

WORTH VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Oakworth & Oldfield Edition
March 2007



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WELCOME to the fifth issue of the Worth Valley Mag, your free, monthly magazine and business directory.

It's said that "March comes in like a lion but goes out like a lamb". I'm not sure how true that will be this year given the exceptionally mild winter we've had, but none-the-less we'll no doubt all be well ready for some blue skies and sunshine.

March sees the celebration and promotion of ethical trading with the 'Fairtrade fortnight', particularly relevant to Worth Valley residents as Haworth was the first village to be awarded Fairtrade status (see pages 4 - 6). Our magazine this month is jam-packed with local information - community, leisure, business and general interest. We have our regular columns by local writers, business profiles which have been voted a popular feature in the past, a pub review, another article in our Spotlight series (a Question and Answer interview with local characters), and of course our sudoku and 'local crossword for local people' to tax your brain.

We have some exciting plans afoot for April when we hope to expand the magazine to also include distribution to households in Cross Roads and Oxenhope. With this expansion will come all the regular features that you tell us you enjoy every month plus some new exciting articles and competitions. Please continue to submit your charity and non-profit events to be listed free on our Community Pages and to give us your feedback about the magazine.

Finally, watch this space!

CONTACT US

Karen Davidson, Elizabeth Barker

Worth Valley Publishing Ltd., Stanbury, West Yorkshire.

OfficeTel: **01535 642227** / 01535 280005 ;

Mobiles: **Karen 07748 103 415, Liz 07971 645 609**

email: **info@worthvalleymag.co.uk**

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Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

Haworth, your local Fairtrade Village



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a **better deal**
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Producers

It was five years ago when a small group of dedicated Haworth traders and individuals in the community banded together to gain Fairtrade Village status for our cobbled country village.

At that point, few were familiar with the Fairtrade Foundation, the non-government organisation that campaigns for a fairer playing field for farmers and their families in the developing world.

"What's it to do with us?" was sometimes the parochial attitude in those days.

But over the years, awareness has grown, and more people understand that justice is worth fighting for and we are all connected in one way or another.

There is a heightened awareness about the food that we eat and the products we use. The educated and sophisticated consumers of today like to know where products come from and how they were made. If for example, we know that a T-Shirt from the Gap is made in sweat shops in China we can choose to boycott the Gap and write to the Managing Director about our concerns.

Of course, millions of people voicing the same concern is incredibly powerful.

Consumer driven change has made great strides in the first part of the 21st century. Most of us have heard of Fairtrade today and many purchase Fairtrade products on the weekly trip to Sainsburys or Morrisons.

The best news is that Fairtrade is now benefiting nearly five million people in 58 developing countries, and there are over 1,400 products carrying the Fairtrade mark. That means that the checks and accountabilities relating to these products meet the stringent parameters set out

by the Fairtrade Labeling Organisation, an international body that administers the Fairtrade mark and is committed to ensuring that the farmers at the beginning of the supply chain are getting a fair deal.

Today consumers can choose from coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, fruits, cakes, wine, baked goods, grains, roses, cotton products, even sports balls! Many of these products can be found in our local shops and cafés; do ask for them!

So things have moved on, and we can be proud (but not complacent) about what has been achieved in a relatively short time.




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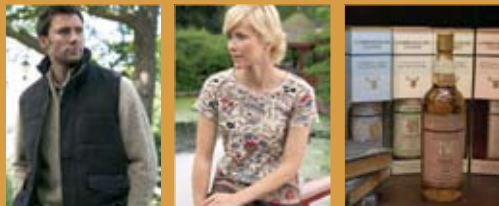
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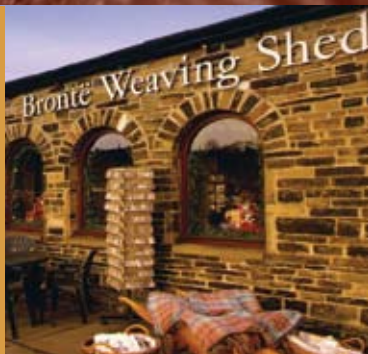
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WINED & DINED

BY CLAIRE SMITH

*Every month
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inspirations.*

Spring is about to come knocking on your door, bringing fresh new life and energy. I love all the different seasons, but there is something particularly alluring about the promise that breathes through the sweet awakening winds of spring. The spring equinox, which falls on March 21st, sees the earth in perfect balance; day and night are of equal length; the trees are beginning to bud; everything is alive and preparing to burst forth. A great many of us seem to have become detached from the natural cycle of the earth, buying most of our food from supermarkets and locking ourselves away in centrally heated homes. But being able to move harmoniously from the quiet of winter into the fresh new energy of spring is as essential to our wellbeing now as it was to our ancestors.

It is time to throw open the windows and clear the space within and around you. The scents of orange, lemon and grapefruit will refresh your environment and have a purposeful effect on the mind. Orange helps to soothe mental strain and combat tiredness; grapefruit will dispel feelings of frustration and anxiety and lemon will banish sluggishness and lethargy. Try peeling a couple of lemons over a bowl of warm water, allowing the peel to fall in and add the juice and some of the flesh. Your home will be filled with

the crisp and uplifting scent of citrus.

