

Link

Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Parish Magazine








“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10 13

The Link

The **Link** is the magazine and noticeboard for the Parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale, sharing news, reports and items of interest from the churches and our community. If you have something to contribute, please email it to your local correspondent or to the editor.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month.

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The Link is distributed free to every household in the parish, and is also available on the Parish website at <https://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org/news-and-views.html>

If you would like to receive a copy of the Link by email, please contact the Editor at smithiwho@gmail.com

The Link is financed by advertising from local businesses, and gifts. If you would like to make a gift towards the publication of the Link, you can do so through the Parish website at www.upperwharfedalechurches.org or by scanning this QR code. Your donations to parish funds help towards publication of the Link and the upkeep of our churches.

Thank you for your contribution.

Cover: Arncliffe Prayer Tree – see article on thanks for answered prayer (page 2)



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A Dales Prayer

May the Father's grace abound in you
as the flowing water of the beck.

May the Son's love and hope invigorate you
as the rising slopes of fell and dale.

May the Spirit's companionship be with you
as the glory of the golden meadows.

Amen

From the Vicar...

The Churches enjoyed an amazing Palm Sunday weekend last month. On the Saturday night over 40 people attended 'Laughter in Lent' with bestselling author and regular radio contributor, Matt Woodcock. Matt gave a professional, entertaining and spiritual presentation that addressed relevant issues for our faith today.



There was a strong sense of this being an inclusive Saturday night community event as we enjoyed a drink or two from the bar. Afterwards I received feedback that it was moving to hear Matt speak about people's response to a warm welcome when they engaged with church for the first time. We heard stories of new disciples gaining confidence in life and faith. There was a great story to finish of a young man who thought he wouldn't be allowed through the doors of his local Church who a month later found himself joining the church choir.

On Palm Sunday a similar number of people gathered on Buckden Green for the procession, and more folk joined us for the service at Hubberholme. Matt co-led the service with me and preached a wonderful sermon. He asked people to imagine themselves in the crowd when Jesus entered Jerusalem, and think where they would be - hanging back a bit ... aloof ... up the front cheering ... in the middle blending in.

Matt encouraged us all to take the opportunity to ask more questions of our faith and be more open to God's call. It was fantastic to have our visiting speaker preach with such joy and sensitivity. What better way for us to get in the right frame of mind for Easter.

Tom



Thanks for answered prayer....

We recently received a beautiful letter from Rita Fitzsimmons, a graphic designer from Montana, northwest USA. Rita was diagnosed with multiple myeloma (bone marrow cancer), and in May 2022 was preparing for a stem cell transplant at the same time as her cousin Scott and his wife Mary were visiting the UK. Scott sent her some pictures of their visit to Arncliffe and wrote "We stopped in an ancient country church near our cottage where we learned they had a 'Prayer Tree'. We wrote a special request on your behalf and hung it on the tree.....congregants in the Yorkshire Dales will be thinking of you tomorrow." She wrote to thank us for our prayers and says, "I am currently in full remission and feel great". We praise God for answered prayer!

22 March 2024

Dear St. Oswald's Parishioners,

A little over two years ago I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a blood cancer of the bone marrow. It is currently incurable, but with intense treatment and the continuing promise of new research, there is a lot of hope for a longer life.

In May of 2022, after months of chemotherapy in my home state of Montana, I was preparing to have the first of two stem cell transplants at a major hospital in Chicago, IL. My cousin, Scott, and his wife, Mary, were visiting the UK at the time. They knew about my situation and sent me a message with pictures from Arncliffe. In part Scott wrote, "We stopped in an ancient country church near our cottage where we learned they had a "Prayer Tree." We wrote a special request on your behalf and hung it on the tree... congregants in the Yorkshire Dales will be thinking of you tomorrow."

I was moved to tears when I read that.

I was so touched to think that

people who lived very far, far away and who didn't know me at all would be offering prayers and good wishes on my behalf!

I am finally writing now, almost two years later, to thank you.

