



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 Probus 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
Yoga	Wednesday	Village Hall	11.30 - 12.30	07979370323
Pierrot Players	Various	Various		07790 499502
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	1st and 3rd Friday of the month	Village Hall	2 - 4pm	07517704427
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	



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SHELLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

An ad on the very last page of this month's Shelley Mag relates to a local food festival. Nothing new in that you might think, we have them every year in Huddersfield, Holmfirth and local villages. This one is run by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and is truly local. Set close to Castle Hill this friendly event introduces organisations championing a greener future. As we swelter and complain about the heat, fires, water shortages it's groups like this that help local communities recognise the difference that relatively small change can make to the environment. Supporting this free event is one way to start addressing one of the most pressing issues of the day – sustainability.

If you have missed some of our regular contributors, we anticipate that they will all back in our October edition when everyone has returned from holiday.

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
07808 588664

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.

A love for the wild and our duty to protect it

PC 4963 Caroline Newsome

West Yorkshire Police

Wildlife, Rural and Heritage Crime Officer

Badger Crime Tactical Deliver Group

Will give a free presentation at

Shelley Village Hall

Tues 29th September at 2pm



All welcome!

One of my most memorable nights out was over two decades ago when two members of a local badger protection group invited me to go badger watching.

A short distance and there I was in the middle of a wood with Bert and Jason watching badgers emerging from their sett. So began my fascination with the beautiful secretive badger.

Close to where I helped Bert and Jason with early morning sett surveying more than 250 new homes are to be built resulting in a significant increase in local traffic heading to and from Penistone Road.

A cluster of houses now stand in a nearby area where early evenings were once spent watching badgers at play and rearranging their bedding. Meanwhile a decision has yet to be determined on controversial plans to build 50 new homes on land next to the ancient woodland where I first saw a live badger. Watched as Brock rolled around at dusk before disappearing along a well worn track that would have been used for generations.

The loss of habitat is obviously harmful to wildlife not least because it has to adjust and travel



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further to find food. When those ancient tracks are damaged or disappear the badger, a creature of habit, is at serious risk.

Road traffic is a major cause of death to badgers and the disturbance caused by new housing developments is a constant threat to all wildlife.

If like me you are interested in the protection of our wildlife then here's a treat:

PC Caroline Newsome, who is the West Yorkshire Police Wildlife & Crime Officer, will be giving a free presentation at Shelley Village Hall on Tuesday, 29th September at 2pm.

Maureen Sykes

SHELLEY PARISH CHURCH

Services September 2026

6th Cumberworth 11.15am, no service at Emmanuel

13th Emmanuel 9.30am

20th Emmanuel 9.30am

27th Emmanuel 9.30am

Wednesday August 2nd 16th and 30th 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.

Bible Study Course a short course will be held at Emmanuel Church starting on Thursday the 6th August at 1.30. This will run fortnightly

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

SHELLEY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Grant

For Higher Education & Apprenticeships

If you are aged 18-25 years of age and live in Shelley you may be eligible for a small grant from the SEF

Additional information & forms can be found online at <https://shelleyvillage.org/Shelley-Educational-Foundation/> or by using the QR Code below

Applications available from: 1st August 2026
Closing Date: 30th September 2026

The Pierrot Players

A Leak in Time

A Comedy Drama
by Julie Nan Kaye

Shelley Village Hall
Huddersfield HD8 8HE

Tickets £10

Wed 28th to Sat 31st Oct 2026
Wed / Thur / Fri - curtain up 7.30pm Saturday Matinee - curtain up 2.30pm

Available from:-
www.thepierrotplayers.com/box-office (booking fee applies)
Freephone 0333 666 3366 (booking fee applies)
Pay on the door

Find us on Facebook
NODA
The NODA Group



A Leak In Time

Synopsis

Lord Barrington Blake has just completed building his beloved new Winterfield Mill in Yorkshire.

King George III is most unhappy that he will not sell him the property and adjoining land, to build a Royal retreat in the region.

On the pretext of visiting the opening of the mill on the 31st October 1776. He insists that a fault design in the building be declared a spiritual intervention from God.

