

WORTH VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

May 2024

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April showers bring May flowers. That is the phrase that comes to mind at this time of year, at least, to those of us who live in the Northern Hemisphere. I especially enjoy walking through a wood with bluebells and wild garlic in bloom; it is such an amazing sensory experience. See p36 for a few of our favourite local spots for enjoying bluebells and other spring blossoms. Sixty seems to be the magic number for some. This month we spotlight Wydean Weaving, the ceremonial uniform specialists based in Haworth, celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. Also turning sixty is the Haworth West Lane Baptist Amateur Operatic Society. (See pp4,5 and p31) A special welcome to The Classroom, (p27) the hands-on workshop space brought to you by Cobbles & Clay ...find a class and get stuck in!



Liz Barker, Editor

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Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

Wyedean Weaving: Sixty years of manufacturing marked with regal flourish



David Wright with secretary and long-term family friend Margaret Whalley in 1965



Receiving letters awarding them the King Charles III Coronation Medal are L-R Wendy Hatton, Melanie Kaye, Susan Jones and Aileen Henderson



Three generations of Wyedean Weaving celebrate the Haworth manufacturer's 60th anniversary. L-R: Debra Wright, Susannah Wright, Robin Wright, Rosie Wright and (front centre) Norma Wright

Three generations of Haworth's military accoutrement manufacturer Wyedean Weaving have celebrated 60 years in business.

The firm, which was formed in 1964 by husband and wife team David and Norma Wright, is Haworth's oldest employer and today produces over 10,000 uniform-based items annually including the King's Coronation Medal ribbon and most recently, the British Armed Forces' regimental flags. David is pictured here with his secretary – and one of the company's first employees – Margaret Whalley, who now lives in St Lucia and has a large family in the Worth Valley.

Last month, the Wright family, led by Managing Director Robin Wright, his wife Debra and daughters Susannah and Rosie, hosted a special event to celebrate six decades in business and showcase the team's latest intricate embroidery work on the 2nd Battalion Irish Guards Company Colours, which consist of the King's Colour to be used at this year's Trooping and their Regimental Colour.

In a special twist to the celebrations, Wyedean's team of three skilled embroiderers Aileen Henderson, Wendy Hatton and Susan Jones and long-serving project manager Melanie Kaye, were awarded with the King's Coronation Medal for the integral part they played in creating new ceremonial items for the Coronation. Robin Wright said: "Our 60th anniversary

has been a celebration of six decades since my parents went into business at Bridgehouse Mill, the completion of our recent £300k investment programme and our team's manufacture of the latest King's Colour, made as part of our seven-year, £5m contract to replace all British Armed Forces' Standards and Colours with the King's insignia and the Tudor Crown. "Our hard-working embroidery team and project manager Melanie – who this month marks 25 years as an integral part of Wyedean - were also recognised for their contribution to the official Coronation events with a Kings Charles III Coronation Medal, which was an incredibly special moment for us all."

Wyedean was founded as a manufacturer of braid and military uniform accoutrement in Haworth in 1964 by David Wright who ran the business with his father Frank Wright, a former textile machine designer who

was awarded an MBE in recognition of his invention of a new yarn spinning technique called centrifugal spinning. The anniversary event included a special recognition presentation to Norma Wright, Wyedean's chairwoman, who after 60 years in the business – and as a previous 1939-1945 war medal recipient - also thanked guests for their many years of support. Robin added: "Our products are still in demand at home and overseas with other Commonwealth countries that follow British traditions in ceremonial uniform dress. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone – particularly our wonderful team - who has been part of our incredible journey so far."

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While 700+ volunteers might sound like a lot, considering we had around 100 volunteers on duty during the Spring Gala weekend, it helps you appreciate the scale of the Railway's operation. A more regular operating day requires a couple of dozen volunteers, but when we have seven steam locomotives hauling trains, a shuttle service between Ingrow and Keighley, an intensive timetable, and guided tours, it takes a much greater effort.

In addition to all the effort that went into the Gala weekend, we are getting started on our 2024 programme of dining trains. We will offer a selection of afternoon tea options, including a Yorkshire twist on Italian Antipasto, a "Stoker's" version, and a modern and more traditional offering. We also have the return of the Haworth Haddock fish and chip supper trains.