I am currently in full remission from the cancer and I feel great. Medicine and treatment (which is ongoing) are, of course, huge reasons for my remission. But the prayerful support and good karma vibes sent out & into the universe with my name on them is without a doubt an equally huge reason.

With all of my thanks and gratitude,

Rita Fitzsimmons

-Age 68 and counting!



From the Churches & Villages

Summary of 2024 Annual Meeting of Parishioners and APCM

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held on Wednesday 17 April.

Andrew Hitchon and Ian Smith were elected as Church Wardens and Elizabeth Hird was elected as a member of the PCC. Rebecca Ward-Dooley stood down as Church Warden for Arncliffe earlier in the year due to work pressures, and Jane Way, Church Warden for Hubberholme, retired from that role after the APCM. Jane has also stood down from the PCC, as have Patsy Campbell, Jo Foster and Sue Nelson. The Vicar, the Rev Tom Lusty, thanked them all for their work and for their commitment to the Parish.

Those attending the meetings had previously received copies for the Parish's Annual Report and Accounts for 2023. Copies of these are available in our Churches and a version of the document can also be found on our website (www.upperwharfedalechurches.org).

The number of people on the Electoral Roll for the Parish was 103.

Christian Aid Week: 12-18 May



Christian Aid Week this year is 12-18 May. We have seven days and so many ways to make a difference. With your donations, prayers and actions you could help someone, locally or globally, to push back against the inhumanity of poverty. When you are pushed to the brink of survival putting a healthy meal in front of your children, sending them to school and having a small regular income become unthinkable dreams. As the climate crisis

deepens, people live in increasingly precarious positions and face droughts, floods and landslides. Extreme weather undermines the stability of agriculture and economies, but with determination, hope, faith, love and a little help from Christian Aid, people can transform their lives to secure a brighter future. We believe in Peace, Dignity, Equality and Justice for all. Christian Aid has been providing humanitarian relief to Palestinian refugees since the 1950s and now is actively involved in promoting and defending human rights for the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories, keeping hope alive.

Envelopes (delivered with this LINK magazine) can be returned with your donations to:

- 🔗 Buckden - Village Shop or Long Barn House
- 🔗 Conistone - Fishers Barn
- 🔗 Halton Gill - Church Cottage
- 🔗 Hubberholme - The George Inn
- 🔗 Kettlewell - Village Shop
- 🔗 Littondale - Lane Top House, Arncliffe

Donations can also be paid direct into the Upper Wharfedale Fellowship of Churches Christian Aid account 20-78-42 account number 43851834, or cheques payable to Christian Aid can be sent to our local Christian Aid Committee Treasurer, Joanna Clarke, at Birchwood, Wharfedale Avenue, Threshfield BD23 5BS. Please complete the Gift Aid slips where applicable.

St Mary's, Kettlewell

May Rotas

Sidespeople

- 5 Phil Burgin
- 12 No one required
- 19 Clare Blakey-Williams

26 Dave Nelson

After Service Tea/Coffee

5 Shirley Whitham

12 No one required

19 Di Blakey-Williams

26 Sue Nelson

Cleaning

Pam Lambert

Flowers

Sue Nelson

Lent Lunches held in the Vicarage in March in aid of Christian Aid raised £115. Thank you to all involved.

St Michael & All Angels,
Hubberholme

May Rotas

Sidesperson

12 Sandie & David Parsons

19 Jane Way

26 Josie Cowpe & Sandra Kilvington

Flowers/cleaning

5 S Kilvington & G Owen

12 S Kilvington & G Owen

19 C Sayer & J Sayer

26 C Sayer & J Sayer

We' are sorry that we had to postpone the **Church Fundraising Coffee Morning** from April to May, and hope that you will be able to join us for coffee and cake this month instead. Our annual quiz sheet, a raffle and stall including jigsaws to donate or buy will be available. We look forward to seeing you in Buckden Village Institute on 4 May between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

The church fundraising **Quiz sheets** are available at the George, the Buck, and from Sandie, Josie or Deirdre at a cost of £1. These will be on sale throughout the summer and the draw will be made in October.

'Springtime' display reinstated!

