
The Hellifield Herald

December 2025 & January 2026

Free to everyone in Hellifield



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The Hellifield Herald can be read in colour online at:
hellifieldherald.org.uk

The deadline for contributions to the February edition is
the 8th of January

Editorial

Hello everyone. Since I last took my turn at writing the editorial, I have had a couple of big celebrations - a significant birthday in June, then Andy & I had a big party at the Victoria Hall in Settle, for our Golden Wedding Anniversary in August. I think it's really important to celebrate the good stuff in our lives, as sadly, we never know when things will take a downward turn and we are no longer able to get out and about.

We're so lucky in Hellifield to have plenty of things going on in the village, so lots of opportunities to meet up with our friends, enjoy a morning, afternoon or evening in good company and often with entertainment included, all for very little cost.

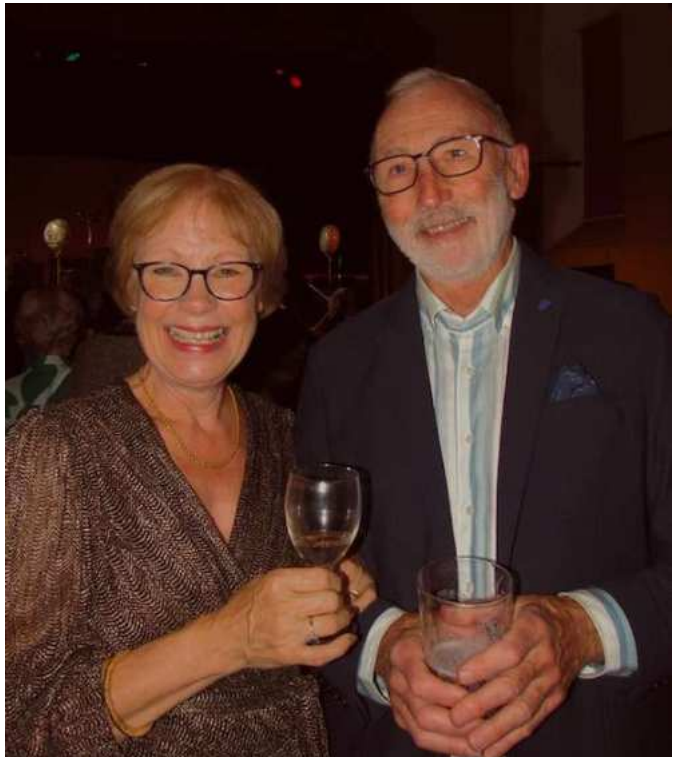
I hope that by the time you're reading this, you will have booked your tickets for the annual village play, which is on over three days, starting with a 2pm matinee on Thursday 4th December, then evening performances on the 5th and 6th. Bring your own drinks and nibbles, for a fun evening out, where you will see well-known Hellifield residents as you have never seen them before!

Hellisingers will be performing a couple of times in December (see calendar for details) and watch out for details of their forthcoming show in spring 2026!

Do have a good look at the calendar, as there really are activities to suit all levels of ability and mobility.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.

Yvonne Crabtree





Season's



*TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN
HELLIFIELD,
WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A PEACEFUL, HEALTHY
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ANDY & YVONNE
CRABTREE*

**Joy Orwell and the Street
Children of Sumbawanga,
Tanzania** wish you all a
Christmas full of Light, Love and
Peace and a New Year of Hope.
**Asante sana (Thank
you) for all your support.**

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New
To all my lovely
Hellifield friends

Peace and Happiness
to you all

Karen Dunwoodie
xxxx**

*TO ALL MY FRIENDS IN
HELLIFIELD
HAPPY CHRISTMAS

LOVE FROM PETER
CRABTREE*

Season's Greetings to all our
friends and neighbours in
Hellifield.
Thank you for all the kindness
shown to Judith in recent
months
Geoff Northin

Bob and Carol (Moore)
Would like to wish all of
our friends in Hellifield a
wonderful Christmas and
a very happy start to
2026.



Greetings



Frances Flitcroft,
formerly of Hellifield &
now of St Annes, wishes
friends a Happy
Christmas & a Peaceful
New Year

**Christmas Greetings to
friends and neighbours and
best wishes to everyone for
the New Year**

**From
Sheila Swinbank and Family**

A big thank you to all those who distribute this magazine,
through rain and wind, without reward, ten times each year.

A Merry Christmas to you all

From the Editor

**A happy Christmas
and a splendid New
Year to all our
readers**

From the Hellifield Herald Team



Mark Tootill Financial Planning Gargrave



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Christmas Closure



We will be closing at 2.30pm on
**Tuesday 23rd December and will
re-open on Friday 23rd January 2026**

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and a healthy and happy New Year.



Follow us on social media for current menu, prices and opening times

Splish-splash: intrepid folk face adversity

Hellifield's walking group, HelliWalkers, convenes at 10am on the third Sunday of each month. We meet in the village car park and car-share to the starting point of the walk. New walkers are always welcome – give us a try!

The October walk: Sunday the 19th, was (according to the weather forecast) under the threat of heavy rain for a whole week before it took place. Nevertheless, ten participants decided to brave the elements and were rewarded by a delay in the start of the downpour. The distance was to be seven miles, and the start and end of the walk was at Halton West. The terrain was generally flat to undulating, and would be a mixture of bridleways, fields and quiet country lanes.

