

WORTH VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

December 2025 / January 2026

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As Christmas and the New Year approach, may your days hold a little peace, a little warmth, and the joy of knowing you belong to a caring community. This issue brings plenty to enjoy. Our friend, Martin Lingard, shares two excellent festive starters; Chicken Liver Pate and Celeriac & Apple Soup, perfect for when you want to impress without too much fuss.

On page 11 you'll find the Churches Together Christmas services, complete with a handy QR code. A special mention goes to this month's beautiful cover from John Sargent, capturing Haworth Main Street at dusk ~ festive, atmospheric, and inviting. You can catch that sparkling vibe with late-night shopping on Thursdays 4th and 18th December, across Haworth Main Street and Mill Hey, with shops open until 8pm.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the local businesses in our directory. They keep our homes warm, mend what needs mending, deliver what needs delivering, and help us get through the everyday. Supporting them strengthens our whole community.

Wishing you and yours all the best! Liz x



Liz Barker, Editor

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Janine and Sue xox

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When it comes to your pets' health and happiness, you deserve a team that treats them like family – and that's exactly what we do at Animal Magic Family Health & Wellness Centre. As an independent, non-profit veterinary and wellbeing centre, we're committed to offering affordable, accessible care for pets across West Yorkshire, East Lancashire and beyond. With over 5,000 enquiries in our first year, and families travelling more than 50 miles for support, it's clear that owners are seeking trustworthy care they can afford.

We believe every pet deserves kindness and first-class treatment without owners worrying about rising vet costs. That's why we provide a wide range of low-cost services, including consultations, preventative plans, diagnostics, dental care, neutering and long-term health support.

To make routine care even easier, our Health & Wellness Membership Packages — simple monthly plans from £28.00 cover essential pet care. Members enjoy significant savings, regular check-ups and ongoing support.

Our peaceful woodland and garden areas offer a comforting setting for end-of-life care and memorial services. We also provide doggy day care, pet boarding, behaviour support, educational clinics and mobility care. Plus, our Pet Patisserie sells homemade dog treats for birthdays and celebrations, and our Gift Shop is packed with goodies for pets and owners.

We also host family events - **this December, join us every Friday and Saturday for Santa Paws at Mistlepaws – a festive, dog-friendly Christmas grotto experience.**

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Stanbury Village School

Are you interested in joining our 2026 cohort?

Prospective students and their families are invited to our upcoming Open Day for a guided tour and the chance to learn why Stanbury Village School is the right choice for your child.

100% of our parents would recommend us to other families.

Open Day

Thursday 5th February 2026
9:30am until 2pm

Please contact the school office to book a place on our Open Day or to arrange an alternative time to visit.
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Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!



It's almost that time when it becomes perfectly acceptable to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year... if it isn't acceptable already!

For us on the Railway, planning for Christmas begins almost as soon as Santa and his elves depart on Christmas Eve, following our sell-out Elf Explorer services. Ticket enquiries start arriving in January, and preparations for Santa's return begin nearly a full year in advance. From booking the big man himself and coordinating with his hardworking team to create gifts for our passengers, to preparing the locomotives and carriages for the special festive trains, it all takes months of dedication and teamwork. But every moment is worthwhile when we see smiling faces receiving their gifts.

This year, we are delighted to welcome back our immersive theatrical experience, A Christmas Carol, running on selected dates throughout the festive period. Please do check the website for full details.

Of course, Christmas is only part of the story. We run trains all year round, every weekend and on select weekdays and planning for next year is already well underway.

Our volunteers are preparing civil maintenance, rolling stock work, and locomotive maintenance to keep the wheels turning on a railway now more than 150 years old.

We are always keen to welcome new members to our family of nearly 800 volunteers. Opportunities exist across the Railway — from operations and engineering to business administration. Roles within the Stations Department are open to those aged 16 and over, while other positions are available for 18 or 21 and above. We also have a Young Person's Group for volunteers aged 13 to 16.

As you begin to think about resolutions for 2026 (sorry... it really is that time again!), I hope you'll consider making one of them to join our volunteering family. In the meantime, thank you once again for your support during what has been a challenging year for the Railway. We look forward to welcoming you on board again soon.