You may recall the display which Buckden Knit and Natter group were asked to



design/knit for last year's Scarecrow Festival at Kettlewell church. This was mounted in one of the windows at the church and was greatly admired and praised and actually won an award! It has now been reinstated for a few months in our church at Hubberholme - do pop along and see it. There are one or two recent additions to the display - see if you can spot them! Thank you to all involved.

The Parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale
Fundraising by Hubberholme Church

MAY 4th

SPRING

COFFEE MORNING



TEA/COFFEE & CAKE

£3

AT BUCKDEN VILLAGE INSTITUTE

10.30 – 12.30

GIFT STALL / RAFFLE

Annual Quiz Sheet £1

JIGSAW SALE OR SWAP TABLE (Donation)

Cakes and biscuits, raffle prizes and jigsaws welcome on the day or before. Ring Josie (761154) or Deirdre (760296) if you can help.

St Mary's, Conistone

May Rotas

Sidespeople

- 5 Hilda Dibb & Jo Foster
- 12 Philip & Kathryn Butterfield
- 19 Not required - Service at Kettlewell
- 2 June Allison Clarke & Philip Butterfield

Flowers and Cleaning

- 5-26 May Allison Clarke
- 2 June Ruth Hall

Open Church w/c

- 6 Lewis Adams
- 13 Allison Clarke
- 20 Jane Pighills & Michelle Parkin-Vaughan
- 27 Philip Butterfield June
- 3 June Lewis Adams

St Oswald's, Arncliffe

May Rotas

Opening church w/c

- 5 Sarah Paul
- 12 Rebecca Ward-Dooley
- 19 Hilary Follows
- 26 Sally Smith
- 2 June Elspeth Miller

Sidesperson

- 5 Hilary Follows
- 12 Elspeth Miller
- 19 Not required
- 26 Sally Smith
- 2 June Sarah Paul

Coffee

- 5 Rebecca Ward-Dooley
- 12 Elspeth Miller
- 19 Not required
- 26 Sarah Paul
- 2 June Lynda Barker

Cleaning

Sarah Paul

Flowers

Hilary Follows

Buckden & Langstrothdale

Buckden Art Exhibition

The annual Buckden Art Exhibition will be held in Buckden Village Institute from 24-26 August. Entry is free and donations will be for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Buckden Gala & Sheep Show

Saturday 15 June 12.30 - 4.30 pm



Buckden Gala will feature live music, stalls, dog show, children's races, crafts, grand draw, bouncy castle, coconut shy, beer tent, hot dogs, ice cream and tea room as well as the famous Buckden Pike Fell Race and the Sheep Show. As usual we would be very grateful for donations of cakes, tombola and raffle prizes nearer the time. We are also very grateful for the support that everyone gives us to run this event which raises money to support our thriving village hall. Please do come and join us, as a helper or visitor, to make this another fabulous day! For more info: www.buckdengala.co.uk and to contact us, please email gala@buckden.org or call 01756 761155

Buckden Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting will be in a new format this year with short updates from a variety of local organisations and groups about what they have been up to and what lies ahead. This is a great opportunity to find out what is going on in our community as well as to ask questions and air any ideas or concerns. The meeting will be on Tuesday 14 May at 7.00 p.m. All Buckden parish

residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments provided. More details will be provided nearer the date, but in the meantime please put the date in your diary.

Buckden Quiz

The last Buckden Village Quiz of the season will take place on Sunday 12 May in the Buck. Please take your seats from: 7.00 p.m. The quiz starts: 7.30 p.m. Entry fee - £2.50 per person. In aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. For further info, please email quiz@buckden.org

Kettlewell with Starbotton

Kettlewell Village Hall

The Hall is at the heart of all the regular and major events that take place in the Village, and we desperately need your help. If you can offer help at one of our annual events, eg Duck Race on 27 May, or assist in choosing new curtains /chairs for the Hall, or help out with the Committee, please contact Peter Ward at 07506 780128 or peterward6@hotmail.com

Kettlewell Duck Race

The annual Duck Race is here again. Monday 27th May 3.00pm. Tickets £1, available from the village shop, village hall committee members or outside the village hall on the day. Come and have a fun day.