It was a circular route, in an anticlockwise direction, so we set off northwards along the Pennine Bridleway before soon veering round to the west and later to the south. We were often relying on the OS map, because some of the footpaths were clearly little-used and the signposting in parts was frankly rubbish! The deluge was still holding off as we reached the five-mile mark, but shortly

afterwards the first drops appeared and quickly got heavier. Oh no, it looked like we were about to get soaked but, wait - what is this at the side of the lane – well, what a surprise, it's a pub! Well, not really a surprise as it had been pre-arranged with the licensee of the Buck Inn at Paythorne that we could use their conservatory (complete with a lit log burner to dry off if necessary) for teas and coffees. Well, that was the plan, but in fact 60% of our group opted for a glass of wine or beer. Terrible, isn't it!

The rain was by now lashing down on the roof of the conservatory but, after a while it abated somewhat, so off we went again, this time eastwards, to complete the last part of the walk. Yes, we got slightly damp in that last two miles, but counted ourselves lucky, as the deluge started soon afterwards.

Andy Crabtree





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View from the Vicarage

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy!” (Matthew 2:10, King James Version). When was the last time you were really, truly, full of joy? Of “exceeding great joy”, indeed?

Perhaps the safe birth of a longed-for child or grandchild. Maybe the news that your operation had been successful and your serious illness overcome. Or a promotion at work. Or, indeed, retiring from work? For some, seeing your football team promoted to the Premier League (although not quite for me- Burnley were in that league two years ago and promptly lost most of their games!). And I suppose that, if anyone in our village won the lottery, they would probably be jumping for joy – though maybe not too loudly in case the neighbours found out.

Earlier in 2025 we recalled the ending of World War2, some eighty years ago. Few are alive now with any more than a child’s memory of that time, but we know from historical accounts and photographs that there was then no shortage of joy- and why not? After six brutal years of war against brutal enemies, even the chance finally to rest at night without fear of bombing would have been joyful enough for many. But, as we were also reminded earlier in the year, the joy at the end of the war was often heavily tinged with grief for loved ones who wouldn’t return, and increasing anxiety too, about what the post-war world would become. For many in Eastern Europe, indeed, their joy was soon replaced with another kind of oppression that

lasted a further 45 years. As St Paul says, we should “rejoice with those who rejoice; and weep with those who weep”. Our joy should, I hope, never blind us to others’ unhappiness and misfortune.

In the Christmas story the Wise Men, we’re told, “rejoiced with exceeding great joy” when they saw the star coming to rest over Bethlehem. The old King James version really brings out the dramatic meaning of the original Greek- their joy was three-fold. And even though we can imagine (the Bible doesn’t elaborate) that some of their joy would have been sheer relief at the end of their long and dangerous journey, there’s a remarkable over-emphasis on their “joy” in the text. It suggests a realisation that they’d been led to something- or someone- not only hugely important but also someone who would become, in himself, a profound source of joy for the whole world. And Christians believe, strange though it still seems to so many, 2000 years later, that in the words and deeds of the man who became known as Jesus of Nazareth, true joys can be found, joys strong and lasting that can overcome even the deepest grief or most profound anxiety.

I do hope that all of our readers, whatever their situation and whatever burdens they may be carrying, may know something of that Godly joy this Christmas and New Year.

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HelliSingers at Christmas

To get us all into the spirit of Christmas, Hellsingers will be performing their concert on Friday 12th December at 7.30pm in St Aidan's church. This will include our rendition of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus back by popular request!

Along with this will be some old favourites and some new ones, enjoyed whilst sipping a glass of something or other. Admission is free but cash donations will be very welcome to support the costs of

maintenance for the church. We are all very excited to be performing again this year and look forward to seeing you there!

Best wishes, Sue Alderson

The Street Children of Sumbawanga, Tanzania

It is 2 years since my last update, but the Project is thriving and we are working towards self-sufficiency. I reported about buying the house next door to our Children's Home, to complete for the older children to learn about the skills needed.

They have worked with Boniface, the builder, and learned how to lay pipes for water, mix concrete and lay floors, tile the floors and walls in the shower rooms, fit ceiling boards, prepare and paint the walls and hang doors. They have also helped to put in window frames and windows, and put up guttering, to collect the rainwater into water butts. Bahati has completed his course at college and is now a qualified electrician and helped with the wiring of the house. Some of the boys learned how to make bricks and concrete blocks, which were used for construction. They can be rightly proud of themselves, and some are now renting rooms from us. We now have several businesses which pay their profits back into supporting the younger children. We have two bajajis, four boys drive them as taxis, two milling machines milling the local maize, a café and a mobile caterer, a bottled water business, a hairdresser,

two clothing businesses, a barber, a wedding photographer and a sound engineer. They are learning to be accountable and produce monthly accounts for me to process. This is a huge step up from the 20 street children dressed in rags, we found in 2013 and we are so grateful for the help from the community to make a real difference in their lives. An American Evangelist encourages them to tell their story in his crusades, of how their lives have been transformed by the love of Jesus, and now they have Hope and a future. The Evangelist has bought us a water drilling rig and Michel, one of our boys, operates the rig in villages where they have no functioning water wells. We have twenty eight new churches planted out in the villages and wells of fresh, clean water. Some groups are putting up buildings, others meet in



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houses, schools or under a tree. We are truly blessed to be a part of it all.

Thank you for your support and prayers. The children say Asante Sana

“Thank You!” and a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Joy Orwell Project Director

Hellifield Institute (Village Hall) news

As this edition covers both December and January, I must let everyone know that the Institute (Village Hall) will be closed during part of January/February in order to undertake the renovation of the toilets and improve accessibility. This means that during this period the building will be closed. At the time of writing I do not have the exact dates but we will put out information via Facebook and the dates will be posted on the door, once confirmed. I am sorry for any inconvenience this closure will cause, as I know many of you enjoy attending the coffee mornings and our regular events/activities. However, I believe the outcome will be worth the inconvenience (no pun intended) of temporary closure.

I am sure the Christmas Lights Switch On was a huge success and now everyone is in the Christmas spirit. Let the parties begin.