With my very best festive wishes to you all.
~ **Matt Stroh**
Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Chairman

NEXT STOP: CHRISTMAS CHEER!

All Aboard for Christmas Magic at
the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

AN EVENING OF FESTIVE SINGING BY STEAM TRAIN!



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NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



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Churches Together in the Worth Valley wishes you all a Merry Christmas

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the shepherds,
the perseverance of the
wise men,
the obedience of Joseph
and Mary
and the peace of the
Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father,
the Son and
the Holy Spirit,
be among you and
remain with you always.
Amen.*

You are welcome to be part of any of our Christmas
celebrations - visit www.christmas-good-news.org/ or
follow the QR code to find details of a service near you.
We will also post details of the services on local notice
boards.



photo by Rev. D Skeet

Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

Christmas Starters



by Martin Lingard

Here are two easy starters that can be made a couple of days ahead of Christmas Day, allowing you to focus on the main course on the day itself. Both are inexpensive, reliable crowd-pleasers.

Chicken Liver Pâté

Ingredients

250g chicken livers
250g unsalted butter
2 tbsp brandy
2 garlic cloves, crushed
½ tsp mixed spice
2 tsp chopped fresh thyme leaves
2 tsp mustard powder
Sea salt, Freshly ground black pepper

Method

Melt 50g of the butter over a medium heat in a sauté pan.

Add the chicken livers and fry gently for about 5 minutes, stirring regularly, until just cooked through.

Transfer the livers to a blender or food processor using a slotted spoon.

Pour the brandy into the hot pan and let it bubble for a few seconds, scraping up any caramelised bits. Add 150g of butter and the garlic, and cook until the butter is foaming. Pour this mixture into the blender. Add the mixed spice, mustard powder and thyme, then season well with salt and black pepper.

Blend until completely smooth, then pour into a suitably sized earthenware pot or dish. Melt the remaining butter and pour it over the surface of the pâté to seal. Once cool, cover and chill in the fridge for up to two days. Serve with hot buttered toast and pickled gherkins.

Celeriac and Apple Soup

(Use olive oil and vegetable stock instead of butter and chicken stock for a vegan version.)

Ingredients

75g butter, or 2 tbsp olive oil
1 large Spanish onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
1 large celeriac, peeled and cut into large dice
1 large potato, peeled and cut into large dice
1 large carrot, peeled and sliced
3–4 red dessert apples, peeled, cored and sliced
2 dried bay leaves
2 tsp chopped thyme leaves
Sea salt & Freshly ground black pepper
1.5 litres chicken or vegetable stock
Freshly chopped parsley

A couple of dollops of crème fraîche or soured cream

Method

Melt the butter (or heat the oil) in a large pot over a medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook gently, stirring occasionally, until soft but not coloured.

Add the celeriac, potato, carrot and apples. Cook over a medium–low heat for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking or browning.

Add the bay leaves and thyme, season with salt and pepper, and cook for another couple of minutes.

Pour in the stock, bring to a gentle simmer, cover and cook for 30 minutes.

Remove the bay leaves and blend the soup until smooth with a hand-held stick blender.

Check the seasoning and add a little hot water if needed to adjust the consistency.

Serve with a spoonful of crème fraîche and a scattering of chopped parsley.

Enjoy!



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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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He can add volume to your lower face and upper lip region to achieve a more natural, youthful look. Everyone is different, so your dentures are influenced by your age, personality and gender to ensure they look perfectly natural. Matt will discuss your individual needs and the best choices available before providing you with the information you require to determine what is right for you.

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.

**Everybody has
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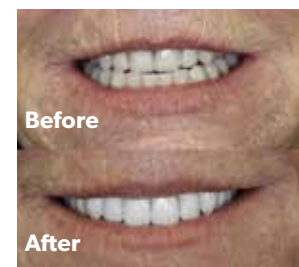


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COMMUNITY PAGES

River Worth Friends – litter picking and conservation tasks **Volunteers wanted** Tuesdays, 10am–12 noon Contact: info@riverworthfriends.org for more information

WORTH VALLEY FOOD BANK
Contact us on 07704 586030 - Monday, Tuesday & Friday between 9 and 12 am to self refer, or call personally at **West Lane Baptist Church Haworth** (side door) on Tuesdays between 1pm and 2.45pm.

