location, park up, and explore. I began gently: day trips into the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District, getting used to the rhythm of the road. Learning how little you actually need. Then, emboldened, I worked up to a week in the Outer Hebrides ~ wide skies, white beaches, space to breathe. The guiding principle was freedom. The van was always stocked and ready. I loved not over-planning. If the weather turned glorious, I could just go. If a friend rang and fancied an escape, we were off within the hour. I started using BritStops and discovered the quiet pleasure of pub car parks and tucked-away private caravan sites. There's something deeply reassuring about pulling in beside a country inn, ordering supper, and knowing your bed is twenty paces away. A dear friend shared the enthusiasm, and often we would travel together — two vans, two women in their twilight years, grinning like teenagers. We found the most extraordinary park-ups: tiny wild camping spots only suitable for two or three vans, perched high above Robin Hood's Bay or gazing across the sweep of Scarborough, or Bamburgh Castle. Campervanning, for me, isn't about ticking destinations off a list. It's about possibility. About waking up and deciding that today you'll follow the coastline, or turn inland, or simply sit with a book while the wind moves through the grasses. It is the joy of having everything you need within arm's reach: kettle, boots, blanket — and the deep contentment of knowing that, at last, you asked yourself what you wanted... and answered. So many happy camping days!

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		1	6	7				2
4		9						
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	4	3			5	8	9	7
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Last month's competition location was Taylored Dental
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As we head into our main season on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, there's a real sense of excitement building along the line. While our trains run right through the year, spring always brings a fuller timetable, special events and plenty to look forward to.

We begin in style with our four-day Steam Gala, a firm favourite in the calendar. With three visiting guest locomotives joining our home fleet, an intensive timetable and lots of steam in action (including the ever-popular steam crane), it promises to be a fantastic spectacle and a great celebration of heritage railway at its best.

Our regular services continue every weekend and throughout the school holidays, offering a perfect day out in the Worth Valley. Whether you're travelling the full length of the line or stopping off to explore, there's nothing quite like the experience of steam travel through our beautiful Yorkshire scenery.

I'm also delighted to see the return of our popular Haworth Haddock and Afternoon Tea trains across the spring and

summer, a little treat to look forward to and a wonderful way to enjoy the railway in comfort and style.

Our themed events are back too. May sees the ever-popular 1940s Weekend take over the railway, and in July we introduce a brand-new event, our first 1980s Weekend, which should bring plenty of colour, music and nostalgia to the line.

If you live in BD20, BD21 or BD22, don't forget to check out our Local Residents' Railcard Scheme, offering discounts on fares, savings at the on-train bar and money off selected events.

Finally, while we're supported by around 800 dedicated volunteers, we're always keen to welcome more. If you'd like to help keep the wheels turning, please do get in touch, there's a place for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you on board for another busy and enjoyable main season in the Worth Valley.

~ **Matt Stroh**

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Chairman

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Who are we?

Our Keighley Denture Expert is Matthew Varley (Dip CDT RCS)

Matthew Varley is the partner and Managing Director of My Denture

Clinics, here he works as a Clinical Dental Technician (Dip CDT RCS).

Matt was born and raised in Pudsey, where he met his wife Angela Varley at school. They have 2 sons; Ray and Austin, he hopes one day they will follow him into the dental profession and share in his passion for dentistry.

Within his 23 years of experience, Matt has changed the lives and smiles of many, some of which are during one day implant immediate loading cases, and same day smiles, which he specialises in. The regular accolades received from clients and patients alike are testament to his passion for his work. Matt has a keen eye for detail and endeavours to provide the best care possible. Matthew completed his dental technology qualification at Leeds Dental Institute, he finished first in his class achieving distinctions throughout and was awarded overall best student and the acclaimed technical achievement award.

Matthew Varley started his journey as a Registered Dental Technician (RDT), however after 23 years experience working as a RDT in highly acclaimed laboratories, Matt made the decision in 2018 to set up his own business alongside fellow business partner Joseph O'Reilly.

Matt also returned to university to further his dental knowledge and become a Clinical Dental Technician, receiving the prestigious royal college of surgeons (Dip CDT RCS).

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The smallest alteration can make the biggest change and Matt is committed to providing the highest level of care, quality materials and the latest digital technology to achieve the best results for you.

Matt's ambition is also his craft, creating lifelike smiles through dentures and implant supported prosthesis.

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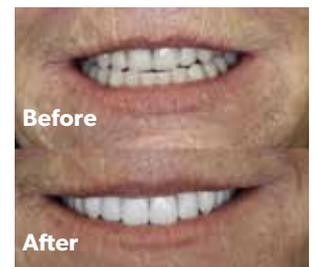


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Leche Frita (FRIED MILK)
 by Martin Lingard




We ate these custard fritters on holiday in northern Spain, a region famous for its dairy. They're a wonderfully moreish sweet snack — dead simple to make, if a little messy. You'll need a **shallow baking tray, roughly 20 x 20cm.**, any larger and the custard will be too thin.



