



REGULAR GROUPS IN SHELLEY				
YOUTH GROUPS	DAY	VENUE	TIME	CONTACT
Rainbows	Friday term time	Methodist Hall	5pm	www.girlguiding.org.uk
Brownies	Friday term time		6.15 - 7.45	
Guides			7.30 - 9.00	
Beavers (age 6-8)	Tuesday term time	Methodist Hall	6pm	
Cubs (8 - 10.5)	Tuesday term time	Village Hall	6pm	07812038724
Shelley Scouts	Tuesday term time	Methodist Hall	7pm	715858
Under 16 football	Various days	Storthes Hall		07756 10299
Under 13 cricket				602869
PRE-SCHOOL				
The Cabin HD8 Pre School and Out of School Club	Mon - Thursday	Cabin behind school	9am to 3.15pm	600519 info@the cabinhd8.co.uk
ADULT GROUPS				
Art Group	Tuesday	Village Hall	8 - 10pm	862083
Kirkburton District Probuus Group	1st and 3rd Thursday of the month	Village Hall	10am	862007
Bridge Club	Wednesday	Village Hall	7pm	608192
Community Association	2nd Monday of the month	Village Hall	7.30pm	07821 8876362
Sequence Dancing	Wednesday	Village Hall	2pm	615032
Over 60's	M,T,W,TH,F	Various	Various	Sandra 608214
Pilates	M,T,W,Th	Village Hall	Various	07980 110868
Reading Group	Monthly-ish			07887774057
Pierrot Players	Various	Various		07790 499502
Shelley Strollers	Tuesday		11am	Jane 862007
Cricket Club	Thurs & Sat			07891 704009
Ukelele Group	Monday	Village Hall	1.30-3pm	07884 210861
Gentle exercise and Well being	Monday	Village Hall	10.30-11.30	07737 688837
Zumba	Tuesday	Village Hall	10-11am	07713 510910
Friendship Café	Friday	Village Hall		07804417271
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Carol Rowatt	Bookings-shelleyvillagehall@outlook.com		07901 701868
Please check with the contact numbers above about the current situation regarding activities				
LIBRARY OPENING TIMES			Tel 01484 414868	
KIRKBURTON Mon 2 - 5 Tuesday 2 - 6 Wednesday 10 - 3 Friday 2 - 5 Saturday 10 - 12.30		SHEPLEY Monday 1 - 5 Thursday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5 Friday 2 - 5 and Sat 10 - 12		



APRIL 2026 No 533

We recently marked the passing of John Cook, a well known and loved village character. If you are new to the village – let's say you moved here less than 15 years ago (!), this level of commitment to someone you never knew might seem excessive. Articles in both this and last month reflect not only the personal affection held for John, but also the nature of living in a small village. We are known to each other – be it at the school gate, the chip shop or on our regular dog walking route. This knowing helps to develop support and empathy for each other, and respect for our surroundings. Village life - it's the reason that many of us chose to live in our community. So if you should be tempted to park carelessly, "forget" to pick up after your dog, or commit any other of the myriad of social gaffes that we are all prone to, just think of John and think again.

Please send all articles intended for submission to shelleymag@hotmail.com or to one of the editors:

Julie Burnham 57 Far Bank Shelley
07887 774057

Denise Edinburgh 77 Westerley Lane Shelley
01484 602905

Please contact the advertising manager regarding the submission of adverts:
Lynn Parsley 27 Cleveland Way Shelley
07930 573860 lynn@theparsleys.me.uk

Magazine distribution:
Claire Moore 07550 076489

The deadline for the submission of articles is the 12th of each month. Please note that the opinions and articles in the magazine are not necessarily those of the editors. The editors reserve the right to edit / abbreviate as necessary. Please ensure that you always give your name and a means of contacting you on any item intended for publication. It is not our policy to publish anonymous copy, although names may be withheld on request. Please aim to limit letters to around 400 – 450 words.

JOHN COOK – OBITUARY

John Cook sadly passed away in February with Donna his main carer and Pat his neighbour by his side. John was a Shelley man and despite a poor start in life and difficulties in speaking and thinking John became the Village Treasure with lots of comments on facebook calling him a lovely gentleman, and being small in stature but big in heart. He was a character that was for sure! We all knew him for never hiding his light under a bushell! He was the main raffle ticket seller in Shelley – he tried to get in the Guinness Book of Records over how many he'd sold. He was the man who led the Gala parades here and in Upper Cumberworth – village policeman Steve Allen bought him a High-viz jacket saying Marshal because he kept us all in line! He organized the Shelley Junior Snooker Tournament and refereed this in a suit and white gloves as seen in Sheffield Crucible. He shepherded the Tractor Run in Shepley and looked after the traffic at our many community events. He was a force to be reckoned with! He moved to Skelmanthorpe as he got older and joined Skelmanthorpe Male Voice Choir, researched his family history and wrote his life story.