We also hope to reopen the Old Parcels Office at Keighley soon as work on the refurbishment of Keighley Stations moves to the next phase. Please check the Railway's website for full details of our catering options and to book the special dining trains.

It's not just events that are taking our time this year. We are nearing the end of the project to open the Water Tower at

Keighley to visitors, a project funded by the Railway Heritage Trust and Town Deal, and you will see the cosmetically refurbished signal box at Keighley station looking resplendent now that the scaffolding has been removed. Work continues at Haworth as we prepare for the replacement of the bridge that takes the mainline over the river just outside the locomotive yard, a project for which we have provisionally been awarded a grant from the government's Community Ownership Fund.

With a Railway that is now over 150 years old, planned replacements and maintenance of this nature are an inevitable challenge of keeping the wheels turning, as is the increasing cost of overhauls of steam and diesel locomotives.

There are many jobs involved in running the Railway, from the front-of-house operating and station duties that you will see if you join us on board to the behind-the-scenes roles, including maintenance of the infrastructure, locomotives and rolling stock, and the administrative side of running a charity of our scale. If you can spare some time and would like to join our volunteering team, then please visit the website for full details on how to apply.

~ **Matt Stroh**

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Chairman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Upcoming events at The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

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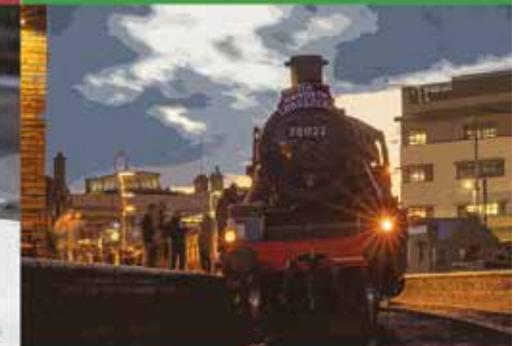
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COMMUNITY PAGES

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Every Monday 10am - noon

The Drop-In at St James' Hall

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Every first Monday of a month 1.30

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

Every Tuesday 7 - 9pm

Men's Peer Support Group Free Safe & Friendly environment for men to share, chat & laugh. Airedale Enterprise Services, Sunderland Street, Keighley, BD21 5LE

First Tuesday of a month 2pm

Worth Valley Branch of the Y.C.A

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 .

Last Tuesday of the month 2pm

Living With Loss Social Group at

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chat informally over a cuppa with others

who are walking the difficult path of life

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Every 3rd Wednesday 7.30pm of

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meet at the Bay Horse Pub Oxenhope New Members always welcome. Further info www.oxenhopeclimateaction.org.uk

Each Wednesday 10.30am -

11.30am Coffee Morning at

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Every Wednesday Haworth Senior

Citizens Group. 2 pm - 3.30pm at

West Lane Baptist Chapel, Haworth. New

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648928

Every Wednesday 2 - 4pm

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Sat 4th May 10am - 11.30 am

Coffee Morning at **Lees Methodist**

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Sat 4th & Sun 5th May Haworth

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with entertainment.

Sun 5th May 2- 4pm Music at

Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley

Sun 5th May 10 am - 4pm East

Riddlesden Hall Summer Fete local

products and craftsmanship

6th - 11th May 7.30 pm Busybody

at Keighley Playhouse

Tues 7th May 2pm Worth Valley

Countrywomen's Association

The Methodist Chapel, West Dr, Oxenhope

Paul Blakey MBE The Work of Street Angels

Weds 8th May 7.30pm & Sat 11th

May 2.30pm Haworth West Lane

Baptist AOS invite you to share their

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Weds 8th May Worth Reading

Club 7pm in the cellar of Pave,

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Sat 11th & Sun 12th Bronte

Vintage Gathering at Haworth

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Sat 18th May 2pm AGM of

Haworth Village Hall Ltd at 2 pm at

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Sun 19th May Oxnop Singers

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Sun 19th May: Widdop &

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Sun 19th May 9am - 5pm Sue

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**Our Keighley
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Matthew Varley
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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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Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