I hope everyone who has bought tickets for the Christmas play – “The Pet A’Peel Mystery” is starting to get giddy with excitement. I don’t think you will be disappointed. A lot of effort goes into this annual production and on behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank everyone involved, from backroom helpers to the artistes themselves. You are all stars. I doubt by the time you are reading this there will be any tickets left, but if you haven’t got yours yet, get in touch with me to see if there are any spares (contact details at the bottom of this article).

If you are a member of our 200 Club, this month is membership renewal month and members should hopefully have received their renewal forms. If

you are not a member and would like to be, now is the time to join. This involves a £15 annual subscription and you will be given a number between 1 and 200. A monthly draw takes place during the first Saturday coffee morning in the month when three prizes of £10, £15 and £25 are awarded. In the month of December the prize money is doubled, whoopee! The funds raised go towards routine maintenance costs of the Village Hall. If you would like to be included, please contact Paul Surbuts, one of our Trustees, by telephone 0791 747 6852 or email: paulsurbuts@yahoo.co.uk.

All the Trustees wish to thank each and every one of you who have supported us throughout the year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2026.

Karen Dunwoodie – Joint Chair
Tel: 07756 862086
Email: kalydun@btinternet.com

Hellifield Methodist Chapel and Wesley Centre

December 2025 & January 2026

Worship Services on Sundays at 2pm 7/14/21 December and 4/11/18/25 January

Prayer for our Community Sunday at 4pm on the 7th December and 4th January

Family Lego church at 10.30 am on the 14th December and 11th January

Testimony Café Church Sunday at 2pm on 28th December

Carol Service on 14th December

Carols at 5.30 Hellifield Station Shed 24H on Wednesday 17th December

Covenant Service on 4th January

Welcome Mat Mondays 2-30 – 4pm on 1/15 December and 5/19 January

Warm Spaces 10-2pm pm every Monday except 22/29 December

In this season we celebrate Jesus, God's Gift to the world to bring Light, Hope, Joy, Peace and Salvation to all people.

Please accept this Precious Gift and be truly blessed in 2026.

St Aidan's Church

December 2025 and January 2026

We continue, **every Sunday at 9.30am**, to offer our relaxed, traditional worship and pray for the needs of our village, our nation and our world. For the season of Advent and Christmas, we are also offering the following:

Friday 12th December at 7.30pm: We welcome back the "Hellisingers" for their second Christmas Concert.

Sunday 21st December at 9.30am: Family Communion, with a Christmastide presentation from the "Messy Church" team

Sunday 21st December at 6pm: A traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols, with choir items by members of the "Hellisingers"

Christmas Eve at 4pm: An informal service for all the family, with familiar carols and the blessing of the crib.

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm: Our first Communion for Christmas ("Midnight Mass")

Christmas Day at 9.30am: Our Christmas Day communion service

Sunday 4th January, and Sunday 2nd February 2025: Our first Family Communion services for 2026.

And look out too for some community carol singing at Hellifield House on **Thursday 18th December** from 6.30pm!

Any queries? Please contact Revd. James Rodley on 01729-851709, or jwerodley@yahoo.co.uk

The WI in December and January

This is my last chance to wish all our members a Happy Christmas on behalf of the committee and hope that some of you will be joining us for our Christmas meal, followed by music from Ian and Jane. (18th December at the slightly earlier time of 7pm).

There may be some problems regarding the location for our January and February meetings due to the refurbishment of the toilets in the Village Hall. We are expecting Yvonne Crabtree with a flower arranging demonstration in January and planning an open meeting with Sarah Lister, local historian, who will talk about local tales from the past in February. Sarah is always very popular in the area and likes her audience to interact, making it a very enjoyable session. Both the above are open to non-members and I will try and put up posters if there is any change to the venue and our social media representative Joy will also keep you updated on the Village Facebook page – so keep an eye out just in case. We are hoping our meetings fall either side of the work,

but until the dates are confirmed by the Village Hall, we cannot be sure. The January meeting is scheduled for Thursday 15th and February is our open meeting on Thursday the 19th.

March will bring our Annual Meeting and renewal of membership. More about this in February, as it all seems a long way away at present.

For now, if you are new to the village and interested in joining the WI, or just coming along to see how we operate, please give myself or our President a call. Aileen (President) telephone 01729 851318; Me – Carol (Joint Secretary) 07855 191927. Guests are always welcome for a small charge of £4.

Hope to see or hear from you soon.
Carol Weston-Moore (Joint Secretary)

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New Model

He's trading me in for a new model, now that I'm old and grey.
She's thirty and slim and pretty; boy, will I make him pay!

He says he's had my best years - I wish I could say the same.
He's always been an idle slob; never really up to the game.

I could have left him years ago but I always kept my vows
I cooked and cleaned and raised his kids, no matter all the rows.

I wish him well with the new one, though she's just this side of dim
I give them both about six months - then she'll be the death of him!

Yvonne Crabtree

P.S. This does not refer to Andy!

Hellifield traffic speed monitoring – an update from the 'HelliSpotters'

The Village Community Speed Watch (CSW) sessions have continued through 2025, with traffic speed statistics varying from month to month. Generally, compliance with the signed speed limits near our children's School have been above 85%, with the occasional lunatic, thankfully, travelling past outside of school hours.

We have continued to press NYC (Highways) to review their positioning of the 30 and 40mph signs and also, their advanced warning signs of the School's presence. At this time, to no avail. We have sought the Parish Council's support on this matter.

At the other end of the village, the concerns are greater, because, even though the pedestrian presence is lower (except around the Bus Stop), the laws of physics and friction tend to control the vehicle coming down the hill – even with the Airton junction being a factor. The 'improved' road surfaces used by NYC (H) soon get worn away. Speed compliance at this end of the Village is about 78%.