The King announces to the fury of Lord Blake that the Spiritual fount, (a leak in the roof) never be repaired or the bucket removed. This applies to any future owner of Winterfield Mill. If that happens the crown will confiscate the property and the surrounding land. The King also states that Lord Blake must never reveal this to next generations of owners, as the decree will stand for all time.

Soothsayer Sybil Delamere, puts a spell on Lord Blake's portrait that will disable any owner from removing the bucket and repairing the leak. Minor discomfit will incur if they try!

Spencer Francis who is the P.A. to Jo Philips brings in Lafayette Delamere. A spiritualist and descendant of Sybil. She quite by accident brings back past owners.

Sir Charles McKenzie 1876 and his foreman Eric Charlton debate this royal decree with Major Wilfred Sydney Smyth from 1926 when Winterfield was a convalescent home. Matron when not providing cocktails of cod-liver oil, hands out hangover cures to the owners who do enjoy their Johnnie Walker whisky. Lady Henrietta 1920's society girl, prefers her champagne.

Jo Philips is the current owner, Finds herself attracted to Sir Charles, who is in love, but not with Jo!

The dilemma of finding a solution to their collective problem brings camaraderie hilarity and friendship. To realise that their ultimate goal must be to save Winterfield Mill from ruthlessly being embezzled into the hands of the Royals through a timeline of two hundred and fifty years!

KIRKLEES COUNCIL REPORT

The Kirklees deadlock was broken at last with, as I expected and supported, Reform becoming the Administration. This does not mean that my Conservative colleagues and I wholeheartedly support the politics of the new Administration. It is most likely that we will support some of their proposals and oppose others, which is what democracy is, or should, be about: a creative tension of differing ideas leading to the formulation of policies to the benefit of the Borough. What I didn't expect was that the new Administration's first step would be to suspend Cabinet meetings in the interim to allow them time to debate policies amongst themselves. The importance of Cabinet meetings is that they provide an opportunity for other councillors to query any emerging policies on the one hand, and also allow both councillors and residents to ask direct questions of the Leader and Cabinet on the other. Often it is through this process that we gain a clear understanding of policy as it develops. I hope and expect that, by the time you read this, "normal" Cabinet procedures will be in place.

As I write we have not yet seen any emerging policies from the Administration, and consequently I am not in a position to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the new Cabinet members. That will come in the fullness of time but, for now, I genuinely wish them well in getting to grips with their individual portfolios. Kirklees needs strong and well-directed governance for there are still important challenges to be met.

Last month I alluded to a certain cynicism surrounding grass cutting, or rather its lack. As I said then, this was not a sneaky change of policy. It came about due to an unfortunate combination of factors, principally the breakdown of a large mowing machine accompanied by an unanticipated increase in staff absence. I have no reason to question the explanation given to me by the Service Director responsible, and it does appear that the backlog in mowing is now being addressed.

Looking online and at my inbox, it is clear to me that there is some confusion surrounding the uses to which Council Tax and other Kirklees income is put. As one correspondent put it, "I don't know what I pay my Council Tax for". Such a question is often rhetorical, but some residents genuinely want to know. There is not enough space here to answer this in detail, although I note that both Adult Social Services and Children's Social Services consume sizable proportions of council revenue, with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) pupils requiring increasing



financial support. For those who wish to know the full details, the 2026/27 budget breakdown can be found online:

(<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/budget-and-accounts.aspx>).

It is also apparent to me that there is some confusion about the responsibilities of Kirklees Council and Kirkburton Parish Council, especially regarding grass cutting and cleaning road signs. Both are ultimately functions of Kirklees, although as far as I can see there is no legal impediment to the Parish Council taking on this work. There is though a practical barrier: resources. In contrast to the several thousand employees of Kirklees Council the Parish Council has but two, a part-time Clerk and her part-time Admin Assistant. Given that Kirkburton Parish includes ten villages and a lot of country lanes, they could not make much impression on cleaning road signs, let alone cutting grass, even if they did nothing else. Of course the Parish Council could employ contractors, but they are not cheap. For 2026/27, the Kirkburton Parish Precept (the cheapest in Kirklees) for a Band H house will be £34.42, compared with a charge in Denby Dale parish of £91.46 and a whopping £155.90 in the Meltham Town Council area. Looking at the fees charged by contractors to cut a moderate size lawn, I think the Parish Precept would probably end up around £600, about 18 times as much as it is now, to pay for grass cutting and sign cleaning. Any volunteers for such an eye watering increase? With my best wishes to you all, Bill.
(Bill Armer, Ward and Parish Cllr, tel 01484 314314, email: bill@gmx.ca)

