



MARCH 2025

No. 521

It is lovely to see lighter evenings and dawn coming earlier in the morning. Whatever the attractions of crisp, cold winter days might be (and there are some) most of us would prefer the milder attractions of spring. Gardeners won't be caught out though; there are still lots of frosty mornings to come. So many depressing, worrying and frightening things are happening in the world today, looking for small things to delight us is really important. Banks of daffodils along the verges, buds slowly opening on the trees, blackbirds singing from their favourite high point – these and so many other enchanting things are here in Shelley for us to enjoy. Don't be too preoccupied to notice them.

Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed a new member of our small magazine team. Charlotte Hall has been searching out interesting businesses and activities in and around Shelley for several months and her articles have certainly brought variety to our pages. Her contact details are below, if you would like to be featured.

Material for the April issue should be submitted by 15th March to:
shelleymag@hotmail.com or

Julie Burnham
 57 Far Bank
 Shelley
 0887774057

or

Denise Edinburgh
 77 Westerley Lane
 Shelley
 602905

Please contact Lynn Parsley (see below) regarding the submission of adverts:

Please note that changes to cover and yellow page adverts can only be made in the January, April, July and October editions.

Advert changes for April 2025 MUST be notified by March 1st 2025

Copy for the magazine may be submitted in hand written or typed form. If you produce your work on a word processor, it would be helpful if you could e-mail it to us at shelleymag@hotmail.com rather than printed out, and **please avoid formatting your work** - we will set the article out appropriately.

Articles must be saved as a WORD file (.doc) or as a text file (.txt), NOT as a PDF file, otherwise we may have to return it and publication will be delayed or may not be possible. Please send any photographs as jpegs., (JPGs)

If you need any further help or information, please contact Julie or Denise. **Please ensure that you always give your name and a means of contacting you on any item intended for publication.** It is our policy not to publish anonymous copy, although names may be withheld on request. Please note that opinions and articles in the magazine are not necessarily those of the editors

Roving Reporter,	Charlotte Hall	charlotte_hall@hotmail.co.uk
Advertising Manager	Lynn Parsley 27 Cleveland Way Shelley	07930 573 860
	Lynn@theparsleys.me.uk	

Magazine Distribution:	Claire Matthews	07550 076 489
------------------------	-----------------	---------------

Bookings for the Village Hall to be made with the Bookings Secretary:

Carol Rowatt	bookings-shelleyvillagehall@outlook.com	07901 701 868
--------------	--	---------------



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

SHELLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting 10th February 2025
9 Attendees and 18 apologies

Matters Arising:

- After the criticism Kirklees got for their poor response to the snow and ice, a further £500k was added to the budget
- It was reported that KIN on Near Bank have been taken over by Harveys

Chair's Report:

- Grant Application submitted to KPC for £70 to reimburse us for defib parts – thanks to Martin for arranging the pads
- Opening of Pennine Garden Centre on Weds 26th Feb (Now owned by Yorkshire Garden Centres who own Tong)

Treasurer's Report

- No update

Village Hall report

- Issues with the hall front door between 31st Jan and 4th Feb due to the handle not being able to be depressed from the outside
- Heating at the hall is being impacted by poor WiFi reception in the area, the committee are looking into a broadband solution
- The committee hope to add a new larder fridge to the kitchen , continuing with improvements after the sinks were replaced late last year

Environment Report

- Still no progress on the overhanging hedging / bushes on Westerley Lane, this issue is expected to get much worse once the growing season starts

Kirkburton Parish Council Report

- Increase in precept expected
- Expected to be interviewing for the role of the Clerk soon

Kirklees Report

- Cuts to libraries not likely to go ahead for our local libraries are safe for the moment
- Cliffe House Play Area under threat, more to follow when we know more
- Extra £500k budget from Kirklees following poor response re ice and snow



Social and Community Events

- Motown Event at the village hall – 15th Feb
- Pierrots – 16th to 19th April
- Kirkburton Beer Festival – 23rd/24th May
- French Sunday Lunch – 8th June
- Garden Festival Sunday 6th July
- Gala Sunday 13th July

AOB

- None

Date of next meeting: Mon 10th March

Welcome Information

Carole Hepworth would like to remind everyone in Shelley that Welcome Cards are available for new residents to Shelley. Please inform her if you know of anyone new who has moved into the area.

Her telephone number is 608963

Or email steve.carole1@btinternet.com

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Contact for venues in Shelley:

Shelley Village Hall bookings-	shelleyvillagehall@outlook.com	07901 701 868
Shelley Methodist Hall	Janet 605494	
Emmanuel Church	Stephen 605755	
Shelley Cricket Club	Donna 07703 837557	
Shelley Sports and Social Club	602935	
Shelley Community Football Club	Ashley 07931 853881	
Georgie School of Theatre Arts	606994	
Sovereign Fitness	604174	
The Cabin HD8 Pre-School and Out of School Club	600519	



MAGAZINE NEWS

Our cover illustration is by Bill Stokes, 'Footpath to Roydhouse'

The annual cost of a 7cm x 7cm advertising box in the magazine is now only £60.00 for a whole year.