Generally, our CSW results are validated by the data that we get monthly from the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) radars; but we get little or no feedback from North Yorkshire Police on the records that we send them – even when a CSW speeding record is verified by the radar data. Sadly, in October, we had 5 cases of over 70mph in both directions through our village and not always during the 'quiet hours'. Over 60mph was recorded at least 63 times by the church and 58 times by our school.

We are still waiting for Highways to install a new VAS radar mounting post at the junction with Gisburn Road and Back Lane (following our survey of local Gisburn Road residents). Fingers

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crossed, it won't take as long as the NYC planned repairs to Coniston Cold Bridge. With Winter approaching, please check your vehicle and the area

weather forecast, before any long-distance journeys.

Stay safe.

Paul Emsley, The CSW Team

The Mothers' Union

Sheila, our President, welcomed members and visitors to our meeting. We prayed for Jean and Cath who were unable to be with us, and had health issues. Ellen led our prayers and Sue and Sheila reported on the recent cluster meeting. Our Speaker was Gill Ireland who told us about her work as a Pharmacist in both a hospital and prison environment.

Her work in prisons alongside her Outreach Ministry in Mothers' Union, led to different opportunities to work with prison chaplains, and support Services held in the prison chapel. This in turn saw prisoners becoming Christians and leading transformed lives when they were released. There were opportunities to support their families too and make a real difference. We were all inspired by Gill's talk and the ways in which

Mothers' Union can support families as they go through challenging times. We enjoyed refreshments together, organised and served by Jen and Pam, and celebrated the November birthdays. At our December meeting we will look back on 150 years of Mothers' Union which we will be celebrating in 2026. Do come and join us.

Sheila Swinbank and Joy Orwell

Cards were made

Cards were made and written,
Presents bought and wrapped;
Menus planned, recipes found.
And all whilst Santa napped.

The Christmas trees were chosen
The baubles hung - except
For some that had been broken.
And all whilst Santa slept.

Lights were strung, candles lit;
The curtains all were closed.
Icing put upon the cake.
And all whilst Santa dozed.

The children all were put to bed;
Whilst mothers baked mince pies.
Dads were pouring Sherry,
Whilst Santa closed his eyes.

The elves called to the reindeer;
And loaded up the sleigh,
Mother Christmas pressed a big,
red suit

And Santa's on his way!

Yvonne Crabtree



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- Wednesday 9:00 am to 12:15 pm
- Thursday 9:00 am to 12:15 pm,
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm
- Friday 9:00 am to 12:15 pm
- Saturday Closed
- Sunday Closed

Can you hear us, Mission Control?

The following is one of the stories written by members of HelliScribes. They were given an open remit to provide an interesting narrative to go in the Hellifield Herald. This month's story is a short play written by Alison Jayne Taylor.

Can you hear us Mission Control? – A Radio Play

- Charles: "Can you hear us Mission Control? This is Charles and Darwin and we are taking small steps for mankind here on Neptune."
- Darwin: "Actually we took those small steps three days ago and have seen no signs of life on this planet."
- Charles: "We took some soil samples and this is our report on what we can see through the 1000 x magnification microscope."
- Darwin: "It's Darwin here and there is nothing obvious in the Neptune soil sample. I am going to add some sterile water and see if anything happens?"
- "Oh, my God, a long yellow segmented creature measuring approximately 180 microns has appeared. I'm going to call it a, now let me see – a Neptafirstali."
- Charles: "Let me see, let me see!! Oh, wow, there's also a scaly, purple, red and burgundy leaf-like creature. It has about twenty little feet and is slowly moving towards your Neptafirstali. This is going to be known as a Neptasecondali."
- Darwin: "Let me look, let me look!! That's amazing. I'm going to add more water and let's see what happens?"
- "The added water has speeded up the travel of the Neptasecondali. It is also growing exponentially and now it has devoured the Neptafirstali. The extra water has turned the whole petri dish into a yellow and green slime and has a very strong gangrenous smell. It is mega pulsating and oh no, it has now smothered the Neptasecondali."
- "Oh no! Our Neptune soil sample has solidified and formed multiple beady, greedy eyes that are looking straight at me!"
- "Mission Control, I'm a very frightened astronaut. Get me out of here, now!"

Alison Jayne Taylor

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If you are interested in joining us, or coming to one of our meetings as a guest, for more information, please contact:

Aileen (President) on 01729 851318 or

Carol (Joint Secretary) on 07855 191927

Or just come along and see what you think.

HELLIFIELD WI

Hellifield WI has now been running for over 75 years. Our current aim is to have a monthly meeting with a speaker or demonstrator. We keep our official business to the minimum and try to have a more modern approach with the focus being on getting together for a social event rather than a formal meeting so we can all enjoy a relaxed time in good company. (Less Jam and Jerusalem, more Tea/Coffee and Cake/Biscuits).

Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.15pm. Guests are always welcome for a small charge of £4 which includes refreshments. **SO WHY NOT GIVE US A TRY!**

December meeting (18.12.25)

Christmas Meal. January Meeting

(15.1.26) Flower arranging demo by

Yvonne Crabtree.

Football focus

Hellifield Sports FC have made a positive start with some dazzling performances, in what will be a busy season for The Tangies. With the games coming thick and fast in a bigger division, Hellifield knew they had to start quickly. The start of the season brought two games a week in the league campaign with the Hellifield men picking up impressive away wins at local rivals Settle, then Chatburn, followed by a resounding 8-0 win away at Baildon. In amongst those away wins were a couple of entertaining draws to add the seasons points total. At the time of writing (early November) Hellifield sit well positioned at 4th in the league and will be looking to carry some momentum over the Christmas and New year period.