The Parish Council held a Grant's committee meeting toward the end of July. Hopefully all our local applicants were happy with the help they received? Then a week later it was our Management and Finance meeting which is more about making sure the Council operates in a correct manner in recording and adhering to Council governing rules and regulations. Most months I mention Parish Council Grants, and I do feel that Shelley groups are not taking advantage of the financial help which could be available to them. I would encourage group leaders to look at the following link to get some idea as to what other Parish groups apply for: <https://www.kirkburtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-council/minutes-agendas/grants-and-community-projects-committee/>
Some people may know that the access road, Northfield Lane, to the Highburton Village Hall, Highburton First School and local residents of Northfield Lane, has been resurfaced up to the

rear entrance to the First School. Over the years the potholes in this short section of the road have deteriorated to such an extent that they were becoming a hazard to motorists and pedestrians alike. Your Parish Council made a Grant payment along with others to have the road resurfaced, this was recently finished, and the transformation is amazing.

Many parents and their children are on holiday which is certainly noticeable in the morning as I walk up for my daily newspaper. The lack of the hustle and bustle at the bus stop along with an endless stream of traffic with parents taking their children to school makes the area extremely quiet and much safer crossing the main road. Enjoy your time and stay safe.

Ray Bray (PCllr)

Local 15th Century venue to host business open day

Woodsome Hall golf club is hosting an 'Open for business' day on Thursday September 17th to showcase the facilities at the Club for meetings, weddings, celebrations of all kinds, private dining and business events such as product launches. With a history stretching back to the 15th Century and the Grade 1 listed building being dated at 1462, it's a great option for anyone looking for a venue that is a bit special and very unique. With a license for weddings on site, options for marquee settings on the back lawn, the historical courtyard or the front terrace and a variety of room sizes, it has become a popular choice for celebrations and meetings of all kinds and all sizes.

Accommodation is also available on site too, with the 'Cottage on the Course' having eight en-suite bedrooms and great views of the course from every window.

The Club is inviting anyone who might like to find out more about Woodsome as a future venue to an open day to discover the 15th century history for themselves.

General Manager Ryan O'Connor explains: "Woodsome was once described as a hidden gem, but it isn't just for the golf. We have the facilities and space options to provide a first-class venue for all types of meetings and events and we also have centuries of history for guests to enjoy." If you would like to pay a visit on September 17th, anytime from 10.00am until 4.00pm, then register to receive an invitation

at <https://forms.gle/qXpn29uQ8a7BGFQm6>



LETTERS

When the train took the strain...

My mother was called Anne Broadbent and her family owned and ran Parkwood Mills in Longwood. Founded by John Broadbent in the late 18th century, they finally closed in the late 20th century, though I cannot find the precise date. As children in the 1950s, my sister and I loved visiting the mills with that indescribable smell of warm wool, boiling liquids, machine oil and mysterious machinery. (We also liked visiting Hedley's little shop in one of the buildings and the treat of a few sweets.) My grandfather, Lt. Col. Theo Broadbent, retired from the Indian Army and managed the mills through the 1920's and the slump, and I believe he managed to do so without laying anyone off. It took a considerable toll on his health. When I taught at Colne Valley High School in Linthwaite for a couple of years in the late 1960's, I met parents who had worked for him and remembered him with great affection. The last managing director of the mills was another Theo Broadbent, my first cousin once removed, who told me the following story about one of their employees – I'll call him Elias. Elias took the train to work from Holmfirth to Huddersfield and thence by bus or trolleybus to Longwood. He wore false teeth that he greatly disliked and found uncomfortable, so he used to remove them on the train and put them on the armrest. Arriving back at Holmfirth one evening he forgot them. By the time he remembered, the train was on its way back to Huddersfield, so the stationmaster rang his counterpart there who sent someone to find them. They arrived back in Holmfirth on the next train. Sounds like something straight out of Last of the Summer Wine, but having lived in Marsden for six years in the early seventies, the story is entirely plausible. Anyway, I hope it's true!