	<u>Per Annum</u>	<u>One Off</u>	<u>3 months</u>	<u>6 months</u>
7x7cm	£60	£10	£30	£50
7x14cm	£90	£15	£40	£60
¼ page 14x14 cm	£120	£30	£60	£90
½ page one off	£40			

Only a few spaces left. What a bargain! Ring Lynn on 07930 573 860 for details.

If you have a new business venture or are developing and growing an existing local business then we want to hear from you. We intend to promote local business by featuring information articles that will highlight the hard work that goes on in and around our village. These will be one-off articles that will be included in the Shelley Mag as and when we have space. To have such an article included, please contact our roving reporter, Charlotte Hall. Her e-mail is charlotte_hall@hotmail.co.uk

Presentation to Barbara and John Keaveney



Barbara and John have organized the delivery of the magazine for more than 20 years. The editors, Julie and Denise, were delighted to present them with a restaurant voucher from the magazine and the Community Association to thank them for all their hard work.



Bin Collections

Your bin collection day is **Monday**

Your bin needs to be put out before 7am on your day of collection. Please bring your bin back in after collection.



Our nearest recycling centre details:

- **Bromley Farm**, Upper Cumberworth (off Barnsley Road), Huddersfield, HD8 8N
- Open Friday - Tuesday, Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Summer

- Weekdays: 8am to 5pm
- Saturday: 8am to 4pm
- Sunday: 8am to 4pm

Winter

- Weekdays: 8am to 4pm
- Saturday: 8am to 4pm
- Sunday: 8am to 4pm



**SHEPLEY MAY DAY
CEILIDH**

*Sunday 4th May 7.30pm
at St Paul's Church Hall,*

Tickets £10

*Bring your own drinks
Raffle*

*Featuring the
Northern Ceilidh Band*

Children's tickets are £5 each




All Makes

Car Sales
Valeting
Bodywork
Free Local
Collection
& Delivery
Vehicle
Diagnostics

Tel 683172

Hepworth Motor Co Ltd

All Makes

Servicing
Repairs
Tyres
Air Con
Free
Safety
Checks

Tel 683172

Hepworth Motor Co Ltd

Retired Man 66

Seeks Domestic/household
Cleaning Work

Honest and Reliable

Contact Mel 07309 709 675



Award-winning Barncliffe Brie, Made in Shelley! by Ruth Baker of Yorkshire Fine Cheese

Four years ago, I was teaching A-level English Literature full time – now I'm an artisan cheese-maker producing award-winning brie and running my own business. Quite a gear-shift?! I taught sixth form students for 17 years, first in Hampshire and then at Greenhead College when we moved to Yorkshire in 2010. During the COVID pandemic I really enjoyed teaching my classes online, and when we returned to the classroom, it felt different - I knew it was time for me to move on from teaching and do something else.

The Yorkshire Fine Cheese dairy had been set up by Danny Lockwood at Barncliffe Mills in the early 2000s, and in 2020 he wanted to retire, and put the business up for sale. My husband is a cabinet maker and also has his workshop at Barncliffe Mills, Daniel Baker Furniture. He heard about Danny retiring, came home one day and asked, 'how would you like to buy a cheese-making business?' So here I am!



I make soft, mould-ripened cheeses here in Shelley, using local milk from the grass-fed Meuse-Rhine-Issel herd at Barkhouse Farm (where Dearne Lea Tearooms are). Barncliffe Brie has won Bronze and Gold medals at the Melton Mowbray Artisan Cheese Awards, and last year won a Great Taste star. I developed Barncliffe Blue, a blue brie, from Danny's recipe, and two years ago I introduced Barncliffe Mascarpone and Barncliffe Truffled Brie, which won a Silver medal last year at the Artisan Cheese Awards.

This is an exciting place to be making artisan cheese. I'm proud to have my cheeses stocked locally in places like Thorncliffe Farm Shop, just up the hill in Emley, and on the menu in fabulous local restaurants like Norman's in Kirkburton, and Field Café in Farnley Tyas. Last year I joined Huddersfield Food Circle, a group of local producers who get together each month to sell our produce directly to customers. Through this group I met Jon Allen, who produces smoked trout at his farm in Farnley Tyas, and Jon is now using Barncliffe Mascarpone as the basis for his delicious smoked trout paté.

It's great to be working collaboratively with other makers, and to be able to supply local chefs with artisan cheese made right on their doorstep. It's important to me that we support our local community of makers and small businesses – we have so much to celebrate and shout about!