It is hard to think of anyone else with such diverse enthusiasms – John had a passion for life! He raised funds for many charities including completing sponsored walks and his last event was a coffee day in October last year at home.

He was just as beloved by his adoptive village of Skelmanthorpe – he was seen as such a notable celebrity he was asked to switch on the village Christmas lights!

And this was a man who wasn't expected to make much of his life!

John was very lucky in that as he got older Donna came into his life – first as cleaner, then carer and then as PA. He had always been blessed with friends and neighbours who helped him but Donna took him into the heart of her very loving family and gave him something he had never experienced – the joy of being part of a family. He was very grateful to her for all she did for him. He even did as he was told!!

His favourite banter was 'Oh no – not you again!' and 'Here we go again!' - his ready smile and impish sense of fun will be sorely missed.





Shelley Community Association

Is celebrating being 50 with a meal at the Fox House, Hepworth On Sat 25th April at 7pm with a DJ If you run a Shelley community group, or provide a voluntary service in Shelley and would like to join us please contact Ann.priestman@outlook.com

Shelley Community Association Annual Review

Monday 13th April at 7.30pm
Shelley Village Hall
Light refreshments served

Please come along and hear what has been going on in the past year – you will be made very welcome.



Discover the benefits of Hatha Yoga!

Build strength, improve flexibility, and find calm through gentle, mindful movement. Hatha yoga is suitable for all levels and helps reduce stress, boost balance, and support overall wellbeing.

Join us every Wednesday at Shelley Village Hall, 11.30–12.30.

A welcoming class designed to help you feel grounded, relaxed, and energised.

Contact Sue on 07979 370323

or visit www.sueyoga.uk for more information.

Kirkburton Parish Council

There is a new correspondence email address for the Kirkburton Parish Council Clerk:
clerk@kirkburtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Parish Council also has a new website, where you can find updates, documents and contact information:
www.kirkburtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.



SHELLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting held on 9th March 2026
16 residents attended, 14 Apologies received

Tony Clifton was presented with dining vouchers as he stepped down from the Village Hall Committee after more than two decades. He was thanked for all his hard work as a dedicated volunteer during this time and he reminded us of all the improvements undertaken in the Hall during that time, and that photos taken from when we took on the lease show a huge difference in the fabric of the hall today. Enjoy yourself now Tony!

Chair's Report:

Zebra Crossings..residents from Penistone Road shared their near-miss stories of the zebra crossing at the bottom of Far Bank – one gentleman no longer uses the crossing as he deems it so unsafe. Cllr John Taylor began a petition to demand Kirklees look at certain crossings throughout Kirkburton ward and when it was realized that just 27 more signatures were needed, possibly by midnight, the power of social media and Whats App groups was harnessed and we reached 1,000 at just after 11pm! Many, many thanks to all those who signed. As the strength of feeling was so strong in the room Cllr Taylor is to be asked to arrange a meeting with a Highways Engineer and residents in the Village Hall regarding the two crossings in Shelley. Steve Allen explained that if any fault is found with the markings of a Zebra crossing then it is much harder to prosecute. It was also suggested that the SID may be distracting motorists.

Garden Festival Funds have nearly been accounted for with a grant to Shelley Brownies, a donation towards a new Christmas Light in the village, donations to new plantings on our open spaces and gravel for the Boules Court. Many thanks to Les for making the Tawny Owl box that was suggested and to Richard for putting it up. A small amount will be left in SCA account should anything further arise.

The Whins – it had been wondered whether to use Garden Festival funds to survey our open spaces as there is a concern the Gorse on the Whins is being out-competed by new trees. Advice was sought from Stirley Farm in Huddersfield run by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Their advice has been passed to SCEG. It was very practical as much depends on the number

of volunteers – it was suggested that looking after keeping a small patch of gorse on the site might be enough to protect insects – and birds – that rely on the gorse.

Their website has a free to join section called Team Wilder with lots of toolkits and they will shortly be running training and events themselves.

Neighbourhood Watch Community advice session on Mon 23rd March from 5.30-6.30pm in Shelley Village Hall – all welcome
SCA's 50th Anniversary – a celebration in Hall in June being considered and thanks to Ian Dyson for showcasing 50 years of SCA in Museum over the weekend of 27/28th June.

Village Hall report The back door lock has been serviced, the old boiler removed and the old downpipe and window on Huddersfield Road replaced/repared.

SCEG New strimmer bought with KPC grant. Village Litter Pick to be organized by Damian and David.

KPC: Annual Parish meeting Thurs 21st May at 7pm at Shepley Methodist Church. Grants are increasing slightly

Kirklees Council Thank you to Cllr John Taylor for organising the petition for road safety at the notorious Sovereign junction – as a result the junction will get speed cameras. John also reported by email on progress with Tailors Green, Stocksmoor, Eastfield and Cumberworth developments and Beneficial Logs, which we visited several years ago.