Every Monday 10am - noon
The Drop-In at St James' Hall Cross Roads. Entrance on Albion Street. Offering a warm, safe space with refreshments & chat.

Every first Monday of a month
Every Monday 1-3pm Tea Dance at Keighley Civic Centre £2.50 inc tea & biscuits.

1.30 - 3.30pm The Welcome Drop-In at Oakworth Methodist Church Share refreshments and chat.

Every Monday 7 - 9 pm Andy's Man Club Project 6, Devonshire Street, Keighley

Every first & third Tuesday of a month 1-3pm Haworth Men's Shed at Hall Green Baptist Chapel, Haworth (downstairs)

Cup of tea and friendly conversation.

First Tuesday of a month 2pm Worth Valley Branch of the Yorkshire Country Women's Association meet at Oxenhope Methodist Church

First Tuesday of the month 1.30pm Mothers' Union at Christ Church Oakworth. Contact branch leader Sharon on 07521 318983.

Every Tuesday 1-3pm Coffee Afternoon at Hall Green Chapel, Haworth (downstairs). Free refreshments and

friendly chat. Hall Green BookPoint .

Tuesdays (Term Time) 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Calm at the Castle Relaxing & meditation - friendly group. FREE & no experience needed at Cliffe Castle Keighley

First Wednesday of a month

Bereavement Cafe 6.30pm - 8pm at **West Lane Baptist Church, Haworth.** Friendly gathering to talk about life death and everything in between. More info contact Sharn 07922587721.

Each Wednesday 10.30am - 11.30am

Coffee Morning at Christ Church Oakworth. All welcome to come along for chat and a cuppa and biscuits.

Every Wednesday Haworth Senior Citizens Group. 2 pm - 3.30pm at West Lane Baptist Chapel, Haworth. New Members Welcome. Call Doreen 01535 648928

Every Wednesday 2 - 4pm Oxenhope Community Café & Welcoming Space, Oxenhope Methodist Church, 1 West Dr, Oxenhope, Keighley BD22 9LJ

Every Second Wednesday of a month

Worth Reading Book Club meet at **7pm in the basement of Pavé.** No fee. Anyone wishing to join us can ring Megan on 07443 333581 to get more information

Every 4th Wednesday of the month.

Moorland Writers - creative writing group at The Writers Bloc, Main Street, Haworth 1.30-3pm. No fee. For more information please ring Roger on 07739-300780.

Every Thursday Dementia Hub 10am - 12 at Oakworth Methodist Church A Warm & welcoming space. Call in for a friendly chat, along with activities, support & advise. More info call Mandy 07846558001 or email Mandykelly1969@yahoo.co.uk

Oxenhope Pensioners Club (over 65's)

meet at **Oxenhope Cricket Pavilion** twice monthly, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, alternate **Thursdays.** Please ring Diane on (07970) 720068 for more information

The Shed - Oakworth, meets every **Thursday at Oakworth Village Hall** from **1-3pm.** Inclusive group doing crafting/woodworking and regular talks. £2.50 inc refreshments. Contact Carol 07758 710945

Every Thursday Tech Shed free drop in 5 pm - 7pm at Haworth Village Hall.

Thursdays (October - April) Keighley Men's Forum, Corner entrance of Keighley Playhouse, 1 Devonshire Street, Keighley Refreshments from 9.30am, Speaker at 10.15am Variety of speakers/presentations £2/week inc. refreshments

Every Friday 2 - 4pm Haworth Ladies Badminton Group at **Mormon Church, Halifax Road, Cross Roads**
Call Janet: 07966 333 052

Every Saturday 1-3pm Hall Green BookPoint. Hall Green Chapel Haworth (downstairs).

Third Sunday of a month is Haworth Artisan Markets 10 am - 3pm at **Haworth Central Park.**

29th Nov to 21st Dec Elf Explorer on the KWVR

Fri 29th Nov until Weds 31st Dec Shop Local with Keighley Bid collect 3 Stamps from 3 Local Shops in Keighley to be entered into a prize draw. Cards from the Keighley Bid Stand in the Airedale Shopping Centre.