You can buy Barncliffe cheese directly from me at the Dairy, Barncliffe Mills, HD8 8LU. Opening hours vary, but I'm usually there all day on Mondays and Thursdays. Just drop in! or give me a ring to check before you visit on 07812 938724. I'm on Facebook (@Yorkshire Fine Cheese) and Instagram (@yorkshirefinecheese), please do look me up and follow what I'm doing.



Or come and say hello and buy some delicious local produce at a Huddersfield Food Circle market at Zapato Brewery Tap, Holme Mills, Slaithwaite, HD7 6LS. Producer markets are on the third Thursday of each month: March 20th, April 17th, etc. 6-7.30pm.



CHURCH PAGES

SHELLEY PARISH CHURCH

Services March 2025

Regular Services:

- 2nd Upper Cumberworth 11.15am – No Service at Emmanuel
 - 9th Emmanuel **9.30am**
 - 16th Emmanuel **9.30am**
 - 23rd Emmanuel **9.30am**
 - 30th Emmanuel **9.30am Mothering Sunday everyone welcome**
-
- **Wednesday 2.00pm 5th 12th 19th 26th** 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

This is a short informal service held in the south isle and we remain sitting throughout. Lifts can be arranged for anyone who has difficulty with transport. After the service we enjoy refreshments and a chat.

If you know of anyone who would like to come, please let Carol know, they will receive a warm welcome.

Church Contacts

Rev. Lindsey Barber	lindsey.barber@leeds.anglican.org	07920687157
Baptisms & Weddings	Carol Robertshaw	01484 860657
Funerals	Stephen Hughes	01484 605755

Emmanuel Church, Shelley is, like many other parishes, embarking on a project to make a Timeline of events that have taken place in the church over the last 40-50 years. This will be interesting and may help direct what we might do in the future.

To this end we would be very interested in any information the residents of Shelley may have of things they have been involved with or visited or experienced at the church during that time. We would be most interested in any of your contributions (including photos) so do not hesitate to get in touch with any information small or large!

Christine Hughes for Emmanuel Church , Shelley.

Please feel free to contact me by email: christinehatl@googlemail.com
Or by phone: 605755



SHELLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Annual Spring Fayre

Sat March 1st

Church Hall Far Bank

Stalls including cakes and crafts

Books, Tombola, Raffle etc

Meat and Potato Pie lunch by ticket only



This picture was taken in 1909. I wonder what today's view would show?



CLUBS AND GROUPS

SHEPLEY BIRD & WILDLIFE GROUP

The speaker at this month's meeting was group member Laurence Rose. From 1983 until he retired, he had worked at a high level for the RSPB. Since 1999 he has lived in the local area and in 2023 he fulfilled an ambition to study one species of bird in detail, and the bird chosen was the Kestrel.



© Laurence Rose

Present in his local "patch" they were easy to see, often hovering or perched, they bred in the area, and they could also be detected by their calls. One other advantage is that the sexes looked different – males having a grey head, grey tail with a black terminal band and chestnut wings, females and young are Streaky brown.

In April he had seen a male flying and displaying to a female who chose him as her mate. Later, Laurence thought he had

found the nest site in an old nest box, but it was only after some time he realised that they were using an old crow's nest in a nearby tree.

By early May the female was no longer hunting, and the male was constantly bringing food (field voles) to the nest, a sign that there were chicks. In early July four chicks had left the nest although remaining nearby. By mid-July they were flying but still being fed by the parents.



© Laurence Rose

He found that his long periods of watching had enabled him to recognise each chick, and the order in which they had hatched. The adults were chased for food; there was a hierarchy with the eldest, the largest, feeding first. As with many raptors and owls the smallest and youngest lost out and died.



© Laurence Rose



© Laurence Rose

By early August the chicks had dispersed and taken up their own territories. Later in the year Laurence recorded the change in their diet to include earthworms, which they could hunt from a perch, thus requiring less energy than hovering. The study had been fascinating but left several questions deliciously unanswered. Laurence was warmly thanked.

John Wheeler

The Talk for March

On Wednesday March 5th at 7.30pm in the Coach House at Cliffe House, we will welcome Ron Marshall, a fabulous wildlife photographer who will take us through some breath taking images of a year spent watching birds. Visitors are welcome to join any of our talks for a £3 contribution or you can join us on any of our field visits all of which are free. Programmes giving details of these and our talks are available in Shepley Library. We look forward to welcoming you.



SHELLEY OVER 60s March 2025

On Tour 2025 - Wednesday March 4th 2025

Shopping Trip - Downtown

Our first trip of the year will be a shopping trip to the Downtown shopping outlet near Grantham. Contact Fran to book a place and check on availability on 01484 861540.