There is a lot to be said for making the most of the produce each season brings. This not only reconnects us with the rhythms of the earth and her bounties, but means that the produce will be at its absolute best. I for one cannot understand why anyone would want to eat strawberries in winter when they are so unnaturally hard and provide only a distant echo of their glorious summer flavour. Early rhubarb is at its most sweet and tender, and Yorkshire is after all the rhubarb capitol of the world. Salmon is also at its best in the very early spring. Fresh sardines, carrots, leeks, garlic, spring onions, cauliflower, purple sprouting broccoli, beetroot, sorrel, mint and parsley; all these, the first foods of the season should be enjoyed at their sweet and tender best.

One of the most enchanting of spring ingredients and a personal favourite is the Violet. These tiny flowers, the colour of amethyst, were believed to promote fertility and were used in love potions. They are sweet and delicate to the taste, look extremely pretty on salads, and can be sugared and used to decorate cakes. Having said that, I still have a hard time gathering these little spring jewels with a clear conscience. My best advice would be to treat the violet as a very special ingredient for only the most special of occasions, using them sparingly if you choose to do so.

Celebrate springtime and your part in the shifting energy of the season.



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HEALTH & WELLBEING

BY CAROLYN RICHARDSON

ARE YOU A COUCH POTATO?

Try this fun quiz to find out what kind of potato you are

Q: How often do you exercise?

- A. I aim for at least 30 mins every day
- B. About 3 times a week
- C. Walking to my car every day

Q: How often are you involved in sport?

- C. I watch it on TV when ever I can
- B. I like a kick about with the kids
- A. I play sport or go to the gym on a regular basis

Q: How much water do you drink?

- A. More than a litre every day
- B. Usually more than 1 pint
- C. Water yuck!

Q: Pork pie or fish pie?

- B. Probably both
- C. Definitely pork pie
- A. Fish pie, I never eat stodgy food

Q: How much fresh fruit and veg do you eat?

- A. At least 5 portions a day
- B. I try to eat some each day
- C. Never, I can't stand the stuff

Q: How do you prefer your potato?

- C. Fried chips, or mash with lots of butter
- B. Oven chips or mashed without butter
- A. Jacket

Q: What would you find most refreshing?

- C. A serious session down the local
- A. A long ramble through the countryside
- B. A film and an early night

Q: How often do you eat take aways and fast food?

- C. Nearly every day
- A. Never if I can help it
- B. Once in a while

MOSTLY A :-

You hot potato you! You're obviously fit and active, particularly if you scored all A's. If you scored a B or C then work on your diet and up the tempo on your activities.



MOSTLY B :-

You're an oven chip. You make an effort but need to think about ways to improve your diet and fitness level. Try to get some form of exercise every day even if it's just doing some floor exercises in your bedroom, vigorous house work, or walking the kids to school and back. Watch what you eat and make sure you eat lots of fresh fruit and veg, Cut back on the processed foods and drink more water.



MOSTLY C :-

Oh dear, you are a couch potato! You really need to step it up, both in your diet and the amount of exercise you get. It might be a good idea to get your cholesterol and blood pressure levels checked just to be on the safe side.



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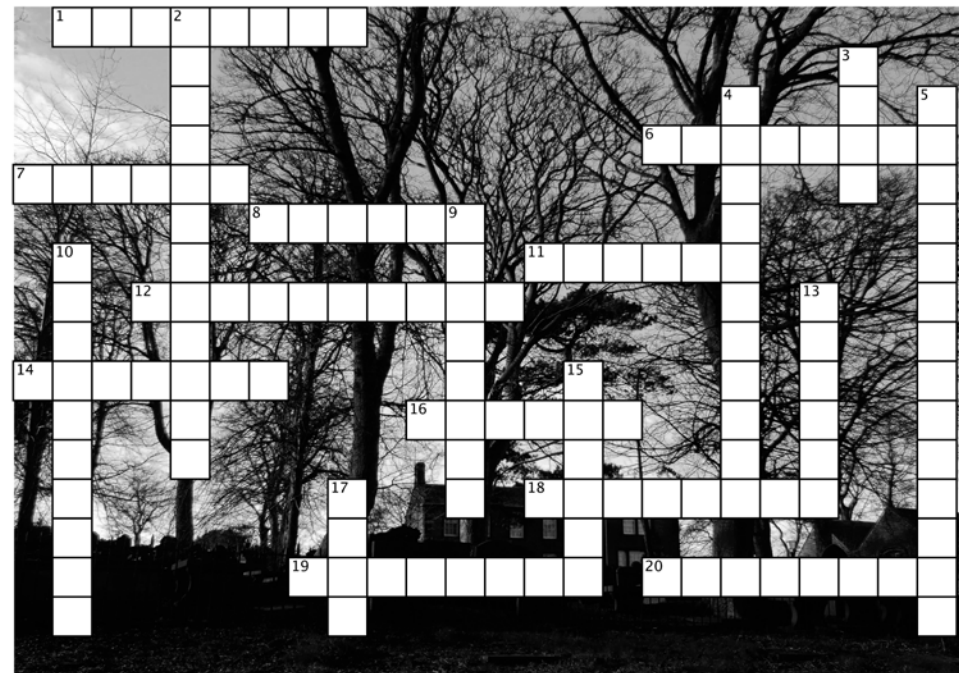
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Worth Valley Mag Crossword