All money raised is for village hall funds.

Kettlewell Film Night

The last film show of the current season is on Saturday 4 May at 7.30pm and it's 'The Great Escaper' - Michael Caine's last film.

"In the summer of 2014, a World War 11 veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration



of the D-Day landings in Normandy." Based on a true story. Cert 12. Tickets: Adults £6, School age £3, available from the village shop or on the door. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Ice creams in the interval. Film shows will resume again in the Autumn.

Kettlewell Lunch Club

Kettlewell Lunch Club will meet on Thursday 16 May at 12.30 for 12.45 in Kettlewell Village Hall. If you didn't put your name forward at the April lunch please ring or text (I prefer these modes of communication, please) Sue Nelson, 760887 land line, 07765506738 mobile, by 4pm on Sunday 12 May to reserve your place. If there's no answer, leave a message. The cost is £6 for two courses plus coffee/tea. Wine is available by donation. If, for any reason, you need to cancel your meal between Monday 13th and Thursday 16th May or are an absentee on the day, the meal will still need to be paid for as provisions will have already been ordered or purchased. The Lunch Club is open to anyone who is over 55 and lives in the Parish Council area of Kettlewell with Starbotton. If you are able, it would be helpful if you could assist with clearing following the meal. Thank you.



Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival

10-18 August 2024 – 30th Anniversary

Planning for the Festival is well and truly underway and rotas of volunteers for the stalls, the car park and the cafe are beginning to be compiled. Please volunteer and join our amazing community event! Contact Clare for further details on 07779933262 or canddaway@gmail.com.

As part of the celebration of 30 years of the festival, we are preparing a wall of memories in the foyer of the village hall. **If you have any stories** to tell about how you have been involved in the festival over the

years, please email diwilliams.labyrinth@gmail.com or contact Di (07779922268) or Jane (07718218630) to organise a time to chat. Stories will really enhance our incredible photographic display so please share yours. Perhaps you had a disaster one year where a head kept falling off or you had to tie your scarecrow down to stop it blowing away or you won the coveted 1st rosette. Any story, long or short, will be gratefully received.

The themes of this year's trails are 'All things 1994' and a 'Birthday party'. The trail scarecrows being made are as follows:

All things 1994

- ⌘ Elton John
- ⌘ Four weddings and a funeral
- ⌘ Wallace and Gromit The Wrong Trousers
- ⌘ Forrest Gump
- ⌘ Ace Ventura
- ⌘ Friends
- ⌘ Goths at Whitby
- ⌘ Brazil World Cup winners
- ⌘ Nelson Mandela
- ⌘ The Scream
- ⌘ Pearl Anniversary party

Birthday party

- ⌘ Child with Pinata
- ⌘ Punch & Judy
- ⌘ Clown
- ⌘ Child with Birthday Cake
- ⌘ Child/Children wearing party hats
- ⌘ Child with birthday present
- ⌘ Child/Children playing pass the parcel
- ⌘ Child playing Pin the Tail on the donkey
- ⌘ Child/Children in party clothes
- ⌘ Table of party food
- ⌘ Child/Children with Party Bags
- ⌘ Child/Children dancing
- ⌘ Child/Children with face painted/painter
- ⌘ Child/Children Party Popper
- ⌘ Balloon Artist
- ⌘ DJ
- ⌘ Magician
- ⌘ Frazzled parents



Please avoid duplicating these to reduce confusion on the trail sheet.

Other ideas you could consider are:

- ⌘ OJ Simpson was filmed in a police chase in Fors Bronco
- ⌘ George Foreman was the oldest heavyweight champion in history
- ⌘ Playstation was released
- ⌘ National lottery begins
- ⌘ Lidl opens first store in Uk

Films from 1994

- ⌘ The Mask
- ⌘ Junior
- ⌘ The Shawshank Redemption
- ⌘ Pulp Fiction
- ⌘ The Lion King

Music

- ⌘ Love is all around- Wet wet wet
- ⌘ Kiss from a Rose- Seal
- ⌘ Harry Styles and Justin Beiber born
- ⌘ Lets get ready to Rumble-Ant and Dec
- ⌘ The Prodigy/Blur/Oasis/Celine Dion/Mariah Carey

Or, of course, you can do any scarecrow of your choosing!! Thank you.