Social and community events: Shelley Art Exhibition in March and the Pierrot Players production in early April

Date of next meeting; Mon 13th April at 7.30 to be our Annual Review. Every resident or person with an interest in Shelley welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Tony Clifton stepped down from Shelley Village Hall Committee this month having served well over 20 years on the committee and helping with all community events organized by Shelley Community Association.

He says it will be a wrench – but it's a wrench for us to lose his expertise, forensic ability to read legal documents, his practical hands-on maintenance and total dedication to the Hall and Shelley.



We have come a long way since he started – the Mercer Room extension, a rain-water harvesting unit, a revamped kitchen and bar room and bookings at the Hall an all-time high. We have no paid staff, few grants, a 99 year peppercorn lease on the Hall and are seen as a beacon of community life. More than that every resident is proud of their Hall and that is thanks to Tony and all the teams he has worked with.

Thank you Tony – and enjoy your well-earned rest.

SHELLEY PARISH CHURCH

Services during April 2026

- 5th Emmanuel Shelley 9.30am
- 12th Emmanuel Shelley 9.30am
- 19th Emmanuel Shelley 9.30am
- 26th Emmanuel Shelley 9.30am

Wednesday 2.00pm 8th 22nd a short service of Holy Communion at Emmanuel Church, followed by refreshments and a chat everyone welcome. If you need a lift to the Wednesday services, please ring Carol Robertshaw

Ukelele Concert 7.00pm £5 in aid of the Hospice and Emmanuel Church

Service times correct at time of going to press. Check on church web site for up-to-date information: www.emmanuelchurchshelley.co.uk

Church Contacts

Rev. Lindsey Barber
lindsey.barber@leeds.anglican.org
07920687157

Baptisms & Weddings

Carol Robertshaw 01484 860657

Funerals Stephen Hughes 01484 605755

EASTER

Have you ever seen a beautiful sunrise, perhaps during an exotic holiday or from your own bedroom window as you open your curtains first thing in the morning? It's a beautiful experience. First the lightening of the sky, then the brightness from the horizon, the glow of the skies and the first edges of the sun start to appear. Many people describe a sunset and sunrise as some of the most beautiful experiences in their lives; and with good reason.

The word, 'Easter' is thought to derive from the German word, 'Ostern', meaning, the dawn or sunrise. I'm no linguist, but the connection between the sunrise and the 'son-rise' that is celebrated in the Church at Easter would be difficult to miss. There is hope in the risen Christ to make all things new, like it says in Revelation 21:5,

'See, I am making all things new.' There is a new hope with each new sunrise. Easter reminds of this hope. Christ died at a time when his country was occupied by foreign forces and there was a sense of fear and instability. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Our world is under threat of violence with each newsflash, some believing that we are on the brink of another world war, and the lessons of previous conflicts restricted to the history books.

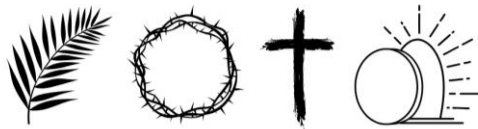
Christianity holds the hope that the each new sunrise we are reminded of the Easter hope of the 'Son-rise' that came to save us from ourselves. When the world seems dark look to the Son, who came as the light of the world, to the darkest places of the world, to bring a new world; the kingdom of God.

So, why not join us over Easter as we celebrate the God who makes all things new.

Happy Easter.

M	L	Q	U	S	O	N	B	P	S
E	E	A	S	T	E	R	R	S	R
L	E	S	N	K	O	H	O	P	E
A	J	J	R	C	S	R	R	Y	E
S	Y	T	E	T	C	I	L	W	V
U	M	O	B	S	S	J	E	V	E
R	V	M	J	E	U	P	G	E	I
E	M	B	N	C	U	S	N	V	L
J	Y	R	A	M	H	D	A	O	E
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	L	B

Jesus Easter Believe Joy Son Hope
Cross Love Tomb Peace Risen
Jerusalem Angel Mary Soldiers



A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN SEVEN DAYS

Join us for our Easter Services

Sunrise Service at St Paul's Shepley 8am

*Joint Service at St Nicholas, Cumberworth
11.15am*

Easter BCP Communion - 60's style

SHELLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Services for April 2026

- 5th Easter Day Service - Rev T. Francis - 9.30am
- 12th Joint Service at Emmanuel Church - 9.30am
- 19th Steward Led Service - 10.30am
- 26th Communion Service - Rev T. Francis - 10.30am

Holy Week Events

Thursday 2nd - Maundy Thursday service at Scholes Methodist Church
Friday 3rd - Good Friday Service at Dalton St Paul's Methodist Church

Thank you to Shelley Methodist Church for holding John Cook's funeral tea, especially to Ian, Janet B and Janet A, and to Janet Cartwright and Tracey of Dearne Lea for personally providing most of the cakes, to Jill A who baked, to Mary who helped and Donna and Ian for setting up John's Wall of Fame! John was still being looked after, still loved.