Richard Griffiths

If you like to do Word Search puzzles try the following: <https://thewordsearch> there are literally thousands to choose from. You can even create your own. This was supplied by The Royal Voluntary Service, Kirklees Libraries. I have written before about the services which they provide to the people of Kirklees. If you would like to get more information on the services which they do provide, or maybe you would like to volunteer your time with deliveries or other tasks to help provide this public service, then please phone 01484 226363.

We Brits seem to have a fascination with the weather, some first words we utter are, lovely day or, well the sunshine didn't last long. The recent weather hasn't been to my liking as it has been far too hot. Our gardens and green spaces have been put under immense pressure with the heat we have been enduring in July/August. Many areas were put into drought control by their water companies, who placed a ban on hosepipes. Personally I have been going around with a watering can, which was hard work. Furthermore, I realised that I had made a rod for my own back by planting up too many hanging baskets and planters which have needed watering by hand. At the back end of July I played in a golf competition at Meltham, the course was bone dry with many areas of the course resembling straw. It was also hard going on the feet.

Last month I pulled an oven glove out of a kitchen drawer and to my shock and amazement I noticed a large hole had been gnawed into it and the stuffing was pulled out. So, I turned round and looked at Bob the Cat with a where were you look on my face. This month the little beastie who lives under the kitchen units decided to bite through the other glove to the pair. Once again Bob the Cat was nowhere to be seen. I have placed traps down in cat safe areas, but I cannot get it. How it got into the house is a mystery as Bob doesn't usually fetch them indoors. Other cats I have had in the past, have, and it's a very surreal moment eating breakfast with mice running around the perimeter of the room.

Ray Bray

SHEPLEY BIRD AND WILDLIFE GROUP

Was it a sparrow or a dunnock?

"I didn't know the difference between a sparrow and a dunnock until I joined the bird group". "They were all pigeons to me until a member pointed out the difference between a wood pigeon and a stock dove". "I thought I saw a heron, dismissed it as a black rubbish sack hanging on a stick only to have it confirmed as a heron when the light changed". Whether you are just starting bird watching or are a competent birder you will be welcomed into the group. You can always look up a bird on your mobile but with the group you can have a conversation about what you saw and a laugh when even the experts get it wrong. We are putting together our new colourful and informative programme of talks and field visits for September 2026 through to June 2027. The aim is



to get them into local libraries by the middle of August.

Looking forwards, we aim to cover a wide variety of indoor talks. Over the next few months, we shall see fabulous images from local wildlife photographers, hear about wildlife preservation and protection and then travel to very remote parts of the world with an accomplished writer and naturalist.

The field visit programme aims to produce an innovative mixed menu of local sites and mini breaks farther away.

Looking back, the field visits that concluded our last programme in June were to sites that may be of interest if you are trying to think of where you might go during the long school holidays.



Broadstone Reservoir is local spot and close enough to go for a short evening stroll.

Species recently seen include linnet, stonechat, reed bunting, willow warbler, skylark, buzzard, curlew, oystercatcher, herring & black headed gull, pied wagtail, meadow pipit, swallow, barn owl, blackcap, goldfinch, blue & great tit and several brown hares.

We also visited the Longshaw Estate a National Trust site that is just over an hour away and was featured in Springwatch in 2025. Although not the best time for birding there are numerous habitats to explore, including a very interesting gorge that was particularly rewarding with pied flycatcher, grey wagtail, dipper, wren, nuthatch etc , an excellent café plus wide-open spaces for children to enjoy.

Contacts details: email:

shepleybirders@yahoo.com Tel: Chris Marks
01484 608652

We hold our very sociable indoor meetings of wildlife talks on the first Wednesday of the month from September to April at 7.30pm in the Cliffe House Coach House. Our first meeting of the new 2026 -2027 programme will be on Wednesday 2nd September.

Membership is £15 or you can just dip into individual talks as a visitor for £3.00.

Field visits are open to everyone free of charge and full details of these and all our talks will be available in our monthly magazine articles and programmes that will be distributed to local libraries, or by request using the contact details below.

We look forward to welcoming you.