Note: Stage 1 is best done the day before you plan to eat the Leche Frita.

Ingredients (serves 6)
For the custard
 500ml full-fat milk
 Zest of 1 small lemon
 1 vanilla pod, split lengthways (or 1–2 tsp vanilla paste)
 4 large egg yolks
 30g plain flour
 40g cornflour
 100g caster sugar
For frying
 Sunflower oil
For the coating
 50g plain flour
 2 large eggs, beaten
 200g panko breadcrumbs
 2 tbsp caster sugar
 ½ tsp ground cinnamon
Method

Stage 1: Make the custard
 Put the milk, lemon zest and vanilla into a saucepan. Slowly bring to a simmer, stirring

to release the vanilla seeds (or to mix in the paste). Remove from the heat and leave to cool. Lightly oil your baking tray. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the egg yolks, plain flour, cornflour and sugar until smooth and thick. Once the milk has cooled, remove the vanilla pod and gently reheat the milk until just simmering. Slowly pour the hot milk over the egg mixture, whisking continuously. Rinse out the saucepan, return the mixture to it and cook gently for about 5 minutes, stirring constantly, until you have a thick custard. **Pour into the oiled tray, leave to cool, then refrigerate for several hours or overnight until fully set.** **Stage 2: Frying** (the messy bit!) Turn the chilled custard out onto a board. Cut into roughly 5cm squares, then cut each square into two triangles. Set up three plates: one with flour, one with beaten eggs and one with breadcrumbs. (A bowl of warm soapy water nearby is highly recommended.) Pour sunflower oil into a frying pan to a depth of about 1cm and heat to 180°C. Coat a few custard pieces at a time in flour, then egg, then breadcrumbs, ensuring they're evenly covered. Fry in batches, turning once, until golden on both sides. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper. **Stage 3:** Mix the sugar and cinnamon together and sprinkle generously over the fritters. ~ Best eaten warm.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

February was a hugely exciting month for us here at the Brontë Parsonage Museum, from our re-opening and the launch of our brand-new exhibition, to the red carpet of the “**Wuthering Heights**” UK premiere!

At the premiere we were delighted to be able to shine a spotlight on one of the special items from our collection, Charlotte Brontë’s mourning bracelet, believed to be made from the hair of her sisters Emily and Anne. We teamed up with Haworth-based **Wydean Weaving**

to create an exceptional replica which was worn on the red carpet by actress and producer Margot Robbie, who plays Catherine Earnshaw in the latest adaptation. The finished replica bracelet combines three different shades and 280 braided threads and was sealed with a dry steam pressing process to stabilise the structure and preshrink the braid before being fitted into the clasp pieces.

During the Victorian era hair jewellery was fashionable and widely worn, it was also common practice to make mourning jewellery incorporating the hair of a deceased relative. The original bracelet is made of a wide band of braided hair with a gold clasp set with

garnets and has been owned by the Museum since 1923. You can see the bracelet on display in the Parsonage, along with other examples of mourning jewellery, in a specially curated collection.



Replica

Original

If you’d like to find out more about the practice of creating hair jewellery we’ll be hosting an online event with conceptual artist and historian **Donna Lawson, Victorian Hairwork: Histories, Techniques, and Material**

Practice. This event takes place on **Wednesday 8 April, at 7pm.** If you’d like to try out Victorian hair art for yourself, Donna will also be hosting an in-person workshop in May! **You can find out more online at bronte.org.uk/whats-on.**

While you’re visiting the museum, make sure you also take a look at the exhibition in our foyer space, which looks at *Wuthering Heights* adaptations through the years. From the original 1920’s version right through to Emerald Fennell’s 2026 release, the creative response to Emily Brontë’s only novel has been extraordinary and we’re delighted that it is still inspiring artists almost 200 years after Emily’s death.



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

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For more information ask staff or Tel: 01535 602561 or follow us on Facebook, X or TikTok

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COMMUNITY PAGES

Steeton Bowling Club

Welcoming new members to join us for the 2026 season. All ages, all abilities. Contact Dianne 07961 749962 www.steetonbowlingclub.co.uk

Every Monday 9.30am-12 noon

South Craven Walking for Health Group. Contact 07757911726 or 01535 538835 for more information.

Every Monday & Friday 1pm - 4pm

Knit & Natter Craft Group Steeton Hub More info call Diane 07873 485149
Every Monday 1-3pm Tea Dance at Keighley Civic Centre £2.50 inc tea & biscuits.

Every Monday 6.45pm - 9pm

Steeton Male Voice Choir meet at Steeton Methodist Hall. New members wanted call Ian 07949626675

Glusburn and Crosshills WI meet at 7.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Glusburn Community & Arts Centre. A friendly group for local women.