Emley Show

Cookery, Craft & Photography Section 2026
Emley Show 2026 is on Saturday 1st August. The Cookery, Craft & Photography section have been busy planning the schedule of classes, which has now been confirmed and ready to publish. Each year we look at what classes were popular and for 2026 we have included classes to celebrate Yorkshire Day, which is also on the 1st August 2026. The confirmed classes for the 2026 show are shared below, which gives you the opportunity to decide which sections and classes you would like to enter. Our section, would be very grateful for your support, as without your entries we would not have such a wonderful display on show day.

HANDICRAFT CLASSES

- 901 UPCYCLED TEXTILE PROJECT
- 902 HAND EMBROIDERY
- 903 HAND KNITTED OR CROCHET FARM YARD ANIMAL
- 904 CREATIVE TEXTILE ART PANEL – WOODLAND THEME
- 905 QUILTED COT BLANKET
- 906 ANY OTHER HANDICRAFT
- 907 APRON WITH POCKETS
- 908 HANDMADE GREETING CARD DECORATED WITH BUTTONS

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

- 912 THE YORKSHIRE FLAG
- 913 THE YORKSHIRE GARDEN
- 914 YORKSHIRE ICONS

COOKERY CLASSES

- 915 VICTORIA SANDWICH
- 916 3 PIECES OF TIFFIN
- 917 GINGER CAKE
- 918 FOCACCIA BREAD
- 919 SWISS ROLL
- 920 JAR OF PICKLED VEGETABLES
- 921 3 SHREWSBURY BISCUITS
- 922 DECORATED GINGERBREAD FARMING THEME
- 923 3 FRUIT SCONES
- 924 LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE
- 925 YORKSHIRE PUDDING
- 926 FRUIT PIE
- 927 JAR OF RHUBARB JAM
- 928 VEGETABLE CAKE flavour
- 929 HOME MADE VODKA

Full details are available on our website www.emleyshow.co.uk Any questions you may have re the above classes please contact Alicia & Corol section secretaries via our email at cookerycraft@emleyshow.co.uk or telephone Alicia on 07745370009 (evenings only please).



PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

After a seemingly endless (and damp!) Winter, the days are starting to lengthen and the flowers are starting to bloom. There are few places better in the world than West Yorkshire when the sun shows its face, so I've been pleased to be out and about in our area this month.

As an animal lover, it was a delight to visit the 'Whole Groom' to meet with its owner Jane and discuss what businesses like hers need to thrive. It is a great business (as the well-groomed dog I had the pleasure of meeting could testify!) so do pop in if your dog is in need of a trim.

To celebrate World Book Day, I joined teachers and pupils at a reading café at a local school. I had the chance to read to students, and listen to them practicing their reading, as well as speak with teachers and parents about the support they need to champion literacy and reading among local children.

Reading, especially at a young age, is so important, unlocking everything else school has to offer and so much of the wider world. I want young people to love reading, but just one in three say they currently enjoy it, and too many children are leaving school unable to read. That's why I am glad to support the Government's 'National Year of Reading' to help families across the country to read together for just 10 minutes a day. It's a simple step that can lay the foundations for strong literacy skills, helping kids to be school-ready and able to achieve and thrive.

I am assured that the next generation of Shelley Magazine readers will be secured! March also saw the start of our rail fare freeze, saving passengers £600 million and easing cost-of-living pressures while we build a better, more reliable railway. I am glad that local rail commuters will feel the benefit of these changes, and will not have to pay a penny more on their tickets.

I also continued my work to improve local health services, ensuring that the record funding we have delivered for our NHS is used effectively to lower waiting lists, improve care, and end the scandalous use of corridors for patients. I met with the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to discuss waiting lists, access to dentistry, and specific constituent issues.

Following this, I was delighted to join the Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust's Maternity Service Team at Pinderfields, and saw the passion they have for their work first-hand. I raised some issues I had heard from residents,

and I was pleased to hear their plans to improve the care they are offering local people. I was similarly pleased that, following increased investment from the Government, there will be a new £9 million investment to significantly improve urgent and emergency care services at Pinderfields. Local people often tell me about difficulties they've faced at Pinderfields, and I am glad this funding will help our brilliant NHS staff deliver the best possible quality of care. Finally, I am keen to host another Shelley surgery soon, so do get in touch at Jade.botterill.mp@parliament.uk if you have a problem my team and I can help with.

KIRKLEES COUNCIL REPORT

Hello to all in Shelley.