Another thank you to the numerous people who answered our plea for suits and wedding dresses last month, your contributions are much appreciated. Requests this month include a light coloured jacket and a toy lion (from Lion King preferably). Please contact Clare (07779933262) if you can help.

The Scarecrow Committee

Kettlewell & District WI

At the April meeting members sadly made the decision that they would not be able to hold the usual May Bank Holiday Coffee morning as some members would be unable to help. Next year it is hoped that another community organisation may be willing to join us to share the morning.

Our speaker was our very own Mrs Vicky Fattorini who gave us an absolutely enchanting talk about dessert wines and the ideal foods with which to enjoy them. Vicky had gone to great lengths and after tasting eight different wines and eating delicious snacks our usual refreshments paled into insignificance! Thank you so much Vicky, we had a wonderful afternoon and went home a lot merrier. (Warning, there is no suitable wine to accompany either artichokes or rhubarb!). The monthly competition was won by Linda Thomson and there was a raffle. The next exciting meeting, to which we are all looking forward, is to be held at 2pm on Tuesday 14 May at Grassington Fire Station where we shall be hosted by Mr James Hastings, the Watch Manager.

Barbara, Jane & Jo attended our Federation Spring Council Meeting in Hampsthwaite on 10 April. The Committee reports were good and finances in order. The morning speaker, Ruth Packwood, explained about the ever-mounting problem of modern slavery and the charity, *Hope at Home*, which is helping slavery survivors to find a safe way to go forward with their lives. Modern Slavery goes on, often in plain sight. If you suspect someone is being used as forced labour there is a helpline number to call; 08000 121700. After a superb lunch, members were treated to an entertaining talk by Alan Dediccoat, the voice over of 'Dancing with the Stars', the American version of 'Strictly Come Dancing'. He is also the person who calls out the numbers of the National

Lottery draw. A full report of the Council Meeting will be sent to our own members.

Kettlewell Primary School



Despite the weather not being on our side, we have had some great federation Mondays at Kettlewell this half term. Class one children from Burnsall, Grassington and Cracoe schools all gather at Kettlewell for the afternoon, and we learn together in our fantastic outdoor space.

Thank you to the Goodacre family and Scargill House for adding to our forest school area with some wooden chairs and chairs for outdoor role play area.

Class 2 started cookery and worked together to create a sustainable bean burger; it was delicious! Class 1 have started the topic growing and changing. We all made a trip to the library bus in Kettlewell and picked a book to take home. It's fantastic to have this opportunity in the village.

Class 2 have started work on the Stone Age, they have look at patterns and artwork which have been found in caves and some stone age stories. Class 1 have also been looking into what the seaside with like 100 years ago compared to today! They looked at Victorian postcards and wrote their own.

Each week, a child or more from each class receives an award for 'shining' in their class. Alongside the certificate they get to

pick a prize. Thank you to the Whitaker family for filling up the prize box. Keep shining children!

We have now competed our pond regeneration and look forward to starting to plant in there. Keep an eye out for an official opening.

Littondale

Litton Annual Parish meeting

Tuesday 14 May at 7.30pm in the Queens Arms

'Littondale Life Through the Years'

11-12 May 2024, 10.30am to 4.30pm

It's time to celebrate life in Littondale! Amerdale Hall is holding an exhibition of photos, farming equipment and other general memorabilia of Littondale over the weekend of Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th May. The exhibition will include:

- 🔗 Displays of photos and other memorabilia of families in the Dale
- 🔗 Videos of the pantomimes that were put on in the Village Hall during the 1980s
- 🔗 A treasure hunt reflecting the historical theme of the weekend
- 🔗 Plenty of tea, coffee and cakes!