October brought about a flurry of cup games, starting with the Craven District cup which saw them fall to a narrow defeat to Kelbrook FC in the second round. The following week they faced off against the area's best team by a stretch...Grassington UTD in the league cup. Hellifield came out triumphant after the game was all square at 90 mins, taking it to a penalty shootout in which Ethan Halliday (pictured) made some impressive saves in the goals to put Hellifield in the hat for the next round (Grassington hadn't been beaten for a season and a half)

Early November meant it was the West Riding Trophy, which welcomes teams stretching as far as Goole meaning the opposition is usually strong. Hellifield drew Britannia FC from Huddersfield and brushed them aside with ease, winning 8-2 and set up a 3rd round tie with Boroughbridge in early December.

On the fund-raising front we have hopefully sold lots of Christmas quiz sheets by the time you're reading this. We will be holding a 'Darts Knockout' on the 21st of February at Hellifield

House (watch out for the posters). We have already been booked in to do BBQ at the beer festival next summer, which we always look forward to!

On behalf of everyone at Hellifield Sports FC, we would like to thank you for your support in 2025. We wish you a very merry Christmas, a happy new year and look forward to your support in 2026. Up The Tangies!

Adam Procter





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DALESVIEW OF HELLIFIELD



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North Craven Flower Club



Our guest demonstrator at our Open Meeting on 13th November, was Vanessa Wellock with her demonstration entitled 'Let's Get Festive'.

Vanessa is a florist by trade, and she runs her own business from home. She specialises in weddings and special occasions and has done the flowers at The Devonshire Hotel at Bolton Abbey for many years. She is a National Demonstrator and will be representing the UK at the International Flower Festival in Australia next year.

We spent a lovely evening in her company as she put together some wonderful arrangements that some members of the audience were able to take home, after winning them in the raffle at the end of the evening. Below is a picture of some of her arrangements and although they were meant for the festive season, they included many flowers that you might not think of being used at Christmas. Some were the traditional white and green whilst others had the exotic red of anthuriums and bright pink orchids.

This event is one of our major fundraising events which enables the club to continue so we thank all who bought tickets and supported us in making purchases from our Christmas sales table and bought raffle tickets to see if they could win one of the arrangements.

The Flower Club meets at Hellifield Village Hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month starting at 2pm. Our planned calendar for this next year will include 7 evenings with visiting demonstrators, 2 practical evenings and a summer trip to a garden.

Our next meeting will be on 11th December when our guest

demonstrator will be Linda Hardman with a demonstration entitled 'Christmas at the Big House'. This will start at 2pm followed by tea and cakes.

Our January meeting will be on 8th January when our guest will be Jill Perrins from Catkins in Settle.

Visitors are always welcome for a fee of £6 per meeting. Subscriptions of £40 are now due for the whole year.

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Hellifield, then and now

More photographs of the village in bygone years and the same views today. Over the years many photographs have emerged showing the village in years past. What is missing are Edwardian/Victorian photographs of the inside of buildings. Photography didn't have the bonus of modern methods. Light was always an issue. It would be interesting to see photographs of the interior of the Institute prior to 1915 when it was a school. Staff, children etc. Perhaps some existed but I've never seen any. The photographs in this issue are of well known views with recognisable features. I have taken the modern shots from approximately the same positions as the earlier photographs.



An Edwardian view of the Black Horse and Smithy above. The blacksmith's was still in operation well into the 1970's and early 80's. There would have been plenty of work here given the proximity of the Auction Mart, local farmers etc. and the fact that many

items were hand fashioned from available materials. A butcher's shop was situated at the end of the blacksmith's. The man in the picture is likely to be James Waine Butcher and Cattle Dealer.

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**Dec. 21st &
Jan. 25th.**

Meet at 10:45 for 11:00 start.

Activities centered around exploring nature, fun & games, a story, a prayer and a simple shared meal/snack. Further info contact james.atkinson72@outlook.com 07849673214



The same view today. Apart from the carts in the Edwardian picture, the scene is easily recognisable. Unfortunately the Black Horse is currently closed. The Community Pub scheme and the team behind it are doing sterling work in attempting to secure the pub for the benefit of the village and residents.



A wintry scene in the 1980's. The Auction Mart was still a going concern and the two buildings in the centre of the picture were still in business. Facing the road was a building which dated back to the early 20th century. At one point it was Ivan's Shoe Shop: boots, keys cut, footwear re-soled. It was where we bought our wellingtons when I was little. Behind the building is the joiner's. Both the joiner's and blacksmith's facing it were well patronised in the days when the Auction Mart was still busy.

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★★★★★ TF, Skipton (Review via Google)



The same view today. The entrance to the Auction and the buildings on the left have now disappeared and the 'new' housing estate on all the old Auction land has changed the aspects on this side of the road.



The North Bay at Hellifield Station in the early 1960's, pictured above. Note the North Junction Signal Box. The box controlled the line, carriage sidings to its rear, the goods yard opposite and the lines in and out of the Engine Shed yard etc. The Engine Shed is to the right. It was closed on the 27th June 1963 and on the 20th April 1964 the station was closed to goods. The signal box eventually became surplus to requirements and closed in the mid 1960's.

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Above: The same view today showing the North Bay. Long disused but still in-situ. On the left is the West Coast Rail 'shed' which houses the old carriage stock. Despite a downturn in traffic throughout the 1970's and 80's Hellifield Station has seen a significant rise in rail traffic and the station, with its popular tea room, museum, and regular steam specials, has become a popular attraction for railway enthusiasts and tourists.

Ken Leak.