Local History Talk - Wednesday March 5th 2025

Our first Local History Talk will be given by John Lyte who will be talking about the origins of the song "Abide with Me". Meet at the Methodist Hall on Wednesday March 5th at 7.30pm. Contact Carol on 01484 60383 for more information.

Flower Arranging - Wednesday March 12th 2025

During 2025 we are looking to organise some more flower arranging evenings with the first taking place on Wednesday March 12th. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information contact Carol on 07763149249.

Gardening Talk - Wednesday March 26th 2025

Our next gardening talk will be at the Methodist Hall on the 26th March at 7.00pm. Contact Carol on 07763149249.

Cycling Trip - Tuesday April 8th 2025

Our new season of cycle rides begins on Tuesday April 8th. Contact Kevin on 07753790300 for details.

Coffee Day - Tuesday April 29th 2025

Our first coffee day of the year will be held on Tuesday, April 29th at the Village Hall. The Hall will be open from 1.00pm to 4.00pm and there will be various stalls including cakes, a tombola, raffle, bottle tombola 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 or bottle 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

Guitar Class

We have started a guitar group on alternate Mondays. This will be an informal acoustic session lasting from 10.00am to 11.30am with a break for tea and coffee. Anyone interested in joining us or finding out more should contact Peter on 07977772406.

Spanish Conversation

We have started a Spanish Conversation class. This will be for an hour, once a fortnight at the Methodist Hall from 10.00am to 11.00am. For more information contact Lynda on 07443006935.

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 Kevin Stones on 07753790300.

O60s Mini-bus Draw

The January mini-bus draw winning number was 283. The March draw will take place on March 27th . Winning numbers can be accessed at www.shelleyover60s.org.uk/minibus-draw



SHEPLEY WI March 2025

Shepley WI clubs have been busy outdoors over the last few weeks. Both the Strollers and Gardening Group took advantage of the late winter sunshine to explore the evergreen planting and bulbs at Cannon Hall, with the obligatory cuppa to warm us up half-way round. Striders, meanwhile, enjoyed a mud fest on their walk around Emley.

Members took part in the annual wassailing at Scissett Community Garden orchard, and, along with the Green Man, had fun making lots of noise to 'wake up the trees.' It was fascinating to learn about the customs surrounding this ancient tradition- let's hope it leads to a good harvest!

Meanwhile, indoors, with a view to reduce, reuse and recycle, our Crafts and Crumbs group had a hilarious session making origami boxes from old greetings cards, with varied results. Who would have thought it would be so difficult to fold a piece of paper?!

Whilst we're all looking forward to warmer weather, acres of spring greens and lambs gambolling in the fields, an enlightening talk from Lauren Grimshaw of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution revealed that many of those working in farming are struggling, both financially and in terms of mental health. It was edifying to learn about the work of this charity and a powerful reminder that we should all be looking to support the agricultural community by buying British farmed produce where possible. Look out for the Red Tractor kitemark on supermarket produce.

Following on from International Women's Day on 8th March, our next members' meeting at 2pm on Wednesday, 19th March, is a social with a theme of 'inspirational women'. Members will be discussing the women who have inspired them at different points in their lives and considering how we, both as individuals and as an institution, can have a positive impact on the lives of others.

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 £4 per meeting (which includes a cuppa, cake and a raffle ticket). Hope to see you there!





Start Date: Saturday 22nd March 2025

Time: 10:00-11:00am

Location: Shelley Village Hall

£6.50 per child

Cash only, please pay at the door

Freedom Life Dance is a new safe environment for children to come and express themselves through movement. These inclusive dance sessions are for children who would benefit from a relaxed, informal setting.

I'm Sophie and I'm starting a new class to help encourage a love of dance and music in children and young people, including those with Special Educational Needs. My day-to-day job in a SEN environment has shown me the importance of making sure that every child knows that they are a gift to be treasured. I want to create a relaxed, inclusive setting where children of all abilities can come together to express how they feel through the power of dance.

Classes will take place every Saturday during term time. To begin with, there will be one session (10am – 11am), but depending on numbers this may change to two - one for 3 to 10 year-olds and another for 11 to 18 year-olds. I would love for parents/carers to also participate in the class, as it's great for children to see adults having fun too!

As sessions will be relaxed, children will be free to explore sensory toys and materials that will be provided each week. I will be very happy to incorporate favourite dances/dance moves, music and themes into my session and I will always be open to ideas and suggestions from children/parents/carers. Please do let me know if there is anything that you would like to do!

For those with children who may struggle, you are welcome to take them to a safe space during sessions.

If you are interested in your child joining Freedom Life Dance, please contact me via email: Freedomlifedance@hotmail.com

I hope to meet some of you soon!



Friday Friendship Café

So a New Year 2025,

We volunteers at The Friday Friendship Cafe were just chatting about the day we first opened in 2018, we sat at our tables in the Mercer Room with trepidation wondering if anyone would walk through the door!