By the time you read this spring will have sprung and nature will be well and truly awakening from her winter slumber. This winter has been relatively kind to us in Shelley, although the persistently wet start to the year does seem to have encouraged a bumper crop of potholes around the village and further afield. It does seem to me that Kirklees are making progress on filling these, but obviously much more needs doing.

Much of how Kirklees performs, with potholes and a wide variety of services, will be down to the new budget. The 2026/27 budget was set after a marathon sitting at the Town Hall, which began at 5.30pm on Wednesday 25th February and concluded at 6am on the Friday. It goes without saying that the process did not run smoothly! In all five amendments to the Administration's proposal were tabled, and all, plus the original proposal, were defeated. Several amendments sought to reduce any extra monies for improving road markings and the clearance of fly tipping so that one group or another's pet projects could be furthered. I spoke against these moves, and in particular supported strongly extra money for road markings.

In the end council came up with a budget which didn't really please anyone, with the expected headline feature of a 4.99% increase in Council Tax, but caused the least offence all round. I was only partially successful, in that some extra money was allocated for road markings and pothole repairs and fly tip clearance, but to my mind not enough. That being said, I'm pleased to note that road markings have very recently been renewed in Huddersfield Road. Perhaps my witterings have at last been heard.

In many ways, such a Mix 'n Match budget is the almost inevitable outcome of a fractured



council. It would be foolish to try to predict the outcome of the all-out elections on May 7th, with the electorate seemingly in a very febrile state to put it mildly, but I certainly hope that a less fractured and better balanced Administration will emerge. On which point I will just note that my two ward colleagues and I, with 33 years of collective experience albeit in opposition, are all standing for re-election. We've seen the mistakes of others.

I think the restyling of the Magazine is looking like a success. I applaud those involved in producing a more "modern" look which continues to showcase the achievements of so many of the voluntary bodies active in Shelley, but in a more readily accessible format. The new style encourages the reader to look further into the reports and in the fullness of time I hope it will also encourage more villagers to become involved in any of the varied aspects of village life represented.

There really is something for everyone in Shelley, from pre-schoolers to over 60s. Sadly, there does seem to be something of a shortage of volunteers. Let me be clear, I don't think that arises from a lack of people who care. It seems to me that many of us lead busier lives than used to be the case, and into later life. That of itself is largely a good thing, because it helps prevent people from becoming isolated and keeps them in touch with village life. Nonetheless, it would be good if someone could just consider if they might be able to find a couple of hours here and there to give a little back to the village.

There are many businesses advertising in these pages, and their subscriptions go a long way towards funding each edition. Do please consider using these local businesses as and when you find yourself in need of their services. They have a vested interest in treating local customers well and if they see their adverts increasing trade they will continue to support the Magazine.

With my best wishes to you all, Bill.
(Bill Armer, Ward and Parish Cllr, tel 01484 314314, email: bill@gmx.ca)

THANKS

Thankyou to our Parish Councillors for supporting the production of your Shelley Magazine. We were recently awarded a further grant. This support helps to keep our prices down whilst enabling us to provide a more interesting and full colour magazine to subscribers and advertisers.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

Potholes, the scourge of motorist and cyclist alike. Recently two of our local Kirklees councillors, Bill Armer and John Taylor, have been reporting these problems on our behalf to Kirklees Highways for repair. I, too, have been out photographing and reporting these road issues when I have come across them. The size and depth of some which I have come across is truly unbelievable. The breakup of the road surface, and the resulting pothole as you are aware, is on the driving line of vehicles. This can make them unavoidable if an oncoming vehicle is approaching, they can also be filled with rainwater which makes them invisible. Personally, I do wonder if Kirklees Administration takes this issue seriously? People have reported blowouts and damage to wheel rims to me, and these have been reported directly to Kirklees for urgent repair work, and in some cases financial restitution. Potholes, a blight of the Nation, however, what annoys me is that we do not seem to have a program for dealing with this problem, we are reactive rather than proactive. Finances will probably be the reason for this failing, however, we seem to have an abundance of money when it comes to vanity projects. Meanwhile, the infrastructure of our road network declines. I recently wrote to the leader of Kirklees Council, Councillor Pattison regarding this issue. This was her reply:

Ray, I can assure you that we are aware of the state of our roads and the enormity of the backlog we face. That is why we have put more money in the budget last year and this to deal with potholes, resurfacing, white lining, sign clean-ups, road safety and general road maintenance. Kind Regards, Carole.

A month could not pass without mentioning the British weather. A paddy field is a flooded parcel of arable land used primarily for growing semiaquatic crops, most notably rice.

Originating in Neolithic China, this agricultural system uses water to regulate temperature, suppress weeds, and provide nutrients, often featuring terraces on hillsides or flat land.

Or, Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made. Well, I don't have enough timber for an Arc, but I can set about growing rice in my flooded garden, God will have to wait in line.