Settle Orchestra & Langcliffe Singers – Spring concert series 2026

Settle Orchestra and Langcliffe Singers join forces this spring for an inspiring programme of choral and orchestral masterworks filled with drama and emotion. Beethoven's Egmont Overture opens the concert with heroic intensity, followed by Mendelssohn's moving chorale O Haupt voll Blut. The performance culminates in Beethoven's magnificent Mass in C.

Audiences can enjoy this exceptional collaboration on: **Saturday 21 March, 3.30pm, at Settle Parish Church,** and on **Sunday 29 March, time TBC, at Christ Church, Skipton** (please note this is a Sunday performance).

Join us to experience the power of live music performed by two of the

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For more information, visit www.settleorchestra.org.uk or follow Settle Orchestra on social media for updates.

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Bus and train times

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Bus times may change during December and January. Best to double check before travelling - see klch.co.uk/bus-services, or phone 733 831.

Monday to Friday - to Skipton:

0810; 0900; 0945; 1045; 1145; 1245; 1345; 1445; 1545; 1800

Note: there isn't a bus to Skipton at 1645 - Ed.

Saturday - to Skipton:

0810; 0900; 0945; 1145; 1345; 1545; 1745

Monday to Friday - to Settle:

0915; 1010; 1110; 1210; 1310; 1410; 1510; 1610; 1710; 1910

Note: there isn't a bus to Settle at 1810 Monday to Friday - Ed.

Saturday - to Settle:

0915; 1110; 1310; 1510; 1710; 1810; 1910

Train times

Train times may change during December and January. Best to double check before travelling - see www.northernrail.co.uk, or phone 0344 811 5111.

To Skipton, Monday to Saturday: **0736; 0745; 1010; 1039; 1142; 1244; 1342; 1513; 1543; 1639; 1807; 1842; 2011; 2126; 2208; 2228**

To Skipton, Sunday: **1113; 1200; 1412; 1440; 1648; 1709; 1742; 1848; 1912; 2100; 2115**

To Settle, Monday to Saturday: **0615; 0840; 1012; 1141; 1411; 1612; 1741; 1910; 2042**

To Settle, Sunday: **1011; 1204; 1323; 1517; 1713; 1945**

To Lancaster, Monday to Saturday: **0537; 0740; 0910; 1111; 1312; 1513; 1824; 2014**

To Lancaster, Sunday: 0931; 1124; 1420; 1623; 1822

No trains on Christmas Day or New Year's Day

Village contacts

Police – Emergency 999

Police – Non emergency 101

Badminton Club

Rebecca Gooch 07443 493169

rebgooch@gmail.com

Beavers

settlebeavers@gmail.com

Brownies

District Commissioner: Carly Halls

carlyhalls22@gmail.com

Community Speed Watch Team

Paul Emsley 01729 851659 or

07799 710891

Cubs: settlecubs@gmail.com

Doctors Surgery

The Old Co-op Hall, Main St,
Hellifield & Townhead Surgery,
Settle 822611

First Responders

Sean Flanagan 07966 265331

Guides and Rangers

Helen Cressey

helenressey@aol.com

HelliArts / Arts Group

Audrey Edwards 07928 365967

HelliCrafts / Crafts Group

Val Bedford 01729 850260

Hellifield Hotshots (rounders)

Cathy Damon or Cathy Dakin

cathydakin@btinternet.com

HelliGames

Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086

HelliLineDancers

Jane Gray 07971 656461

HelliReaders / Reading Group

Audrey Edwards 850351

Yvonne Crabtree 851806

HelliScribes / Writing Group

Yvonne Crabtree 851806

HelliSingers

Sue Alderson 01729 554149

HelliWalkers

Rebecca Gooch 07443 493169

rebgooch@gmail.com

Indoor Bowls

Maralyne Cadman 01729 851272

Methodist Chapel & Wesley Centre

Pauline Wright 07931 511652

Mothers' Union

Sue Alderson 554149

Sheila Swinbank 850458.

North Craven Flower Club

Liz Palmer 840331

North Yorkshire Councillor

Simon Myers email:

cllr.simon.myers@northyorks.gov.uk

Parish Council

Chair: Julian Sleath 07736 079135

Clerk: Julie Sleath

hellifieldpc@gmail.com

Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine

Maddocks 01729 850215

Rainbows

lottie.longprestonrainbows

@hotmail.com

St Aidan's Parish Church

Rev James Rodley 01729 851709

jwerodley@yahoo.co.uk

Scouts

settllescoutgroup@gmail.com

Table Tennis Club

Andy Crabtree 851806

Thursday Drop in Centre

Joy Phillips 850340

Village Hall (Institute)

Heather Leak 07790 042206

Ken Leak 07837 727268

Wesley Centre

Lettings Manager 850802

Women's Institute

Aileen Alexander 01729 851318

Protecting birds of prey

Inside the work of UK Wildlife Crime Policing

Following on from its Eyes on the Skies campaign launch in October (watch at:

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the Dales next campaign event will be an online

talk taking place Tuesday 27 January, 5:30pm – 7:00pm: Join

Detective Inspector Mark Harrison of the UK National Wildlife Crime

Unit for insight into the real-world challenges of protecting

vulnerable and endangered birds of prey in North Yorkshire.

In this exclusive online talk, Mark will share true stories from the frontline of wildlife crime policing, revealing the realities, challenges and successes faced by officers working to safeguard some of our most at-risk species.

He will also address common misconceptions on the role of policing in tackling birds of prey persecution. Expect an honest and informative discussion about: the key challenges in investigating bird of prey crimes; what's working well and where improvements are needed; future plans, strategies, and innovative policing tactics and a look at a few fascinating real-life cases.



Book your free place here:

www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

You can also sign up to Friends of the Dales monthly e newsletter on its website homepage to be kept up to date with all Eyes on the Skies campaign developments and future events.