Sudoku

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

			9	7	2		
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SPRING SONGS
 Oxnop Singers Spring Concert at Oxenhope Community Centre on the evening of **May 19** will be the last performance for long-serving musical director



Helen & Rosemary

Helen McClorry. A distinguished musician who has served with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Helen took on the musical director's position in 2009 and has presented dozens of performances at various venues throughout the Worth Valley. Her shoes don't have to wait to be filled, though, as the Singers' pianist Rosemary Pettitt has taken on Helen's mantle and has agreed to become the new director after

the May concert. Rosemary has also spent a lifetime in music: teaching, performing, and serving as organist at Oxenhope St. Mary's Church. 'I'm genuinely sad to be leaving,' said Helen. 'I'd been worried about telling the choir members, but I'm happy to be leaving the choir in the capable hands of Rosemary.'

The Spring concert will feature another great selection of songs, including a medley from the musical Chicago, a four-part rendition of three Abba classics, and a couple of lively gospel numbers. Rosemary Pettitt will be on the piano keys, but she is looking forward to taking the conductor's baton after Helen's last hurrah. If anyone in Oxenhope or the Worth Valley wants to join the Singers please come along any Monday night to the Community Centre at 7.30. **The Spring Concert starts at 7.30 pm on Sunday May 19.** Tickets are £8 and are available from Susan on 01535 644995 or 07748 208156.

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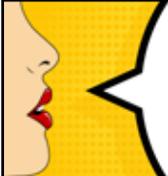
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 **YOU ARE AWESOME!**

 Shout out to **Wave of Nostalgia** for winning the **British Book Awards Independent Bookshop of the Year** competition for the north, selected by the publishing magazine, the Bookseller.

Founder Diane Park is a force of nature, indefatigable to her core, and a living, breathing testament to strong women everywhere.

Building on the strength of Haworth's literary legacy, Diane hosts 'meet and greets' with visiting authors as well as special events and book launches on a frequent basis; she has a cosy room for intimate

readings and also uses the café next door, Cobbles & Clay, for larger gatherings.

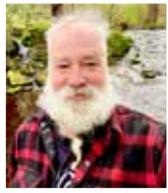
Wave of Nostalgia is more than a bookshop, it is a place where Diane focuses her creative skills as a designer and imagineer, curating a unique product range that features the work of aligned local artists, stationery, gifts, toys, t-shirts, and bags.

Diane also has a workroom upstairs, above the shop on Haworth's Main Street, where she designs and sews clothes, in particular, pinafore-style dresses and shirts for children made from beautifully patterned wild and wonderful fabrics she sources from all over the UK.

Diane is supported by an equally strong and dedicated team and a lovely husband named Ian. You will find **Wave of Nostalgia** at: 74 Main Street, Haworth, West Yorkshire. BD22 8DP. **01535 538352** Open every day 10 am - 5 pm

Please go buy a book or a funky card and congratulate Diane, Ian and the team on their achievement!

Risi e Bisi (Rice & Peas)



Fresh peas are now in season, another sign that spring is finally here. The price of peas comes down quite quickly as May progresses so you may want to wait till later in the month to try cooking this dish.

Fresh peas are best for this recipe but you can use frozen. If so, reduce the weight of peas to 500g. Although the recipe uses risotto rice, it isn't a risotto as it doesn't need constantly stirring, it is much simpler. I like to serve this dish with chicken thighs, slathered in olive oil and simply grilled with a small knob of butter, a few good grinds of salt and black pepper and a little bit of balsamic vinegar drizzled over each portion once on the plate.

Ingredients

- 50g unsalted butter
- 1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 kg of fresh peas, still in their pods
- Sea salt
- 1 litre of chicken stock (or vegetable stock if preferred)
- 200g risotto rice
- 1 bunch of flat leaf parsley, roughly chopped
- 75 g parmesan, grated
- Freshly ground black pepper

Method

- First, pod your peas!
- Place a wide, heavy based sauté pan with a well-fitting lid over a medium flame. Add the butter and chuck in the chopped onion. Gently fry for a few minutes, stirring frequently until softened but not coloured. Now tip in the peas with a couple of pinches of sea salt, stir then pour in half of the chicken stock. Bring everything up to a gentle simmer, pop the lid on and cook over a low heat for ten minutes. Remove the lid, add your rice, chopped parsley and the remaining stock. Bring back to a slow simmer, stirring occasionally, pop the lid back on and cook over a low heat for fifteen minutes until the rice is nearly cooked. Remove the lid, stir and continue to simmer until all the stock has been absorbed. Chuck in the cheese and ground black pepper, stir well and serve.