Cakes had been made and the tables dressed in gingham tablecloths in readiness; sure enough a few people came (3 in total). Our last cafe of 2024 saw 37 patrons in all. We are proud to say that the Cafe has never missed a session since opening apart from when Covid restrictions came into force. We try to provide a safe, friendly and welcoming environment for patrons with memory loss along with their carers, and also for those with loneliness due to bereavement and others with varying conditions.



Our patrons range from mid 70s- mid 90s and it's wonderful to see so many new friendships that have grown through the cafe.

This year's Christmas party was a huge success enjoyed by all, special thanks to ALL the volunteers for their baking and their dedication. Also to Roger and Dominic for the fabulous music, to Dearne Lea Tearooms for the milks and the creams, to Claire of Claire's cakes, for the amazing cupcakes and to the Kirkburton Parish Council for their kind grant award towards the party .

Here are some quotes from our patrons describing what the cafe means to them.

"I enjoy it full stop. The generosity of the volunteers makes it so lovely . I really look forward to it! All the volunteers dress up for special occasions. Food is always great. Sometimes I don't speak to anyone in the week until I come to the cafe . It's been a lifesaver for me".



FROM JADE BOTTERILL, OUR MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

As we enter Spring, I'm always reminded how blessed we are to live in an area of natural beauty. It's something I regularly boast about to my other colleagues across Parliament.

Nothing brings me more joy than returning from Westminster, and spending time in our moors and woodlands. I know many reading this will find the same peace, pride and pleasure as I do in nature.

It also is a source of enormous purpose too. Protecting and celebrating our natural beauty is an absolute priority of mine.

Recently I met with our local environment agency to discuss just this – particularly how we can protect our environment, as well as our homes and businesses – from the impacts of flooding.

In Parliament, I was proud to vote through the Government's Water Bill which will hold water companies to account for their reckless and damaging dumping of sewage into our streams and rivers.

Over the last few weeks in our community, I've litter-picked with local residents and joined forestry apprentices to plant trees.

I took part in my first Wassailing event. I'll admit, it isn't how I usually spend a Saturday, but it was great to join our community (including the Penistone Green Man!) to bang pots and pans to wake up the trees from their winter sleep.

Separately, I know something on the minds of many in our area is the future of the nearby Kirkwood Hospice following their recently announced plans to cut services due to a £1.7m funding shortfall.

I'm sure many of you know the importance of the hospice to our community, supporting families when they need it most. That's why I've been working with The Kirkwood directly, and other local MPs to reach a sustainable funding settlement.

As ever, if anyone needs my support, has a question for my office or, should you wish to attend one of my surgeries, please do email me on jade.botterill.mp@parliament.uk.



LETTERS

Dear Residents,

Well, there's been very little in the way of improved weather this past month. My house interior is looking clean but, sadly, the garden looks a mess as I haven't been able to get out there. It seems I have reached a point in my life when I am recouping my payments towards our NHS. Over these past few months, I have been using the NHS far too many times for comfort. I do wish though that my issues had been resolved, I am classing them as ongoing with the hope of future improvement.

Day after day the daily papers and televised news programs are full of doom and gloom and negativity, no progress is being made on the main issues from which our country is suffering. No, I am not going to go into them, but many of these issues have been around a long time and are increasing, a problem at the moment is that further issues are being added to existing issues. I am sure that if you sat twenty people down in a room and asked each individual to list the problems which they would love to see resolved, each paper would differ slightly, but many papers would have a common theme running down their pages. So, are we being listened to? Write your answers on a post card and send it to; as the saying used to go. However much you may like or dislike the gentleman, President Trump immediately started movement on the negative issues which America and the American people face. Some issues mirror our very own. Why can't we push forwards on the main issues which aggrieve the UK public? We cannot all be wrong?

My December energy bill was scary, so much so that the temp at the moment in my study is a balmy 12deg and falling. The cost of energy is where I would like to see more common sense come into play. We need an energy policy which is both affordable and reliable. The programme we have in place at the moment is neither, but with outside sources in play on our energy production and bills is there any wonder. The Green levy and subsidies should be abolished, green energy should be able to stand unaided without the public propping up this industry with a green tax. Which leads me into the 4.99% rise in council tax payment. I think we are all agreed that services have to be paid for, however, I would like to see the money more wisely spent.

Our local councillors have for a very long time been positively involved with highlighting the need of repair maintenance to our local roads and footpaths, with much success in resolving these problems. Speeding traffic up, down and through the village along Huddersfield Road is still a huge issue. However, according to last month's Magazine piece from our MP, she will be resolving all, good luck. As for working hard to represent everyone in our area, I shall have to disagree with that statement, emphatically. She has obviously forgotten the farmers, pensioners and businesses she voted against in Parliament.

