

AIRE VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

May 2026



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There's plenty happening this May, and it's a good excuse to get out and about in the Aire Valley.

The Keighley Annual Town Meeting on May 21 is a great opportunity to hear what's happening locally (p12). That same day, there's a Road Safety Event at Airedale Shopping Centre: a mix of useful and enjoyable, with a few hands-on activities for the family (p4).

The 1940s Weekend (p17) returns along the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, with the Bronte Gathering (p5) and other events adding variety and choice this month.

Plan ahead for summer and sign up for the epic Manorlands challenges like the Paint Rush in Silsden and the Zip Slide in Ilkley... start gathering your supporters and help raise funds for this vital and beloved local charity (p26).

More in the pages that follow... enjoy!



(Front cover by Kate Haslegrave)

Liz Barker, Editor

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The Garage Door Upgrade That Adds More Than You Think

Home improvements often focus on kitchens, bathrooms, or gardens - but one upgrade is quietly becoming a favourite across the UK: the roller garage door.

A modern roller door instantly improves the appearance of a property, giving it a clean, streamlined finish that suits both traditional and contemporary homes. However, it's not just about looks. Roller garage doors are designed with practicality in mind. Unlike traditional up-and-over doors, a roller garage door opens vertically and rolls neatly into a compact box above the opening. This clever design allows you to park closer to your garage without worrying about clearance space, while also freeing up valuable room inside for storage or larger vehicles.

Garolla has become one of the UK's leading names in roller garage doors by combining sleek design with impressive durability and security. Their doors are manufactured using strong, hard-wearing aluminium slats and feature robust locking mechanisms to help protect your home and belongings. Many models also include built-in insulation, which can help reduce draughts, minimise outside noise, and keep garages warmer during colder months, especially useful if your garage is attached to your home or used as a workspace.

But it's not just about performance - it's about everyday convenience too. Garolla roller doors are electrically operated as standard, opening smoothly at the touch of a remote control. No heavy lifting. No getting out of the car in bad weather. Just simple, reliable access whenever you need it.



With a wide choice of colours, finishes, and optional extras available, homeowners can select a door that perfectly complements their property. Add in free surveys and professional installation, and it's easy to see why so many people are choosing Garolla for a smarter, safer, and more stylish garage upgrade.

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



KEIGHLEY
TOWN COUNCIL

ON THE ADGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Minutes - For Decision
3. Former Town Mayor Report
4. Chairs of Committee Reports
5. Annual Report 2026
6. Questions and Answers
7. Close Meeting

THURSDAY
May 21st 2026



START AT
6:00PM



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North Street, Keighley, BD21 3RZ



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In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, Paragraph 10, the Annual Town Meeting is a meeting of the electors of the parish. Business may be discussed and questions asked, but no resolutions can be made.

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Sudoku

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

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Where in the Aire Valley? COMPETITION

Where is the **red x** located in the photo to the right?

This month's prize is generously donated by The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway: (Day Rover Pass)

Email your answer along with your name & address to:

mail@worthvalleymag.co.uk

The winner will be selected from all correct answers received by May 16 2026.



The location of last month's competition was Crosshills and Glusburn Allotments and the winner was Andrew Stringer from Sutton.



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Running a railway that first opened over 150 years ago is never without its challenges. Much of what our visitors enjoy today is built on historic equipment we regularly operate a steam locomotive dating from 1899, while much of our carriage fleet dates from the 1950s. Keeping these vehicles in service takes a tremendous amount of effort.

Behind the scenes, our teams at Haworth and Oxenhope work year-round to maintain and overhaul both locomotives and carriages. It is skilled, often painstaking work, requiring specialist knowledge and components that are increasingly difficult to source. In many cases, parts now have to be manufactured in-house. The time, expertise and cost involved in keeping the railway operational are significant.

As those costs continue to rise, attracting visitors is more important than ever not only to support the railway, but also the wider Worth Valley community. Our March Steam Gala was a great success, drawing visitors from across the country and providing a welcome boost to local businesses.

In May, we look forward to the return of our KWVR 1940s Weekend. Following the departure of the previous Haworth organising group after 2023, the railway has taken on the event and will spread activities along the full length of the line. This allows us to recreate the atmosphere of the era across all our stations, while easing the pressure on Haworth itself.

Visitors to the village may also have noticed renewed activity at the foot of Mill Hey, where volunteers have been working hard to reopen The Royal Oak. This much-loved pub, long associated with the railway, will reopen at the end of April as a community-run venture once again providing a welcoming space for locals, visitors and enthusiasts alike.

There is a great deal happening across the railway, and none of it would be possible without the continued support of our volunteers and visitors. We look forward to welcoming you on board soon and, perhaps, to welcoming you into our volunteer family.

~ **Matt Stroh**

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Chairman

STEP BACK TO THE 1940S RIGHT HERE IN THE WORTH VALLEY



15th - 17th MAY ALONG THE RAILWAY!