In addition, the superb UWALS exhibition '*Presenting the Past*' covering Littondale will be on display in the church, and there will be a display of vintage tractors and farm equipment on the village green. So search your attics and bookshelves for photos, scrapbooks and other memorabilia – we'll be celebrating memories of the village hall, pubs, school, church, other events and the families who have lived here.

Please let us know if you would like to exhibit. Contact Ruth Cowan (770293), Mark Houston (770419) Michelle Miller (mbmaloney@hotmail.com), Sarah Paul (770282), Gill Scott (07920 766272) or Ian Smith (smithiwho@gmail.com)

Parish wide & beyond

Mobile Library

Mobile Library visit dates to Buckden & Kettlewell, 10am to 12 midday:

Buckden

8 May
5 June
3 July
31 July
28 August

Kettlewell

22 May
19 June
17 July
14 August

Funk Wire

Funk Wire dates this month are 2 May at Grassington Town Hall, and 16 and 30 May in Kettlewell Village Hall.

Tapestry Weaving with Anna Wetherall

Wednesday 10 July 10 am to 4pm

Conistone with Kilnsey Hall

Anna has been weaving tapestry since 2013 exhibiting her work as part of several group exhibitions. She studied with a number of leading UK tapestry weavers, is an active member of the British Tapestry Group and runs Nearly Wild Weaving with colleague, Irene. Her inspiration for weaving comes from the natural world, the landscape and its history. She aims to convey a sense of place, the touchstone of a point in time. As a geologist and ecologist, she sees the processes and patterns that have shaped what is around us, this is reflected in the tapestries she weaves. She is passionate about connecting people and nature and has found that tapestry weaving and other approaches to artistic creativity can make a massive difference to people's health and wellbeing. Come and explore the patterns, textures, colours and shapes in the landscape, translating them into simple woven tapestry. We will take a short stroll outside to look at the views and local features (weather permitting), taking our inspiration from what we see and perhaps hear. We will then return indoors and explore how we can translate our ideas into

tapestry in simple ways, or, if you have woven before, perhaps stretching your skills in new ways. Suitable for beginners and improvers. Bring your own equipment if you have it, but there will also be looms warped up ready to go and a range of weft yarn for you to use. Additional equipment will be available for sale, should you wish to continue weaving after the workshop day. Cost: £20 (UWALS subsidy), tea, coffee etc included. Please provide your own lunch.

Settle Orchestral Society

Our Summer concerts will take place in Settle and Skipton as follows:

- Saturday 22 June at 7.30 pm, Settle Parish Church
- Saturday 29 June at 7.30 pm, Christ Church, Skipton

We will be playing:

- Mozart Overture, 'The Impresario'
- R Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1, soloist Will Padfield
- Beethoven Symphony No. 7

Why not come along to one of them, to enjoy an exhilarating evening, support local musicians and help keep live music alive? Full details of future concerts and contacts are on our website www.settleorchestra.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Friends of the Dales

Yorkshire Dales environmental campaigning charity, Friends of the Dales, launches its summer programme on 1 May with a seven-mile easy-moderate walk from Long Preston railway station to Settle station as part of the popular ride2stride Settle-Carlisle walking and music festival programme. With further guided walks offered throughout May to August in Wensleydale, Smardale, Grassington and the Howgills, there is something for everyone.

The charity is also hosting its first all-terrain wheelchair guided walk, in collaboration with the charity 'Access the Dales' and walking company 'Where2Walk'. Early bookers can also secure the use of an all-terrain Trampler or Terrain Hopper wheelchair for this event. For full details and booking links for all these free events visit: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk. Why not sign up from Friends of the Dales free e-news on its homepage to receive news and events information direct to your inbox!

Rainfall for March 2024

Arncliffe: 156.1 mm/6.15 ins

March rainfall 2000-2023

Highest: 296.2 mm/11.66 ins

Lowest: 31.6 mm/1.24 ins

Average: 128.0 mm/5.04 ins

Rainfall has been higher than average for 6 consecutive months – 30% higher overall!



Join us for a cuppa or few!