Please be aware of burglars, car thieves and confidence tricksters. West Yorkshire Community Alert are putting out a regular stream of information regarding crime. If you sign up to their website, you will receive emails on the latest scams etc, (<https://www.wypcommunityalert.co.uk/>). Please do not become a crime statistic. And finally, here's to some warmer weather, please.

Ray Bray (PClr)



KIRKLEES COUNCIL REPORT

Hello to all in Shelley.

As I write, both Kirklees and Kirkburton Parish Councils are into their preparations for a budget for the 2025/26 municipal year, and overt political activity is subdued. I will say little about the Parish Council here, but what I will say is that the Parish Council hopes to interview applicants for the vacant Clerk's position in early March. That will no doubt come as a relief to Cllr John Cowan, who has been acting unpaid in the role!

It is virtually certain that Kirklees will, once again, increase Council Tax (CT) by 4.99%. This is about double the rate of inflation, and is subject to a law which limits any increase to "under 5%" unless a local referendum decides to accept a higher figure. The good folk of Kirklees are unlikely to vote to sacrifice even more of their income voluntarily, hence the odd figure of 4.99%. It is also likely that, through a combination of increased fees and reduced provisions, we will once again find ourselves paying more for less. This leads to people asking "just what do I get for my Council Tax?", with the implication that virtually all Kirklees does is empty the bins and "fix" the roads. The reality is far more complex.

It is important to note that CT is not the only income that Kirklees has. The 2023/24 (the latest completed year) figures show CT income of £220million, and an overall budget of £373million. The biggest spending areas, in descending order, are Children & Families, Adults & Health, Corporate Strategy (includes public health, finance and climate change) and Growth & Re-generation. This latter category is the one which includes Highways and Cleansing and is the area which most visibly impacts on our everyday experiences. It receives less than one third of the money set aside for Children & Families.

I don't usually look too closely at Parliamentary matters here, but there is one topic which concerns me greatly: the Assisted Dying Bill. This is not a party-political matter, with proponents and opponents drawn from all parts of the political spectrum.

I have some relevant experience of the issues, having lost my wife at the end of last August and my eldest daughter at the beginning of January. Like many older people, my wife (who had been increasingly disabled over a number of years and had become virtually bed-bound) became very concerned that she did not wish to be a burden on others. I think that she could very easily have been seduced by this Bill had it become law. There are a few people out there who see Grandma, perhaps very disabled, as an encumbrance to inheritance and a drain on family resources. It is not difficult to envisage scenarios where subtle pressures could be brought to bear on people to end their lives. Yes, there are supposed "safeguards", but we see these being eroded before our eyes as the Bill moves on.

My daughter's case was different. She fought a gruelling 15-month battle against cancer. As she lay in a final coma I had a discussion with her consultant, saying that my only concern by then was that she was kept free of pain, even if a side effect was to shorten her life. I have no idea how much notice the consultant took but my daughter died peacefully the next day. Had this Bill been law, she would have been forced to petition for her death before she became comatose and would have faced delays whilst the matter was considered by a committee of social workers, lawyers and doctors. The most likely outcome would have been that she died in great pain before the process was completed. I think we should rely on the knowledge, humanity and good sense of the attending doctors.



Yes, I know of Dr Harold Shipman. He was a very rare aberration within, and a deep stain upon, his profession. I believe that there is far more risk of pressure from venal relatives than there is of a second homicidal Shipman. I personally do not support this Bill.

Once again, my best wishes to you all,

Bill (Bill Armer, Ward and Parish Cllr, tel 01484 314314, email bill@gmx.ca)



Shelley Village Hall
Wednesday 16 April to Saturday 19 April

GIVE US A SIGN

Ken and Rachel are an ordinary couple in an ordinary house. Ken is fed up with being out of work, and to Rachel's displeasure he decides to set himself up as a clairvoyant. How hard could it be to make some money that way? He quickly acquires a following of people trying to connect with their loved ones from the grave. What he doesn't reckon on is having a British secret service agent, a Russian agent who has a penchant for taking off her clothes and a drunken USA agent all wanting to use Ken's skills. Their mission is to contact a dead scientist who has secrets they all need. This comedy will keep you guessing – and laughing – right to the end!

History of Mother's Day

During the Middle Ages, the custom developed of allowing people who had moved away from where they grew up to come back to visit their home or 'mother' churches, and their mothers, on the fourth Sunday of the Christian festival of Lent.

At the time, it wasn't uncommon for children to leave home to work when they were as young as 10 years old, so this was an opportunity for families to meet up again.

This became Mothering Sunday in Britain. As the dates of Lent vary each year, so does the date of Mothering Sunday.

Although it's often called Mother's Day in the UK, it has no connection with the American Mother's Day.