From Hellifield to Burundi!

A few days ago (at time of writing) I was on a mountain top in Burundi, on the watershed where the river basins of the two great African rivers meet, the Congo and the White Nile. A short distance away I was able to bathe my hand in a tiny spring coming out of the mountain, which is the source of the White Nile, Africa's longest river, which runs over 6000km through seven countries before flowing into the Mediterranean Sea.

It all seemed a long way from my newly-adopted home of Hellifield, but I had been sent out with the prayers of

St Aidan's church to work with the Anglican diocese of Rutana, a young, vibrant and growing diocese in a very

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rural part of Burundi. My role was to help train clergy and lay leaders, in a country where high quality teaching and training is – like so many resources such as electricity and petrol – scarce and hard to come by. Burundi is a strange contrast – the land is green and fertile, yielding two harvests a year, yet the country is economically one of the poorest in the world.

Attending a beautiful village church like St Aidan's Hellifield, it is hard to remember that the typical member of the worldwide Anglican Communion today is young, black and lives in sub-Saharan Africa on less than a dollar a day. And yet in Burundi it is not hard to believe at all. Most of the people I worshipped with were very young families, surviving as subsistence farmers on two or one meal a day. Yet the church services were full of joy, singing and dancing in gratitude to God.

Visiting the watershed of the White Nile was amazing. And yet the real mountain-top experiences of my visit have been meeting those who have so little of this world's goods, who yet taught me how to pour out my heart to

God in thanksgiving and in dance. (I'm rather hoping no videos make it back to Hellifield of my attempts at African dancing!) The joy-filled church services went on for three hours or more. I'd better not mention this to the Revd James, in case he gets any ideas.

I was profoundly moved by the generosity and joy of those I met. We in the West have so much materially, and yet we lack Burundians' infectious joy and generosity – always looking after the visitor before themselves. Having travelled on bone-shaking roads in Burundi and waited every day for the water and the electricity to come back on, I hope I shall find fewer reasons to have a moan now I am back home. (If you ever hear me grumble, just say the word 'Burundi' to me!)

My trip was as part of a small team (four from UK and one from Burundi) organised by SOMA UK, a small charity of which I have just become a trustee. These teaching visits also transform the participants, who come back fired up by what they have seen, bringing spiritual refreshment to their home churches in the UK.

This visit has also felt like a personal watershed for me. This was my assignment following a restful summer after my retirement in April. I was nervous as I set out, but I feel I have rediscovered some of my own teaching gifts and reconnected with the church overseas, which has inspired my own spiritual journey over many years. I have come back physically tired, but spiritually refreshed. I am excited to embrace the opportunities to make a difference that retirement brings.

Mark Ireland

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Events in December

Village Hall / Institute

(closed between Christmas and the New Year)

Day	Time	Event	More info.	Dates
Mon	7.15-9pm	Table Tennis	Andy Crabtree 01729 851806	8th, 15th, 22nd
Tue	6-7&7-9pm	Badminton	Rebecca Gooch 07443 493169	9th, 16th, 23rd
Wed	9-12.30am	Messy Monkeys	Amanda Belt 07398 284126	3rd, 10th, 17th
Wed	2-4pm	Mothers' Union	Sheila Swinbank 01729 850458	3rd
Wed	2-4pm	Dancercise	Wendy Robinson wendy.robinson@btinternet.com	10th
Wed	2-4pm	HelliGames	Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086	10th, 17th
Wed	2-4pm	HelliScribes	Yvonne Crabtree 01729 851806	17th
Wed	7pm	HelliPlayers	Audrey Edwards 01729 850351	3rd
Thu	10-12 noon	Bowling	Maralyne 01729 851272	11th, 18th
Thu	2pm	Christmas Panto	Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086	4th
Thu	2-4pm	Flower Club	Liz Palmer 01729 840331	11th
Thu	7.30pm	HelliReaders	Audrey Edwards 01729 850351	11th
Thu	11-12noon	Police Surgery	Ken Leak 07837 727268	18th
Thu	7.15-9pm	WI Christmas Party	Carol Weston-Moore 07855 191927	18th
Fri	9.45-11.15am	HelliSingers	Sue Alderson 01729 554149	5th, 12th, 19 th
Fri	1-3pm	HelliLine-dancing	Jane Gray 07971 656461	12th, 19th

Events in December

Fri	7pm	Christmas Panto	Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086	5th
Sat	7pm	Christmas Panto	Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086	6th
Sat	10- 11.30am	Village Hall Coffee Morning	Ken Leak 07837 727268	6th
Sat	10- 11.30am	Library Coffee Morning	Carol Weston- Moore 07855 191927	13th
Sat	10- 11.30am	Free Village Hall Coffee Morning	Ken Leak 07837 727268	20th

Methodist Chapel / Wesley Centre

Day	Time	Event	More info.	Dates
Sun	2pm	Sunday Service	Letting Manager 07931 511652	7th, 14th, 21st
Sun	4pm	Hour of Prayer	Letting Manager 07931 511652	7th
Sun	10.30am	Family Lego Church	Letting Manager 07931 511652	14th
Sun	2pm	Carol Service	Letting Manager 07931 511652	14th
Sun	2pm	Testimony Café Church	Letting Manager 07931 511652	28th
Mon	10-2pm	Warm Spaces	Letting Manager 07931 511652	1st, 8th, 15th
Mon	2.30pm	Welcome Mat	Letting Manager 07931 511652	1st, 15th
Tue	8.30- 11am	HelliTots	Letting Manager 07931 511652	2nd, 9th, 16th
Wed	6-7&7- 8pm	Kettlebells	Josephine Elsmore 07813 792191	3rd, 10th, 17th
Wed	5.30pm	Singing carols at the Station	Letting Manager 07931 511652	17th
Thu	12 noon	Drop-in Lunch	Joy Phillips 01729 850340	4th, 11th, 18th