Friendly and fun, with arts activities, information and support

2024 DATES

10th May	31st May
14th June	28th June
12th July	26th July
9th August	30th August

1pm - 4pm Church House, Grassington





Craven Mental Health & Wellbeing Hubs | Grassington HUB | Craven HUB | The Royal Coat of Arms

🔗 Brushing up your Shakespeare.....

It's 5 o'clock, one raw March Saturday afternoon in Kettlewell. Late walkers are trailing back to their cars and B&B's, and TV's flicker with Saturday teatime news and Six Nations highlights. Shop and cafes are closing their doors, whilst in the pubs there is the hum of early evening trade as folk start to settle down for the evening. But from the Village Hall there emerges an entirely different sound. On the stroke of 5, some twenty voices speak, quietly at first, but with growing confidence and conviction, until the babble reaches a passionate crescendo before slowly subsiding. An intrigued audience of 50 or so watch and listen, with intense curiosity.

What is this all about? It's the sound Shakespeare's sonnets - or at least, 20 of them (he wrote a mere 154.) And this is *Fourteen Lines*, a year in the development and planning, but only a day in rehearsal.

The presenters/performers include locals and some from further afield, relative youngsters in their 30's through to seniors of 90+, and a few seasoned thespian types alongside those entirely new to 'this kind of thing'. They work as a carefully choreographed ensemble, reading, narrating, explaining and performing as they lead their audience on an illustrated tour of this often-overlooked byway of Shakespeare's work. There are even jokes! One visiting reviewer later describes the event as '*a real treat indeed...a superbly crafted a blend of research and scholarship, extracts from Shakespeare's plays, and above all, the sonnets themselves into a most enjoyable programme of readings.*'

Supported by a modest grant from Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust, *Fourteen Lines* was just the latest stage in UWALS' ongoing *Discover Shakespeare* strand. Next up is *Country Matters*, which will enable participants to explore the representation of



David and Jane Garland bringing a scene from Romeo and Juliet to life

city, court and country in Shakespeare, before working towards an original presentation/performance.

Perhaps unsurprisingly for someone who moved between rural Warwickshire and Elizabethan London, in plays such as *As You Like It*, *The Winter's Tale* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Shakespeare explores contrasts and tensions between the rural world and the culture of the city. The issues that emerge often have startling contemporary and local resonance – questions of land ownership and the environment, locals and 'offcomers', rural poverty and privilege, culture wars, even climate change. Sounds familiar?

Our explorations begin with a full day's enjoyably practical voice, text and language workshop, developing a range of engaging approaches to Shakespeare's language and moving his scripts 'from page to stage' with a focus on some short scenes from these plays. It's on **Saturday 29 June at Kettlewell Village Hall, 10am-4pm (£5).**

If you'd like to join the fun, or just find out more, we'd love to hear from you – however Shakespeare-phobic! Just email us at uwalsociety@gmail.com. No previous experience or knowledge assumed!

Ron Norman

As I'm writing this, the first few weeks of April have come and gone with only the most fleeting of moments where spring and all its usual bounty have felt present and available to enjoy. The month carried on following the same dismal trend of the previous six; abundant rainfall and scowling grey skies, and almost an entire absence of sunshine. Daffodil blooms have hung heavy, laden with raindrops.

The occasional day or even hour of sunshine has induced an almost giddy delight, such has been the level of depravation. Exposure to sunlight releases that magic neurotransmitter in the brain, serotonin. This in turns boost mood, focus and cognitive function. It's no surprise that what has felt like an eternal winter has left us feeling sluggish, down and frustrated. I have spent an inordinate amount of time looking at long range weather forecasts to ascertain when there might be a lifting of the gloom, and a prolonged dry spell.

Here in the Dales, we are a few weeks behind the events that punctuate the seasons, one being the show stopping explosive bloom of the cherry blossom. The buds unfurl into their abundant frothy display as we approach May, and it's always well worth the wait.