SHEPLEY WI

Our July members' meeting saw us sampling the products brought in by Neal's Yard Remedies representative Tee, who provided lots of information about the benefits of herbal and aromatherapy products. We had good fun doing the 'sniff tests' to see if we could distinguish, for example, geranium from rosemary and other scents. We were all surprised at the pleasant scent of patchouli- very different from how most of us remembered it from the 1970s!



Both walking groups enjoyed lovely sunshine at their last outings. Our Striders, accompanied by Enzo the dog, explored the moors above Hade Edge, with views across

Winscar, Harden and Snailsden reservoirs.

Afterwards we had coffee at Totties Garden Centre at Scholes (once we had navigated the closed roads and diversion!).

Meanwhile, our Strollers explored the nooks and crannies of Shepley village, followed by a delicious and excellent value for money lunch at Paula's Community Café in St Paul's Hall.

Also outdoors, Gardening Group has been busy helping clear the border outside Shepley Library, as well as sharing our successes and failures in this summer's drought.

The Crafts and Crumbs group continues to meet on the fourth Monday of the month, alongside the café regulars at Shepley Methodist Church.



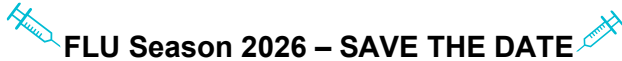
Recently, members have been focusing on their own projects, but no doubt, as we move into autumn (and, dare I say it, edge ever closer to Christmas!), we'll be experimenting with ideas for seasonal gifts and decorations.

Book Club members also met during the summer break to share their holiday reading.

Our next members' meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th September, when our speaker will be Paul Jefferies on the subject of 'Sustainable Tea and Coffee'.



Shepley Health Centre



Appointments are now available for our forthcoming flu campaign. Our main clinic will be on:

 **Saturday 3rd October 2026**

 **Shepley Health Centre**

****other dates are also available****

We have enough vaccinations for all **eligible** patients.

World Patient Safety Day 17th September 2026

World Patient Safety Day reminds us that safer healthcare is a shared responsibility. In 2026, the focus is on making care safer for people living with long-term conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases.

5 things patients can do

1. Ask questions

If you are unsure about your diagnosis, treatment or care plan, ask your healthcare team to explain.

2. Know your medicines

Keep an up-to-date list of your medicines and understand what each one is for and how to take it.

3. Check your information

Make sure important details—such as your name, medicines, allergies and medical history—are correct.

4. Understand what happens next

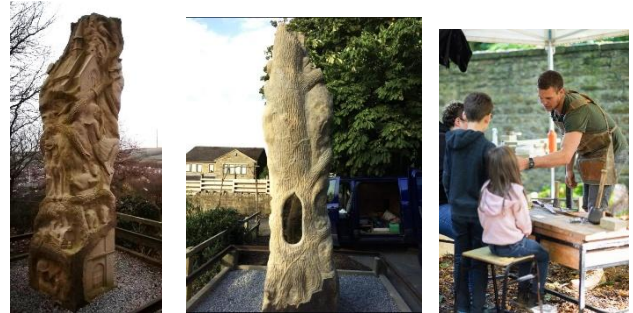
Before leaving an appointment or hospital, make sure you know what follow-up care, tests or appointments are needed.

5. Speak up

If something doesn't seem right or you are worried about your care, tell a member of your healthcare team. Your concerns matter.

Art At The House 2026 Meet Try Buy

There have been some big developments since last month, making Art At The House 2026 the most exciting event yet. We have managed to secure significant funding thanks to **Kirklees Council & West Yorkshire Combined Authority** to help build our event into something bigger and even better. We are now able to fund a wide range of creative projects for Art At The House which will benefit the whole community. This year, sculptor **Ryan James**, who is fast forming a big reputation in the stone carving world, will begin an interactive community project on a huge stone column on-site which will be developed each year until it is complete and will remain at Cliffe House permanently. The public will be given the opportunity to work on the column alongside Ryan, who has a wealth of experience in workshop practice. His work may be familiar for some who enjoy the woods in Clayton West.