KIRKBURTON HEALTH CENTRE



WINTER 2025

Our Newsletter can be viewed on our website www.kirkburtonhealthcentre.nhs.uk , or by email upon request.

STAFF UPDATE

Dr Hamilton has recently retired from the Practice. Staff and many of our patients were sorry to see her leave and we all wish her every happiness in her new ventures.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Mandeep Bhattarai as a salaried GP at Kirkburton Health Centre. Dr Bhattarai has worked with us as a GP registrar for the past year. We welcome his appointment to our team.

FOCUS ON: Dr Mandeep Bhattarai, General Practitioner

Dr Bhattarai completed his medical degree in 2016 and worked as a house officer in specialties including paediatric and adult critical care, emergency medicine and oncology, in Nepal, his home country. He relocated to Huddersfield in August 2021 to start GP training with the Pennine GP Scheme. Dr Bhattarai joined the Practice as a registrar in August 2023 and completed his training in November 2024. He has a special clinical interest in palliative care and menopause management and is a GP Tutor for second year trainees. Dr Bhattarai said: "I enjoy the diversity of General Practice, and it is a privilege working with the wonderful supportive team at Kirkburton Health Centre. I am committed to improving patient outcomes and experiences at every level."

BOWEL SCREENING PROGRAMME EXTENDED

People aged 50 and 52 will now receive bowel screening home-testing kits, marking the final phase of NHS England's ambition to offer screening to everyone aged 50-74.

The kit, known as the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT), checks for blood in a small stool sample, which can be a sign of bowel cancer. Those newly eligible will receive an invitation letter and will be sent their test with full instructions and prepaid packaging. Results are sent back to participants, along with information about further tests, if needed.

Expansion of the National Bowel Screening Programme to all over 50s is the latest step in the NHS to find cancers at an earlier stage, when they are easier to treat.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/01/nhs-rolls-out-lifesaving-home-testing-for-bowel-cancer-to-over-50s/>



PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

Our PPG is a group of volunteer patients, the Practice Business Manager, and a GP or Nurse representative. We meet three or four times a year to discuss the services provided at Kirkburton Health Centre, how improvements can be made for the benefit of patients and the practice and how we can improve communications and involvement between patients, our practice, and the wider community.

Julie Lambe, Practice Business Manager, said: "Our PPG is a valuable resource, eager and willing to support the practice and give a patient voice in the organisation of care. Patients who would like to join the PPG are very welcome and can join by completing a form which is in our reception waiting area."

For more information about the PPG, please visit

<https://www.kirkburtonhealthcentre.nhs.uk/patient-participation-group>

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Our Practice actively encourages and welcomes patient feedback through a number of routes, including regular surveys, Friends and Family Test and our Patient Participation Group (PPG). Please find below a recent comment via our Patient Participation Group.

“ I often find that people moan rather than applaud, so I thought I would share two of my experiences relating to our surgery.
Quite a while ago I went to Scotland for a few days and realised, on arrival, that I had forgotten my medication, which I could not do without. I went to the nearest chemist and explained my problem; their response was that if I could ring the surgery to identify myself and then pass the phone to them, they would list the medications and issue them to me. This was done easily and within minutes I had what I needed. I had to pay for them (I am of a certain age to receive free prescriptions!) but that was no problem, against the peace of mind I received. Quick, clean, and clever!
Just before Christmas I had a sudden non-life-threatening medical emergency. I was in the company of a trained medic who treated and got me home, and advised I used the e-consult the following day. I did this, and by 9.30 am I was at the surgery being attended to. During that appointment and since then I have had blood tests, a scan, and an ECG, resulting in a change in my medication, and further monitoring. I certainly can only thank and sing the praises of the staff at our surgery.”

SCAM ALERT !

We have been advised by NHS England that fake SMS messages are being sent to people across the UK, allegedly from the NHS. The message tells the recipient to click a link to update information, or they will be suspended from their surgery.

This is a scam. **If you receive the message, please ignore it, and do not click to follow the link.**



SHEPLEY HEALTH CENTRE

NHS Health Check

The NHS Health Check is a free check-up of your overall health. It can tell you whether you're at higher risk of getting certain health problems, such as: Heart disease, stroke or diabetes. The check is for people who are aged 40 to 74 who do not have any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, stroke, heart disease. Patients with these conditions will already receive a review and therefore not require assessment.

An NHS Health Check can be carried out every 5 years for eligible patients. The NHS Healthcheck takes about 20 minutes and comprises of a blood test and review with the Practice Nurse. The review will take about 20 minutes; your blood pressure will be taken, your height and weight will be recorded, your blood results will be discussed, and lifestyle advice given if appropriate. Please contact reception to book your appointment.