As for golf, read the above paragraph. The course seems to have been closed more often than it has been open, but in fairness the course has been open, but the weather conditions were not fit for play due to rain or freezing cold. Hopefully, we can get back out playing more frequently, as there is only so much vacuuming you can do in a single day. One thing which I desperately need to do is wash the outside of the house windows, it is like looking through a haze.

Your Parish Council has now got its new website up and running. Please do not use the old link, as you will find it is no longer live. The new link is: www.kirkburtonparishcouncil.gov.uk This last month's meeting was a low-key affair, however slowly but surely the PC is updating, replacing and checking it's working practices. Our duty is ensuring the Council is operating in accordance to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidance. Our Grant's committee has just presided over the last 2025/2026 financial years applications. Annual Small Grants: What can you spend it on, well, almost anything that helps you keep doing what you do best. Previous groups have bought safety mats for playgroups, bell ringing simulators, compasses for Beavers, and new music sheets for our local brass band. Many just use it for those everyday running costs that keep adding up. Just remember—you can't apply for things you've already bought, so please wait until we've said, "yes" before spending. The Council also operate a General Grant scheme which is to support larger projects and has a ceiling of £5,000, however, rules do apply. Applicants should read the details surrounding applications or contact our Parish Clerk for further information.

Litter is still an ongoing problem along with speeding motorists. Local litter louts and budding F1 drivers obviously do not read our magazine or road signs. Please, take or place your litter into the nearest litter bin or take it home, don't just jettison it out of your car or throw it down on the ground. I recently took a walk into the toddlers play area, the number of sweet wrappers and drinks cans left lying on the ground was ridiculous. After a quick litter pick I was off home thinking that in a few days time it will be as it was. Can we please respect

the area we live in? Kirklees council are financially stretched, and local people have to do more, we have local litter groups, big shout out to those people, but we cannot rely on these volunteers to always pick up after us. Huddersfield Town fans are struggling to keep the faith. The club has been experiencing mixed results. A top six playoff position is looking in doubt as the team keeps throwing vital points away. I gave up going down to the ground to watch, however, I listen to the game most weeks and in truth it has been a hard listen. Some games the team has failed to have a shot on goal. Some teams which we have played, where we thought we were going to get all the points, we have lost. Kevin Nagel, club owner, has put a huge amount into the club, some may say he hasn't put the money into the right areas of the club? The corporate side of the club is a lot better, now they need to get the on field qualities firing. Personally, I have doubts that they will achieve promotion this season, I hope I am wrong. Saturday 2nd May will be our last league game, away to AFC Wimbledon. Keep well. Regards Ray Bray (P Cllr)



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 21 May 2026 at 7pm
 Shepley Methodist Church
 131 Lane Head Road, HD8 8DB

Hosted by Kirkburton Parish Council

Once a year, we hold a meeting for everyone who lives in the parish.

It's simply an opportunity to:
 Raise local issues
 Ask questions
 Hear what's happening

There's no need to speak unless you want to.
 You're welcome to come along just to listen.

We'd genuinely value your presence.

If you live here, this meeting is for you.

All residents welcome.



SHELLEY OVER 60S - APRIL 2026

Coffee Day - Tuesday April 28th 2026

Our first coffee day of the year will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at the Village Hall. The Hall will be open from 1.00pm to 4.00pm and there will be various stalls including cakes, garden plants, a tombola, raffle, and a chocolate tombola. We are looking for donations from members towards our stalls. If you can bake a cake or donate something for the raffle, tombola, chocolate tombola then contact Carol Parker on 07763149249. Tickets for the Coffee Day are £2.50 each which includes tea/coffee and biscuits and enters you for a prize draw.

On Tour 2026

Our trip programme will run from May to September. There will be a coastal trip on the first Tuesday of each month and a walking trip on the third Wednesday of the month. With a further rise in the cost of coach hire we will need to raise the **price per trip to £16.00**. Non-Members may also travel with us if there is space on any of the trips but at a cost of £18.00. Members are asked to pay for their trips in advance with a £2 surcharge should payment be made on the day. We have currently booked two coaches but if demand is not sufficient for any of the trips we may only run one in which case priority will be given to those who have travelled most regularly last year. The first Tuesday trip is to Southport on May 5th. The first Wednesday trip is to Leek and Macclesfield. To book or reserve a place subject to availability contact Ian on 01484 604419.

Cycling Trip - Tuesday April 14th 2026

Our new season of cycle rides begins on Tuesday April 14th. Contact Kevin on 07753790300 for details

Gardening Talk - Wednesday April 29th 2026

Our next gardening talk will be at the Methodist Hall on the 29th April at 7.00pm. Contact Carol on 07763149249.

Local History Talk - Wednesday

May 6th 2026

Our second Local History Talk will be about the History of Lowther Castle . Meet at the Methodist Hall on Wednesday May 6th at 7.30pm. Contact Carol on 01484 603836 for more information.