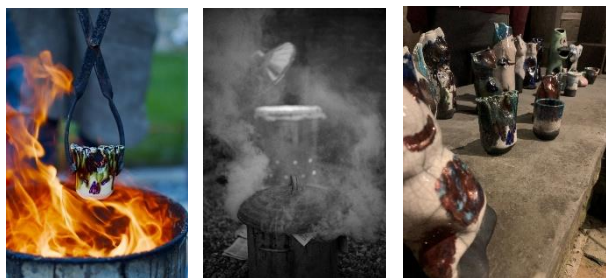


Also part of our event will be **Crafty Devilz** who will be on hand for those who wish to try their hand at a variety of circus skills.

Artist and professional musician **David Moss** will also be providing a very special workshop in **overtone chanting**, otherwise known as **Mongolian Throat Singing**, a unique form of vocal melody using the harmonics of the voice. He will also be demonstrating his mastery of this art in the woods.

Join **Dō Raku** for the ultimate Japanese fast firing experience. Glaze a pre-fired pot and see red hot ceramic plunged into sawdust and flames to make exciting crackle and metallic finishes that can be taken home on the day.

We have been creating some Raku figures we call **“Wicks”**. There are different kinds of Wicks to be found around the Coach House and throughout the woods in a treasure hunt, the Wicks will be raffled off towards the end of the weekend.



We will be funding a wide range of live music and activities throughout the weekend including **Scissett Youth Band, Rhythm Stick Drumming Band** who will be asking the public to pick up some sticks and join the beats, as well as a wide range of buskers and live musicians, some will be playing piano and performing the spoken word in the woods.

On the front lawn there will be **Walk On The Wild Side, a "mini zoo", featuring birds of prey, reptiles and much more.** There will also be **face-painting** and the new **adventure playground** will be open. **Food will be provided on site by Sons of The North.**

And the fun doesn't stop at Cliffe House. Our event will spill into the village as our friends at **The Farmers Boy** will transform the place into an **Art gallery featuring many of our exhibitors.** They are supporting us with sponsorship and will be hosting an **after-show party evening of live music and great food.**

Whatever your thing is, there will be something that sparks your creativity and sends you home with a great feeling.

Look out for more news about ArtattheHouse26 next month with featured artists and activities for you to do!

Nigel Hoyle and the ArtattheHouse26 Team

The article above is re-printed from last month. Due to our early close date for magazine content this month, it is apparent that not everyone got that memo, and so updates from regular contributors may have missed the hard August deadline.

The "Art At The House" is a major local art event and so we have included this repeat article as a reminder to anyone that would like to attend.

The following articles from Malcolm MacDonald were held over from previous Shelley Mags where space was not available. We thank Malcolm for his consistent support for the Magazine, and for his patience as he waited for his work to be included.

THE HISTORY OF THE SHELLEY MILLENNIUM STONE

Nationwide planning for events for the millennium started in the early 1990's. As the millennium grew closer, planning became intense. As with other local authorities, Kirklees Council encouraged local groups to find local ways of celebrating the event, but not by offering money!

Here in Shelley a committee consisting of local people was formed to raise money for setting up groups, like the Shelley Strollers, but also to create permanent structures to mark the millennium, e.g. a clock tower. We decided on having a stone structure that identified Shelley.

Meetings of the Millennium Committee were held at regular intervals throughout 1999 at the Rising Sun. At the time, I was retired and took Lorna to and from work at Armitage Bridge. On returning home one day, we encountered a road closure on Penistone Road at the entrance to the Village. It only meant diverting around the Village Green where the cause of the road closure could be clearly seen. A Huddersfield bound lorry, loaded with 2 huge round rocks had tipped on to it's side. One of the rocks had broken loose and was on the grass verge, not far from the Rising Sun.

This was on the very evening of one of our committee meetings. I arrived early for the meeting and announced that the Millennium Stone had arrived, but it is on the wrong side of the road! We established that the lorry had set off from Appleton Quarry, Shepley and was travelling to Halifax. The following morning I was up at the offices of Appleton Quarry and thanked the man in the Office for delivering the Millennium Stone, but that it was on the wrong side of the road from the Village Green. On hearing about our plans for a stone marking the millennium, he told me that we couldn't have the fallen stone, as when it was cut into paving stones in Halifax, it would be worth thousands of pounds. However, he said he would see what he could do. He invited members of the Millennium Committee up to the Quarry and gave us a choice of various off-cuts of stone. The one we picked was an end piece with a smooth side and a rough side, like the crust on a loaf. The pieces on offer were all different, but this one had a nice, coloured pattern running through the top of it. The Company representative said he would give us the stone and transport it, free of charge, to the Village Green.