Small change, big difference

Exercise

Did you know that breaking exercise up into short 5-10 minute chunks across the day can be as beneficial as a 30 minute session? It goes without saying that regular exercise wards off a host of diseases and cognitive decline even in small chunks. You should always stick to an exercise that you enjoy. You'll never be able to sustain a programme you don't like at least a little bit.

The key to making those later years enjoyable and productive is finding healthful activities you can stick with. These can be incorporated into everyday life. Take the stairs instead of the lift, park further away and walk part of your journey, gardening can also strengthen important muscles. Making small changes by doing regular activities that raise your heart rate can reduce your risk of a heart attack or stroke.



Ovarian Cancer Awareness month

March is ovarian cancer awareness month. One in 3 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer live beyond 10 years. Spotting potential symptoms of ovarian cancer is crucial for early detection.

Common symptoms include:

- Persistent bloating
- Pelvic or abdominal pain
- Difficulty eating or feeling full quickly
- Changes in urinary habits
- Fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss

These can also be symptoms of other, less serious, conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome, ovarian cysts and polycystic ovary syndrome. If you're experiencing these symptoms it doesn't necessarily mean you have ovarian cancer.

Ovarian Cancer charities also stress the importance of patients keeping a record of symptoms, this can assist your doctor with diagnosis.



Cookery, Craft & Photography Section 2025

Emley Show 2025 is on Saturday 2nd August. The Cookery, Craft & Photography section have been busy planning the schedule of classes, which has now been confirmed and ready to publish and share with our public and followers.

Each year we look at what classes were popular with the public and take advice from our section judges to plan the next year's classes. The confirmed classes for the 2025 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 RECYCLE – REMAKE - REUSE – Remake any textile into another item
(please include photograph of original item/textile) **Sponsored by Flockton W.I.**
- 902 TRADITIONAL HAND EMBROIDERY – List of examples noted below
- 903 KNITTED OR CROCHET ACCESSORIES e.g. Hats – Gloves - Scarves
- 904 CREATIVE TEXTILES (mixed media) SEASCAPES
- 905 BABY OR CHILDREN'S KNITTED OR CROCHET GARMENT
- 906 ANY OTHER HANDICRAFT (hard materials)
e.g. including: Stained Glass – Wood – Clay – Stone – Metal **Sponsored by Eco Hub**
- 907 BUTTON PICTURES e.g. including Dorset or bought buttons
- 908 HANDMADE CELEBRATION CARD

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

- 912 STORMY WEATHER
- 913 FARM MACHINERY
- 914 CLOSE UPS OF NATURE

COOKERY CLASSES

- 915 VICTORIA SANDWICH
- 916 3 PIECES OF ROCKY ROAD – Any Flavour
- 917 JAR OF CURD – Any Flavour – Please label stating flavour
- 918 SOURDOUGH BREAD – Any shape or size
- 919 3 COCONUT TARTS
- 920 JAR OF CHUTNEY – Any flavour – Please label stating flavour
- 921 MARMALADE CAKE – Any shape or size
- 922 SUGAR PASTE FARMYARD ANIMAL – Any size
- 923 3 FRUIT SCONES
- 924 LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE – Any shape or size
- 925 3 ICED CHELSEA BUNS
- 926 BANANA LOAF
- 927 JAR OF JAM – Any Flavour – Please label stating flavour
- 928 VEGETABLE CAKE – e.g. Carrot - Any shape or size – Please label stating flavour
- 929 HOME MADE GIN – Any Flavour – Please label stating flavour

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).



Insecure or Sneak-In burglary accounts for approximately 1 in 4 burglaries across West Yorkshire. This method of entering someone’s home only occurs if a door or window has been left open or unlocked. It only takes a minute to prevent it and costs nothing other than your time to stop it from happening.

Insecure burglary can happen when you are out or when you are at home, so it is vital that you keep doors and windows locked at all times. It’s extremely important to get into the habit of locking doors and windows either when you are leaving or arriving home – make sure that everyone else who lives in your home does the same thing.

Crime Prevention Checklist
2 Sneak-in Burglary

Sneak in burglars want what’s yours
Always lock windows & doors



“I’ll lock the door when I’ve finished my tea.”
 “We just lock the door before we go to bed.”
 “I just leave my bags and laptop by the door when I get in.....”
 Sound familiar?



Sneak-in Burglary - Key Facts:

- Doors and windows should be locked at all times – it only takes 60 seconds for someone to reach through an open door or window
- Lock the doors, take the key out, don't leave it on view or in reach of a letterbox or cat flap
- Always know where the house key is in case you need to get out in an emergency
- Don't leave bags, laptops, tablets or keys just inside the door
- Make sure everyone in your home gets into the habit of being more secure
- Consider setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme on your street

**For further crime prevention advice contact your local
Crime Prevention Officers on 101 and ask for your
District Team**

www.westyorkshire.police.uk