New Members - How to Join

We are always looking to welcome new members to the Club. We have no restrictions on who can join except you can't be a member if you're not Over 60!! . If you want to join or find out more about the Club then contact Carol on 07763149249.

O60s Minibus-Would you like to be a volunteer driver or assistant

On Thursdays we hire one of the Denby Dale Community minibuses to transport members to and from the Village Hall and on Fridays to take them to Morrison's. If you could help as an assistant on, or even drive one of these buses and would like to volunteer, then contact Peter on 07977772406.

Shelley Museum - Open Saturday April 4th and May 2nd 2026

The Museum will be open on Saturday April 4th and May 2nd from 10.30am to 1.00pm where our exhibition on the 'Religious Buildings of Shelley' will be on display.

Shelley Museum - Summer Exhibition June 27th & 28th

This summer as well as Celebrating 10 years we are looking into the History of the Community Association and the opening of the Village Hall and are looking for people to share their the recollections of this time. Contact Carol on 01484 603836.

O60s Mini-bus Draw

The February mini-bus draw winning number was 108. The April draw will take place on April 30th . Winning numbers can be accessed at www.shelleyover60s.org.uk/minibus-draw



SHEPLEY HEALTH CENTRE



Your Blood Pressure—how high is too high?

Often called the silent killer. Lots of people who have high blood pressure may be unaware of it. It can cause serious damage such as heart attack or stroke, often with little or no symptoms at all. If you are a healthy adult over 40 you should have your blood pressure checked every 2-3 years.

What is blood pressure?

Blood pressure refers to the **force of blood pushing against the walls of your arteries** as your heart pumps. It's recorded as two numbers:

Systolic (top number) : pressure when the heart beats

Diastolic (bottom number) : pressure when the heart relaxes between beats

What is 'normal blood pressure'

Normal blood pressure varies depending on your age.

The good news:

Choose a **balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat dairy**. Reducing sodium intake — especially hidden salt in processed foods — can help your arteries work more efficiently. **Eat potassium-rich foods:** Foods like bananas, spinach, and potatoes help balance sodium in the body. Reduce your alcohol intake and cut back on smoking. Tobacco use damages blood vessels and worsens hypertension. In addition, a moderate amount of exercise can lower your blood pressure and the associated risks.

The Mast Integrated Neighbourhood Team

Since July 2025, the Mast Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) has met weekly to coordinate support for people with complex needs, especially where care involves several services.

The team brings together GPs, community nurses, mental health teams, social care, rehabilitation services and care coordinators. By meeting regularly, services can share infor-

mation quickly, spot risks earlier and agree practical next steps together.

Between July 2025 and January 2026, the team discussed 111 individual patients, with 316 joint reviews (including follow ups).

What's gone well

People with complex needs are being identified earlier.

GP practices have provided prompt advice and support when needed.

Social care teams, including REACH (short term social care provided post discharge for complex patients), have helped flag concerns quickly, including in the first week after hospital discharge.

Closer joint working has helped prevent some avoidable readmissions and difficulties after discharge.

More people have been identified for ongoing care coordination where longer term support is needed.

Looking ahead

The team has a development plan in place to build on progress this year. This includes strengthening teamwork across organisations, improving communication between services and involving voluntary and community partners, including The Kirkwood. The team is also exploring how shared data can help identify people earlier, so support can be offered before problems escalate.

Moving forward

Over the coming year, the focus will be on understanding the impact of the INT, sharing learning more widely and contributing to service planning for 2026/27 and beyond.





SHEPLEY WI: APRIL 2026

What a pleasure it was to welcome cheesemaker Razan Alsous as our guest speaker recently. Having fled the war in Syria in 2012, Razan arrived in West Yorkshire with her husband Raghid and three children. Despite her pharmacy degree and scientific background, Razan found it difficult to secure employment and instead pursued a new venture, picking up on the increasing popularity in the UK of the 'squeaky' cheese which was a regular part of her diet at home.



Together with Raghid, she established the award-winning Yorkshire Dama Cheese business. As well as listening to Razan's inspirational story, we were treated to delicious samples of the grilled cheese and lots of members bought some to try at home!



It's been quite a crafty few weeks, with cheerful Easter cards being a focus at our most recent Crafts & Crumbs session, although members were

also spotted knitting, crocheting, embroidering and working with leather. As ever, our crafters were quick to respond to a plea for help- this time from the organisation Standing With Giants, to make red poppies to replace those that have faded or been damaged in their 'For Your Tomorrow' display.

Rushing for their knitting needles and crochet hooks, members produced a total of 130 poppies in a diverse range of patterns. Special thanks go to Sue Tuddenham, who knitted 50!



Outdoors, our Strollers enjoyed glorious blue skies at Cannon Hall, followed by lunch at the White Bull restaurant.