Thurs 4th Dec Late Night Opening at the Bronte Parsonage

Thurs 4th & 18th Dec Late Night Shopping on **Haworth Main Street** (open til 8pm)

Thurs 4th Dec until 23rd Dec A Christmas Carol on the KWVR

Sat & Sun 6th, 7th 20th & 21st Dec Christmas Craft Fairs 10am to 4pm

The Old School Rooms Haworth.

Sat 6th & Sun 7th Dec Torchlight Procession in **Haworth** meet at 4.45pm bottom of Main Street on both days.

Sat 6th & Sun 7th Dec 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight **St Michael & All Angels Church**

Sat 6th & Sun 7th Dec 12pm - 3pm Santa's Grotto at **Haworth Central Park Bowling Club.**

Sat 6th & 13th Dec & Sun 7th & 14th Dec 11am to 3 pm Christmas at The Castle - father Christmas & Craft Market at **Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley**

Sat 6th, 13th & 20th Dec Christmas Markets & Underground Tours 10am - 4pm at the **Royal Arcade, Keighley**

Sun 7th Dec Sugden End & Black Moor. 6 miles. Meet for a 10.30am start on Station Road, Cullingworth. www.ramblers.org.uk/keighley

Mon 8th Dec the friends of **Oakworth Park** are holding their annual **Christmas Sing Song** in the **Holden Park 6.30pm start.** "Haworth Ukulele will be accompanying us, along with the playing of the bagpipes to welcome you to the start of our lovely event. There will be a warming drink along with a little slice of something tasty. Wrap up warm and bring your torch

Fri 12th Dec 7.30 pm Haworth Cinema West Lane Baptist Church

Haworth Film Mission

Impossible The Final Reckoning (12A)

cont...





Sat 13th & Sun 14th Dec 10 am - 4pm

Haworth & Yorkshire Creatives Makers Market Old School Rooms Haworth.

Sat 13th & Sun 14th Dec **Haworth Christmas Music Weekend** from 12pm on the Main Street both days.

Sat 13th & Sun 14th Dec 12pm - 3pm **Santa's Grotto** at The Old School Rooms, Haworth

Sat 20th & Sun 21st Dec **Haworth Nativity Procession** meet at bottom of Main Street both days at 2pm followed by **Carol Service** at St Michael & All Angels.

Sat 20th & Sun 21st Dec 11pm - 2pm **Santa's Grotto** at The Old School Rooms, Haworth (Parsonage Rooms)

Sun 21st Dec **A Christmas appetiser. 4 miles.** Meet for a 10.30am start on Belle Isle Road, Haworth. www.ramblers.org.uk/keighley

Mon 22nd Dec 11am - 12.30pm **Motanka Doll Rudolph Reindeer Workshop** at Keighley Market. All materials provided. Free event book on eventbrite.

Fri 26th Dec - 4th Jan **Mince Pie Specials on the KWVR**
Sat 27th Dec. **Train rides for all the family.** Miniature trains running at Marley sports field 11am until 3pm. Steam and electric trains providing trips for all ages. www.kdmes.org.uk
26th January to 31st Jan **Educating Rita** at The Keighley Playhouse.



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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

As 2025 starts to come to a close, I'm looking back on some of the highlights of the year. I started my role as Marketing and Development Officer at the Brontë Parsonage Museum in March this year, and so much has happened in such a short time! Not long after I started at the Museum, we had the exciting delivery of *The North Wind*, an 1842 watercolour painting by Emily Brontë from her time in Brussels. Being in the Parsonage library when *The North Wind* was unwrapped was an unforgettable experience, although the painting wasn't painted in Haworth it felt almost like a homecoming and I was surprised to find that it was quite an emotional experience. There was a hush as Ann Dinsdale, our Principal Curator, peeled back the final protective layer, followed by lots of 'oohs' and 'aahs' as we saw, for the first time in person, the still vibrant colours of the painting. I'm looking forward to seeing *The North Wind* on display for the first time in 2026.