~ Martin Lingard

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

Back in April, we welcomed **Sophia Hatfield** to the Museum. Sophia is our **Storyteller in Residence**, tasked with bringing the history surrounding the Brontës and the local area to life in imaginative and creative ways – and we have to say, she’s very good at it!

For a whole day, Sophia set up camp in the Servant’s Room, dressed in her “storytelling trousers”, shirt, and braces, and armed with an eclectic selection of everyday items. Amongst other objects, she had a broom, a basket, a rug beater, and a couple of giant spools of thread. Using the items, she told wondrous stories to visitors of all ages as they stopped by the room.

But these weren’t just any stories. For months, Sophia has been researching folk tales associated with the Yorkshire area – tales the Brontës’ servant, Tabby, likely told the young siblings, captivating their minds and sparking a love of storytelling. Interwoven with beautiful singing, live accordion playing, and evocative strings on her violin, Sophia took our visitors on a journey to a Yorkshire we both know and don’t know anymore.

This was a time when boggarts existed – tricky creatures who love to help... as long as you don’t get on their wrong side! Not-so-wicked witches, magical waterfalls, and vengeful fairies all played their part, and there were a few familiar characters who cropped up in Sophia’s tales too – like Martha, the young girl the Brontës took on to help around the house.

Don’t worry if you missed it though – the session received some wonderful feedback from visitors and we’re looking forward to having Sophia back in the Museum in the



not-too-distant future... In the meantime, Sophia’s teamed up with theatre designer Rachel Shore to create an immersive audio storytelling installation, which you can listen to year-round in the Servant’s Room. Like the day of live storytelling, this exhibition weaves traditional folk tales with everyday objects the young Brontës would have used – conjuring up mighty ship sails from old white shirts and deadly cutlasses from sewing needles. It’s a reminder of how children can transform the mundane into the extraordinary – a skill we never really lose... it just needs dusting off every now and then.

You can experience Sophia’s exhibition, ‘How to Build a Storyteller’, free with entry to the Museum. Find it in the Servant’s Room until 2 January 2025. visit bronte.org.uk/whats-on.

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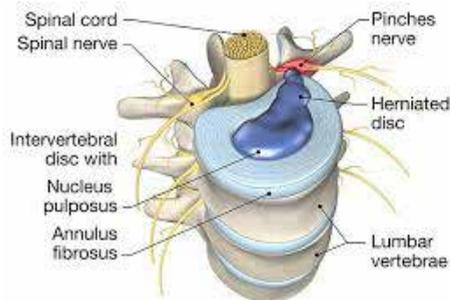
Spinal discs ~ easing the pressure

It seems so benign. All you did was bend forward to put on your shoes, pick up your toddler or grab a pan from a low cupboard in the kitchen and then...BANG! It's a common scenario: a seemingly innocuous movement results in excruciating lower back pain, leaving you immobilized and bewildered. The culprit? Likely a slipped disc in the lumbar spine, a condition often lurking beneath the surface until triggered by a mundane action.

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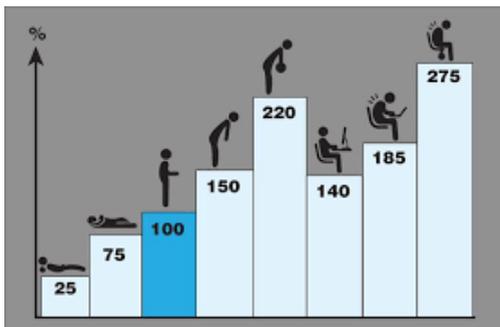
Repetitive strain, whether from heavy manual labor, poor sitting posture, or constant forward-leaning standing positions, can cause small tears in the outer shell over time. Eventually, these tears widen, culminating in a "tipping point" where the jelly-like substance protrudes outward, pressing against spinal nerves, including branches of the sciatic nerve—a condition known as an open fissure disc bulge.