In Japan, cherry blossom, or Sakura, are indelibly woven into the country's cultural identity and each year hordes of people gather to observe both the blooms, but also with equal importance; the dusty pink or white petals, as they start to fall. In Japanese life, Sakura offer a beautiful symbol of the impermanence of all things. There is



something deeply profound that at the very peak of their beauty, the blooms flutter to the ground, to be carried off by the breeze.

For me, there is never enough time to feast my eyes on the cherry blossom, and I always have in my mind the wonderful AE Housman poem that rings so true:

Loveliest of trees

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

Rebecca Ward-Dooley

Community Events

The following events have been announced and details are inside the Link, however, please confirm with the organisers, as the situation may change.

THIS MONTH

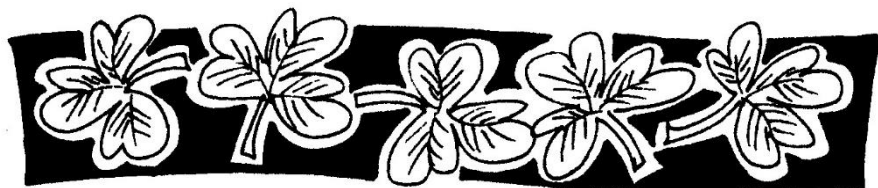
Sat 4 May	Spring Coffee Morning, Buckden Village Institute
Sat 4 May	Film night ' <i>The Great Escaper</i> ' Kettlewell Village Hall
Mon 6 May	Yorkshire Camps Open Day
Wed 8 May	Mobile Library, Buckden
May 11-12	Littondale Life Through the Years, Arncliffe
Sun 12 May	Buckden Village Quiz, The Buck Inn
Tue 14 May	Buckden Annual Parish Meeting, Buckden Village Institute
Tue 14 May	Litton Annual Parish Meeting, Queens Arms
Thu 16 May	Kettlewell Lunch Club, Kettlewell Village Hall
Wed 22 May	Mobile Library, Kettlewell
Mon 27 May	Kettlewell Duck Race

FUTURE EVENTS

Sat 15 June	Buckden Gala & Sheep Show
Sat 22 June	Settle Orchestra Summer Concert, Settle Parish Church
Sat 29 June	Brushing Up Your Shakespeare, Kettlewell Village Hall
Sat 29 June	Settle Orchestra Summer Concert, Christ Church, Skipton
Wed 10 July	Tapestry Weaving with Anna Weatherall, Conistone with Kilnsey Hall
Aug 10-18	Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival 30 th Anniversary
Aug 24-26	Buckden Art Group Exhibition, Buckden Village Institute
Sun 8 Sep	Kettlewell & District Horticultural Show

REGULAR EVENTS

What	When	Where
Chess Club	1 st and 3 rd Tues, 7-9pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Play Table Tennis	Wed 3.15-4, 4-5.30, 5.30-7.15pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Funk Wire	Thur -fortnightly 2pm	Grassington Town Hall
Buckden Singers	Thurs – 7.30pm	Buckden Village Institute
Indoor Bowls	Wed 1.45-3.35pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Coffee Morning	Thurs – weekly 10.30-12.00	Halton Gill Reading Room





The following schedule of church services in our parish is planned for this month, however, please check the parish website for confirmation at www.upperwharfedalechurches.org

Sunday 5 May

09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Iona Communion
18.30	Conistone	Holy Communion

Thursday 9 May Ascension Day

10.30	Hubberholme	Holy Communion
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Sunday 12 May

09.30	Arncliffe	Morning Prayer
11.15	Hubberholme	Holy Communion
18.30	Conistone	Holy Communion

Tuesday 14 May

Please note that there will be no Sanctuary@6 on 14 May

Sunday 19 May Pentecost

11.15	Kettlewell	United Parish Service for Pentecost
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Sunday 26 May

09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Morning Prayer
18.30	Hubberholme	Evening Prayer

Tuesday 28 May

18.00	Kettlewell	Sanctuary@6
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Sunday 2 June

09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Iona Communion
18.30	Conistone	Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Mass is celebrated on Sundays at 9.00 am at St. Margaret Clitherow's R.C. Church, Threlkfield