He offered to help with the engraving, but we would have to pay for it. I thanked him and suggested **Shelley 2000 MM**, MM being the Roman numerals for 2000, but also indicating the provenance of the stone, Marshalls Mono. His response was to offer a stone plinth and to dowel the stone to it.

The next move was to draw up plans for a Planning Application for the stone to be erected as a permanent structure. The Planning Application was duly passed by Kirklees Council and on a sunny, spring day in 2000, the stone was delivered and set in place. It was blessed by the local Vicar with members of the local uniform groups, a junior band and Shelley residents in attendance.

This was the first of several Village Millennium stones



to be erected in our area, all from the same source and all with the name of the village and '2000'. Only one other village (Upper Cumberworth), had the addition 'M.M.!

Malcolm MacDonald
June 2026

ORIGINS OF SHELLEY'S FRENCH SUNDAY LUNCH

It is over 40 years ago that I used to go to France regularly on day trips. Working In London, the channel ports of Dover and Folkestone were only two hours away by car. Various newspapers had promotions for cheap ferry travel to Calais and Boulogne for car drivers and foot passengers for a little as a pound! It was a wonderful way to enjoy a day out in France, to shop and have a good meal. As a regular visitor to Boulogne, I got to know the family who ran the Globe Hotel, very well. They had family connections who ran L'auberge du Moulin, a large restaurant and bar deep in the countryside at a village called Bournonville. They specialised in Sunday lunches.

It was easily accessible by car, and it could be done in a day. Neither the staff nor the diners spoke any English. The Sunday lunch started a 1pm and finished when the last person left! There was a standard 5 course menu with choices which never changed in all the years that I went there.

Throughout the meal we had musical entertainment, sometimes a piano accordion, but mostly recorded songs. We played musical games, danced and occasionally someone stood up, unannounced, and sang.

After meeting Lorna, 33 years ago, we became regular attendees and were welcomed by the local clientele. The French Monarchy was abolished in 1792, but from the first time that I visited France as a schoolboy, I have been aware that French people take an interest in our Royal family. We were enjoying our meal at the Auberge with a friend on Sunday 31st August 1997 when the news broke that Princess Diana had died that day in a car crash in Paris. Devasted that such a thing could happen in their country, diners lined up to give us their condolences!

Over years, I took family and friends to the Auberge in small groups and in coach parties.

Having moved to Shelley in 1995, our visits to France became less and less. I missed the thrill of going to Bournonville and the bonhomie of L'Auberge du Moulin so I decided to try to re-create the atmosphere, here in Shelley, as far as possible.

In my year as Chairman of Kirkburton Parish Council 2005-2006, I arranged two French Sunday Lunches at Shelley Village Hall for Charities. Lorna and Denise Edinburgh provided all the food! But as numbers of diners grew the catering has been done by Simply Splendid Solutions of Linthwaite. The 5-course menu remains basically the same, including, for many years, a "Trou Normand", a palate cleanser; a small glass of Calvados poured over a scoop of apple sorbet. It is a

classic French culinary tradition, but apparently not so popular in Shelley!

For entertainment, we too, have had an accordionist and we play French music in the build up to the meal, until we switch it off because it cannot be heard over the cacophony of sound when people arrive. We do play a game, 'heads or tails', which raises additional money for the chosen charity, but, so far, we have not had anyone who has got up to sing. The display of the French Tricolour and bunting is merely to add to the French ambience. The waiters/waitresses are always young and hard working and richly benefit from the menu note 'servis non compris'. Their efforts for supporting a charitable cause are rewarded with a personal certificate. This year the French Sunday Lunch raised a record £1,433.35, this time for the Forget Me Not

Children's Hospice.

Sadly L'Auberge du Moulin closed its doors years ago, but I hope the tradition of holding an annual, charitable French Sunday Lunch in Shelley continues.

I write this article on 6th June 2026, D-Day and am reminded of my early days at L'Auberge du Moulin, speaking to old Frenchmen who remembered English soldiers in the area around Boulogne, and the suffering they had incurred at the D-day landings.

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