Sutton in Craven WI meet 1.30pm every second Monday of the month Sutton in Craven Cricket Pavilion all local ladies welcome.

Wellbeing Café at Glusburn Institute

Every Monday 10 am to 12 noon. Contact 01535 630223 for more details.

Every Tuesdays Community Post

First Tuesday of a month Silsden

Bereavement Group 10.30 am

-12.30pm at Silsden Methodist

Church Last Tuesday of a month is

Afternoon Coffee, chat & cake at

Steeton Methodist Church 2.30pm

- 4pm with The Salvation Army food bank collection point.

First Tuesday of a month **Crosshills**

Goldie's Sing & Smile – St Peters Methodist Church 2 -3pm singalong to the popular hits of the 50s, chat and laugh.

Games Club Every Tuesday 1:15 - 3:15 pm at Glusburn Institute.

Every Tuesday Rethinking Pain at The Hive, Elliott Street. Silsden **3pm - 4pm**

Third Tuesday of a month at Steeton Methodist Church **2-3pm**

Goldie's Sing & Smile – sing-along to the popular hits of the 50s onwards, chat and laugh. £3 donation to attend, no need to book.

Steeton Bobbins WI 7pm meet on the **first Tuesday of a month** at St Stephen's Church Hall

Every Weds Dementia Friendly 10am - 11.30am at Silsden Methodist Church

Every Weds Glusburn Lunch club at 11.45am Glusburn Institute for a two course, home cooked meal, for £6.00 and company. Contact Pauline on 07436 113748.

Every Wednesday 11 am - 2pm

Keighley Dementia Advice at

Keighley Library Whether you need advice, a listening ear, or guidance through the challenges dementia can bring.

Every Wednesday 1 - 2:30pm

Dementia Hub at Glusburn Institute with Dementia Friendly Keighley. Activities and support for those with dementia and their carers. Contact 07961 537888

Every Wednesday 1.30pm Silsden

Art Club meet at Silsden Methodist Church New members welcome.

1st Thursday of the Month at Steeton Methodist Church 7-15pm -8-15pm invites you to our **Prayer and Praise Service**

Every Thursday at Glusburn Institute 10.30am - 2.30pm

Patchwork. More details contact Sylvia 01535 662698

Silsden Methodist Church Thursday Club 2.30pm - 4pm weekly Music, Games, Quizzes, friendly chatter & refreshments.

Every Thurs at 12.00 - 2.30pm

Craven Craft and Mosaic Social Group at Sutton Sutton Cricket Club Keighley & District Men's Forum

meet **Every Thursday from October to April. speaker from 10.15am.** £2 admission. Keighley Playhouse, 1, Devonshire Street, Keighley.

Every Thursday mornings Silsden Secret Singers, a feel good choir for everyone! £7 per session, drop in.

10-30 am -12 at Silsden RC Church Community Room, Wesley Place - look for the concrete ramp next to the church.

Every Thursday 2-3pm Social Singalong at The Studio, Glusburn Community & Arts Centre. All welcome to this friendly and inclusive singing for fun and wellbeing group. **Free to attend.**

Every Friday 10am-12pm Digital Fridays from 4pm - 6pm Silsden Community Library Chess Club for beginners & experienced players. Free for all ages (inc children)

First Saturday of the Month is **Saturday Social 2 - 4pm** at **St James Community Hall Silsden.** Have a chat, play games & refreshments served.

Sun 1st March A Silsden Saunter 6 miles. Meet at Park entrance, Bolton Road for a 10.30 start www.ramblers.org.uk/ Keighley

Sat 7th March 9am Indoor Car boot sale at Silsden Town Hall

Sat 7th March 10am - 12noon

Dementia Coffee Morning at The Hub Steeton serving refreshments and there will be a cake stall & raffle.

Thurs 12th March 11.00am 1.00pm St Stephen's Church Community Hall, Steeton, Lunch Club - bingo, sandwiches and cake. All welcome.

Sat 21st March 9.30am - 12 noon Silsden Repair Cafe at Silsden Methodist Church.

Sat 28th March 2.00pm - 4.00pm St Stephen's Church Community Hall, Steeton, Beetle Drive plus tea and cakes Suitable for ages 3 to 93! Tickets £7 adults £3 children

Sat 28th March 11am - 3pm

Easter Egg - stravanza at Cliffe

Castle, Keighley Join the Easter Bunny for a trail & Easter crafts

Sun 29th March 10 am - 4pm

Aire Valley Railway Modellers

Club Spring Open Day Melbourne House, Dalton Lan, Keighley, BD21 4LG Admission Free Stairs to top floor of the mill, but no lift.

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All welcome | Children must be Supervised | Free

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Phillips's p25

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