Events in December

Hellifield House Social Club

Day	Time	Event	More info.	Dates
Tue	2-4pm	Tea/Coffee/Chat	Margaret Foster	16th
Wed	8.15pm	Quizgo	Cheryl Mitton 01729 850866	3rd, 10th, 17th
Thu	6.30pm	Carol Singing	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	18th
Sun	2-5pm	Children's Christmas Party	Cheryl Mitton 01729 850866	14th
Sun	6.30pm	Bingo	Cheryl Mitton 01729 850866	7th, 21st
Sun	6.30pm	Christmas Bingo	Cheryl Mitton 01729 850866	14th

St Aidan's Church

Day	Time	Event	More info.	Dates
Tue	8.45am	Informal Prayer	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Wed	4pm	Family Carols & Crib Service	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	24th
Wed	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	24th
Thu	6.30pm	Carol Singing	Hellifield House	18th
Thu	9.30am	Christmas Day Service	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	25th
Fri	7.30pm	HelliSingers Concert	Sue Alderson	12th
Sun	9.30am	Church Service	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	7th, 14th, 28th
Sun	9.30am	Family Comm. with Messy Church	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	21st
Sun	6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	21st

Other events

Day	Time	Event	More info.
Sun		HelliWalkers	No walk in December

Events in January

Village Hall / Institute (shut 2 weeks in January and 2 weeks in February for refurbishment)

Day	Time	Event	More info.	Dates
Mon	7.15-9pm	Table Tennis	Andy Crabtree 01729 851806	5th, 12th
Tue	6-7&7-9pm	Badminton	Rebecca Gooch 07443 493169	6th, 13th
Wed	9-12.30am	Messy Monkeys	Amanda Belt 07398 284126	Please check with Amanda
Wed	2-4pm	Mothers' Union	Sheila Swinbank 01729 850458	7th
Wed	2-4pm	HelliGames	Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086	7th, 14th
Wed	2-4pm	HelliScribes	Yvonne Crabtree 01729 851806	check
Thu	10-12 noon	Bowling	Maralyne 01729 851272	8th, 15th
Thu	2-4pm	Flower Club	Liz Palmer 01729 840331	8th
Thu	2-3pm	Dance Exercise Class	Wendy Robinson 07970 734523	Please check with Wendy
Thu	7.30pm	HelliReaders	Audrey Edwards 01729 850351	8th
Thu	11-12noon	Police Surgery	Ken Leak 07837 727268	15th
Thu	7.15-9pm	WI	Carol Weston-Moore 07855 191927	15th
Fri	9.45-11.15am	HelliSingers	Sue Alderson 01729 554149	2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th*

*The Choir have been given permission to enter the building whilst work is in progress

Fri	1-3pm	HelliLine-dancing	Jane Gray 07971 656461	2nd, 9th, 16th
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Events in January

Sat	10-11.30am	Village Hall Coffee Morning	Ken Leak 07837 727268	3rd
Sat	10-11.30am	Coffee Morning	Ken Leak 07837 727268	10th
Sat	10-11.30pm	Coffee Morning	Ken Leak 07837 727268	17th
Sat	7-11pm	Quiz Night	Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086	17th

Methodist Chapel / Wesley Centre

Day	Time	Event	More info.	Dates
Sun	2pm	Covenant Service	Letting Manager 07931 511652	4th
Sun	4pm	Hour of Prayer	Letting Manager 07931 511652	4th
Sun	2pm	Sunday Service	Letting Manager 07931 511652	11th, 18th, 25th
Sun	10.30am	Family Lego Church	Letting Manager 07931 511652	11th
Mon	12-1.30pm	Soup & Sandwich	Letting Manager 07931 511652	5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Mon	2.30-4pm	Welcome Mat	Letting Manager 07931 511652	5th, 19th
Wed	6-7&7-8pm	Kettlebells	Josephine Elsmore 07813 792191	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Thu	12 noon	Drop-in Lunch	Joy Phillips 01729 850340	8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Hellifield House Social Club

Day	Time	Event	More info.	Dates
Sun	6.30pm	Bingo	Cheryl Mitton 01729 850866	4th, 18th
Tue	2-4pm	Tea/Coffee/ Chat	Margaret Foster	27th
Wed	8.15pm	Quizgo	Cheryl Mitton 01729 850866	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Events in January

St Aidan's Church

Day	Time	Event	More info.	Dates
Sun	9.30am	Family Communion Service	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	4th
Sun	9.30am	Holy Communion Service	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	11th, 18th, 25th
Sun	10.45 for 11am	Messy Church	James Atkinson 078496 73214	25th
Tues	8.45am	Informal Prayer	Rev. James Rodley 01729 851709	6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

Other events

Day	Time	Event	More info.
Sun	10am	HelliWalkers	No Walk in January

The Hellifield Herald team

The management committee:

- Audrey Edwards: Assistant Editor
- Bob Moore: Advertising Officer
- Carol Weston-Moore: Secretary & Article Co-ordinator
- Chris Darling: Finance Officer
- David Jamookeeah: Distribution Officer
- John Cuthbert: Editor
- Karen Dunwoodie: Chair
- Yvonne Crabtree: Proof-reader

Other members of the village are involved in the production and distribution of the magazine.

Whilst every effort is taken to avoid errors, the Hellifield Herald management committee accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any statement, extract or information contained within these pages.

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John Cuthbert - Editor

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- 18 J Reynolds, Electrical & Home Services
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- 20 Ken Leak, Illustrator & Artist
- 20 Doctors' Surgery opening times
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