Another highlight for me was the loan of the Emily Brontë portrait from the National Portrait Gallery. Painted by Branwell Brontë, and originally part of a large group painting, this truly was a homecoming and to see the portrait in its original home was incredible. Before the Museum opened, and before the crowds, I thought I would sneak off into the exhibition space to have a quiet moment, only to find that several of my colleagues had the same idea!

Even though I've been reflecting on the year, we do still have some really exciting events coming up! Join us online on Thursday 18 December for The Brontë Lounge with Eleanor Houghton, where we'll discuss the



inspiration behind Eleanor's upcoming book, *Charlotte Brontë's Life Through Clothes*, which turns to the gowns, bonnets, corsets, boots, and mittens in Charlotte's wardrobe for clues about the famous author's life. Then on Friday 19 December you can join us in-person for *Parsonage Unwrapped: Treasures of the Collection* which includes a session in the library to see unique Brontë items close up, and an exclusive private view of the Parsonage after hours.

In 2026 we'll be back with a whole new programme of events, and although we can't reveal too much just now, I can assure you that there will be something for everyone to look forward to. From all of us at the Brontë Parsonage Museum, we hope you have a merry Christmas, and we'll see you in the new year! ~ Hayley Pink

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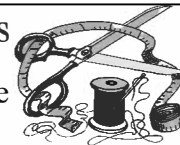
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To learn more about this eco-friendly fundraising initiative in Airedale — kindly sponsored by Beyondly and supported by Skipton Self Drive, Keighley Tree Services and YFC — and to reserve a collection by midday on 4 January 2026, **visit www.sueryder.org/treedales, or scan the QR code here:**



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Warm Christmas Wishes & Reflections from Robbie Moore MP

As the Christmas period draws ever closer and we look ahead toward a new year, I want to send my warmest festive wishes

to every household across our area. Christmas is a time for reflection, togetherness, family and gratitude - and looking back on 2025, there is much to reflect on.

One of the defining issues of the year for our area has been the fight to safeguard the beautiful and historic

moorlands above Haworth from the proposed Calderdale Energy Park. This land, part of Brontë Country, massively enriches our tourism and local economy and must be protected at all costs. Building a vast industrial development on one of the most sensitive and ecologically precious landscapes in the country is, to me, vandalism masquerading as environmentalism. That is why I have been incredibly proud to work with residents, campaigners and local groups from across the political spectrum – including the Stronger Together To Stop Calderdale Windfarm Group – to ensure that the voices of our residents are heard loud and clear.

This year also deepens my work with farmers across the country and I was also honoured to be asked to serve as a Vice President of the Worth Valley Young



Farmers. Growing up in farming undoubtedly shaped my life and everything I do today, so I know how hard it can be. Our farms are not simply businesses, but the backbone of the countryside and the bedrock of our nation's food security. That is why I will continue to lead from the front in opposing the government's destructive Family Farm Tax, a proposal that risks forcing hard-working farming families to sell-up and threatens the livelihoods of farmers who have been farming for generations.



Another key focus for 2025 was the ongoing effort to tackle child sexual exploitation and

grooming gangs, an issue that has devastated the lives of many young girls in our town, the Bradford District and across the country. Whilst we have managed to secure a full national inquiry, we still do not have confirmation that our District will receive proper scrutiny. That is why I am currently working with brave survivors like Fiona Goddard to secure that focus on our area and bring these women justice.



This year also brought the sad loss of one of our community's

most dedicated campaigners: Councillor Russell Brown. Russell was committed public servant known for his kindness, integrity and unwavering dedication to the people he represented. He cared deeply for his community and worked tirelessly for it. His presence will be missed enormously, not only by those closest to him but by the many residents whose lives he improved through his work. Christmas is a time when the loss of loved ones is felt more strongly, and I want to extend my deepest condolences to all who knew him.

As we enter 2026, there will undoubtedly be new challenges, but we will face them together as a community and we have proven time and time again that we can rise to any occasion.

Rest assured whatever happens, I will continue to be put in all of my energy to continue being your voice in Westminster

and ensure Keighley and the Worth Valley is never overlooked.

On behalf of myself and my team, may I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and positive New Year.

~ Robbie Moore

Robbie Moore MP



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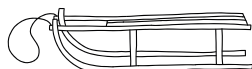
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