When faced with this agonizing pain, the immediate response is to lie flat, take pain



relief, apply ice, and allow the body time to alleviate the pressure on the affected disc. This facilitates the retraction of the protruding disc matter away from the sciatic nerve.

Understanding the pressure dynamics within spinal discs is crucial. A pressure chart illustrates how various postures affect disc pressure: normal standing posture registers at 100%, while forward-leaning standing or slumped sitting significantly elevates pressure (150% and 185% respectively).



Adding load to poor postures exacerbates the issue, reaching pressures of 220% and 275% respectively. Consequently, lying flat becomes imperative after a disc bulge, as it drastically reduces disc pressure, aiding in the retraction of protruded disc matter.

For individuals with sedentary or labor-intensive occupations, this chart underscores the importance of maintaining proper posture and lifting techniques to mitigate the risk of spinal disc damage.

~ David Hanson, Haworth Physio

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

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

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

5	7	8	1	4	9	3	2	6
6	4	9	5	2	3	8	7	1
2	1	3	6	8	7	9	4	5
3	8	1	2	9	5	4	6	7
9	6	4	7	1	8	2	5	3
7	5	2	4	3	6	1	8	9
4	2	6	9	5	1	7	3	8
1	3	7	8	6	4	5	9	2
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Building Services/General/

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AV Rendering & Externals p36

Broomhill Roofing p26

D&R Construction p21

Handyman p12

Haworth Handyman p12

Haworth Restorations p26

MB Roofing p26

RLVW Plastering p35

Yorkshire Loft Ladders p39

Business Related

Ask Andrina p22

Butchers

Marsh Top Farm Shop p13

Care/Cleaning / Domestic

Adele's Ironing p29

Deep Klenz p11

HP Cleaning p29

Worth Valley Care Services p29

Cars/Vehicles

Stockbridge Tyres p12

Chimney Sweep

Bristles p13

Computer

Computer Repairs p26

DVD Conversion p12

Counselling/Retreat/Therapy

Slade Barn Retreat p37

Vivien Wallwork p37

Yoga Therapy p37

Dental

Taylored Dental Care p18/19

Doors/Windows

Bingley Windows p3

Bob Beattie p35

David Brunskills p21

Dream Doors p25

Garolla Garage Doors p8

Electrical

Brooks Electrical p22

CT Electrical p26

Fencing

Worth Valley Fencing p10

Fire & Security

Guardian Security Installations p2

Keybury p3

Fuel/Heating

Anchor Logs p13

Calderbank Heating p24

Negas p24

Funeral and related

Andrew M Ellershaw p10

Lyndon Leeson p10

Richard Wine p10

Gardening/Trees

Hedge of Perfection p6

JE Home & Gardens p6

SAS Landscape & Gardening p6

Worth Valley Trees p6

Gutter/Window Cleaning

Deep Klenz p11

Sam Firth p7

Health & Mobility

A1 Health & Mobility p26 & p33

Hire Specialists

Typical Type p37

Holidays/Travel

Steels of Addingham p2

Knitting/Sewing

Hilarys Keighley p2

Material Worth p11

Phillipe's p11

Locksmith

In House Securities p13

Painting & Decorating

Andy Beattie p35

Paul the Painter p35

R.P.Decorating p35

Pest Control

F& D Pest Control p7

Physio

Haworth Physio p32/33

Plumbing /Tiling

AR Carling p26

DSM p12

R& C Bathroom Solutions p24

Steve Spencer p22

Podiatry/Foot & Ear Care

A1 Health Suite p11

The Mobile Hearing Clinic p33

Pubs/Restaurants/Take Outs

Bocking Club p22

The Robin Hood Inn p40

Uppertown Fish & Chips p23

Retail

Assisted Living p25

Dream Doors p25

DSM p12

Office Furniture Outlet p22

Queensbury Kitchens Bedrooms &

Bathrooms p40

Schools/Training/Tutoring

Keighley College p6

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