The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway comes alive once more for a full weekend of wartime nostalgia, as steam trains, swing music and the spirit of the 1940s take over the line. From the moment you arrive, you'll be transported back in time. Expect live music, reenactments, vintage displays and plenty of atmosphere across all six stations – each with its own slice of the era to discover.

Two steam trains in action all weekend

- **Battle of Britain Memorial Flypast** – Saturday & Sunday (times tbc)
- **Friday Night Dance at Oxenhope** – swing the night away in style
- **Haworth Station** – bar, food and dancing all weekend
- **The Royal Oak** – open just across from Haworth Station

Hop on and off along the five-mile line, explore five unique stations, and soak up the sights, sounds and stories of wartime Britain as you go.

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Who are we?

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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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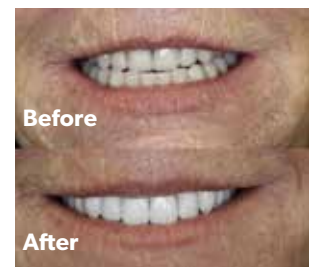


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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

This month marks 180 years since the Brontë sisters' became published writers for the very first time with the publication of their first collection of poetry.

Poems was published by Aylott and Jones of London, however the cost of publishing fell to the authors themselves. They paid £35 18s. 3d. which was more than the yearly wage of a governess at the time, and in 2026 would roughly be over £5000! The sisters had received an inheritance from their Aunt Branwell, and it was from this inheritance that they were able to pay such a large sum. To protect their privacy the sisters' decided to create pseudonyms to publish their work under; they chose the surname of Bell and Charlotte became Currer, Emily became Ellis, and Anne became Acton.

Despite their best efforts, Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell was not an immediate success. They famously only sold two copies, though many more were sent to writers and poets



that the sisters' admired such as William Wordsworth and Thomas De Quinicy. However that wasn't the end for Poems, following Charlotte's success with Jane Eyre, the collection was redistributed by her publisher Smith, Elder & Co, and all remaining copies were sold. Charlotte received a small amount of royalties at the end of 1848, although unfortunately the amount she received didn't cover her initial cost.

It feels very fitting that this month here at the Parsonage we'll be celebrating the work of another Bradford-born poet, Emma Conally-Barklem. **On Thursday 7 May you're invited to come along to the Museum shop where Emma Conally-Barklem will be giving a live reading of her latest collection of poems The High Flight: 50 Poems Inspired by Emily Brontë's Hawk.** Tickets for this special event are very limited so, if you would like to come along, we recommend booking in advance at bronte.org.uk. See you there!

BOOK LAUNCH

Thursday 7 May, 7pm | £6

Emma Conally-Barklem's
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50 Poems Inspired by
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MUSEUM

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Manorlands PaintRush 2026
Sunday 14 June 2026 at 1:00pm
Jackson's Field, Keighley Rd, Silsden, Keighley BD20 0EH

Add colour to your summer - run, jog or walk this fun family colour run with paint stations and obstacles.

For more information visit: sueyder.org/paintrush

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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 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.

Tuesdays 10.00 am-12.00 from 19th May for 8 weeks "Tea and Tablets"

at Silsden Town Hall - Free lessons for Senior Citizens on use of tablets, phones or laptops. More info 07730 895484

Every Tuesdays Community Post 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 Tuesday 7.30pm Airedale Male Voice Choir at Steeton Methodist Church, Skipton Road, Steeton. No audition all welcome or call Roy 07944 092883

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.

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

Mon 4th May 11.00am-2.00pm May Day Fun - St Stephen's

Community Hall & Church, Steeton, Animal trail, Tombola, cakes, books, crafts, FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY Display of 'personal treasures' - non-expensive items which have a story, Dog Show To enter the display or Dog Show please Tel 07906844075

Sat 9th & Sun 10th May 10am - 5pm -Bronte Vintage Gathering Manorland Fields, Haworth Road, Cullingworth, BD13 5EH great family day out and support Sue Ryder at the Bronte Gathering 2026. Stannage Stunt Show will entertain the crowds when this part-steam rally, part-country show returns.

Thurs May 11.00am-1.00pm Lunch Club - St Stephen's Community Hall, Steeton Bingo, sandwiches & cake. Donation gladly received. All welcome.

Sat 16th May Repair Cafe 9.30am - 12 at Silsden Methodist Church - also collecting unwated Bikes.

Sat 16th May 11am - 3pm Woofts Dog Show - Cliffe Castle Keighley fun dog show along with Bouncy Castle, Face Paining, Stalls etc - Aireworth Dogs in Need.

Sat 16th & 17th May 1940's Weekend on the KWVR steam train rides, live wartime music, vintage stalls, military vehicle displays, and costumed re-enactments across the scenic Keighley & Worth Valley Railway line.

Sun 24th May 12 noon - 10pm Cowfest at Cowling Sports Club - Music Festival, live music, bar & food Family fun all day.



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