Gardening Group members spent a very productive morning tidying the planting at Shepley Methodist Chapelryard. Whilst there, we paid special attention to the one Commonwealth War Grave, that of Edgar Wood, who died aged just 29 in March 1918- a poignant reminder of those who have given their lives to defend our freedom.

At next month's meeting we will be joined by local historian Marilyn Eastwood. Marilyn is currently preparing two possible talks, one on the history of Lockwood Spa and the other the curiously titled 'The Man Who Fell Down A Well The Day Before His Wedding'! Whichever talk we get, knowing Marilyn, we can rest assured that it will be, as ever, very informative and entertaining.

If you'd like to find out more about what we do, please contact Debra on 07773169535 or email Rosemary at rjandgeoff@tiscali.co.uk, have a look at our Instagram page @the_shepley_wi or just pop along to one of our meetings. You can attend up to three meetings each year as a visitor, paying £5 per meeting (which includes a cuppa, cake and a raffle ticket)





SHEPLEY BIRD AND WILDLIFE GROUP

A Year in the Life of a Swift - Linda Jenkinson

What a superb evening this was – informative, entertaining, and challenging. Linda is part of the Leeds Swifts organisation and was here with her Leeds Swifts Roadshow, with the support of volunteer Mel.

Leeds Swifts, which has been going 10 years now, run swift watching events and they are linked into wider networks for conferences, networking and resources. (Contact details below for booking or information). Linda also operates a sanctuary for hurt or abandoned swifts which had 121 birds through in 2025.

Linda gave us information about migration patterns, families of birds and how to tell swifts from other birds that catch insects on the wing, such as swallows or martins – swifts are dark both on top and underneath, with the exception of a few white feathers under their chins.





Some facts were amazing – swifts can fly at 67.3 mph, the fastest bird in level flight (although peregrines reach faster speeds in a

stoop dive). They travel 200,000 miles pa (at a guesstimate!), often flying 500 miles or more in a day to catch enough insects to feed their young. They drink, sleep and mate on the wing, and only land in order to lay eggs and brood their young. When the young leave the nest they will not land again for 2 – 3 years.

Sadly, numbers are declining – about 66% between 1995 and 2022. The rate they are declining is increasing exponentially and are now on the Red List for birds of conservation concern.

A big focus of the evening was what we can do to help prevent further decline. One factor was providing nesting spaces in areas where swifts are seen or heard. Renovations could be carried out sensitively to enable places for birds to nest – they don't make mess as such as their droppings are dry and crumbly. Hollow bricks, boxes and soffit boxes are all fairly easily provided at not much cost. Providing plants that help insects in turn help swifts (they need @20,000 insects per day!). An important suggestion was to write to MPs to encourage them to allow the legislation to include swift bricks in new developments – for some reason this has not yet been successful.

Linda was thanked with a very enthusiastic round of applause.

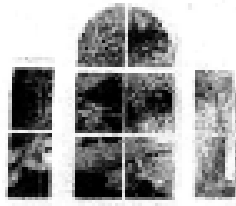
For more information contact: [Leedsswifts](mailto:Leedsswifts@gmail.com) on  or www.leedsswifts.com or leedsswifts@gmail.com 



On Wednesday 1st April at 7.30 pm our speaker will be Steve Rutherford who will talk Willow Tits' Habits and Habitats. Steve is Honorary Chairman of the British Naturalists Association which promotes natural history, education, study and research across the UK. To attend as a visitor there is a charge of £3.00.

Field visits are open to everyone free of charge and full details of these and all our talks are available in our programmes distributed to local libraries or by request using the contact details:

email: shepleybirders@yahoo.com Tel: Chris Marks 01484 608652 We look forward to welcoming you.



Shelley Museum

Celebrating 10 Years

In 2026 we will be celebrating **10 years** since the official opening of the Museum. In that time we have had exhibitions on **Education in Shelley** featuring over a hundred years of school photos, **Sporting activities and achievements**, the history of **Farming in Shelley**, the **1939 Census of Shelley**, **Businesses in Shelley** over the years, the **1921 Census** and most recently the **Religious Buildings of Shelley**.

The picture below shows the now demolished Congregational Sunday School on Water Lane. It is taken from an Examiner news article from January 3rd 1978. It shows an early Welly Walk raising funds for the conversion of the old Church School into the Village Hall.



If you have any information
Contact Carol on 01484 603836.

The walk was organised by the then recently formed **Community Association** which is itself, **Celebrating 50 years** since its formation, in 1976.

This was one of two on the day that both started at the cricket club and completed an eight mile boundary walk via Hardingley, Woodhouse, Roydhouse, Lane Head and back to the cricket field. The other group included 40 pupils, including children.

Are you in the picture ?

Or do you know who is ?

When did this new year walk become the "Welly Walk" ?

This summer as well as **Celebrating 10 years** we are looking into the History of the **Community Association** and the opening of the **Village Hall** and are looking for people to share their the recollections of this time.