A local crossword for local people



Across

1. Bearded eccentric of Leeds Utd [3, 5]
6. Small hamlet near Stanbury [8]
7. District around Skipton [6]
8. Classic whodunit suspect [6]
11. Indifference [6]
12. Cheese used in Italian cooking [10]
14. Birthplace of the Ripper [7]
16. Restored in Oakworth Park [6]
18. Haworth's Biggest fans [8]
19. Titus Town [8]

Down

2. Popular sheep dog [6,6]
3. Slow running pace [4]
4. Who was Ellis Bell? [5,6]
5. How to cross the Wharfe at Bolton Abbey. [8,6]
9. Home of the Calendar Girls [8]
10. Ingletons famous cavern [6,4]
13. Take for granted [6]
15. Sea Robber [6]
17. Low in fat [4]

			8			5
		1	9			
7					1	6
			1		6	9
3	5			1		4
6	8		3			
5	6					2
				5	4	
9			2			

SUDOKU

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GARDENER'S TIPS

BY MIKE CUNNINGHAM

Every month Mike Cunningham, Chair of Keighley in Bloom and co-organiser of Keighley Horticultural Show shares his expertise with readers

JOBS OF THE MONTH - MARCH

March is regarded as the start of the gardener's growing season. It marks the start of an intensive seven-month growing and showing season for me.

Bulbs:

Check the condition of flowering bulbs; add new where necessary or divide and move to another part of garden.

Roses:

Last chance to plant new roses. Pruning should also be complete now; when pruning use sharp secateurs to ensure a clean cut. I usually cut my roses back at an angle approx 1cm (1/4") above a dormant bud, this allows any rain to run off preventing disease. Established hybrid tea and floribunda roses should be cut to 15cm (6") above ground level and climbers reduced by half. Rose fertiliser and well-rotted manure can be applied and raked into soil towards the end of month. Do not use lawn cuttings.

Lawns:

Rake and level soil to fine tilth in new seeded areas, tread to firm the soil and apply fertiliser. Continue to aerate established lawns, knocking off any worm casts. Rake hard or sweep with a stiff brush to remove dead grass and moss. Weather permitting I apply a spring fertiliser; 10 days later I apply a selective weed killer. Or you can just apply one combined fertiliser/weed killer, either a weed and feed fertiliser or one that

includes a moss killer as well. With the exceptionally mild winter your first mowing like mine should have been made by now, if not you can start your first of many cuts with your blades set high when the grass is no higher than 10cm (4")

Flowering Plants and Vegetables:

In the greenhouse: Prick out earlier sown tomatoes and plants, continue to sow summer bedding plants, vegetables and salad crops. Start dahlia tubers into growth to obtain shoots for cutting. Take cuttings from over wintered chrysanthemum stools.

Outside: Top dress established beds and borders. Dig or fork over vegetable plot, prepare potato trench and add a layer of well-rotted manure. Plant out onion sets (small bulbs). As the weather warms up slugs will need to be controlled (I use slightly more expensive child and pet friendly slug pellets).

Container Plants:

Clean and disinfect containers, check drainage holes are not blocked. Fill containers ready for planting up, I use John Innes No. 3 loam based compost. It's heavier than peat based composts and therefore tends not to blow over as easily.

House Plants:

Increase watering and start to feed plants. Check bottom of pot container and if roots are showing I pot on to the next size up plant-pot or larger container.

Wildlife:

Clean out and repair nesting boxes. Ideally fix new boxes to the north side of trees or fences etc.



To advertise call Karen or Liz on 01535 642227



Keighley Town Council

"We are committed to serving the people of Oakworth and Keighley"



Cllr Mike Burningham
Oakworth Ward
01535 618252



Cllr Allan Rhodes
Oakworth Ward
01535 647652



Cllr Graham Mitchell
Oakworth Ward & Keighley Town Mayor
01535 645454

Your Oakworth Ward Town Councillors are regular attenders at Village meetings and have been actively and consistently involved in Village issues

- traffic calming - community policing - Holden Park - creation of the Police & Community Contact Point - Dockroyd Graveyard - Chipping Yard - the bus service - support for Post Office - Bronte Hall and Community Speed Watch.

To discuss these and any other matters, please telephone them directly.

Keighley Town Council

Town Hall, Bow Street

Keighley BD21 3PA

Tel: 01535 618252

Fax: 01535 618253

E-mail: townclerk@keighley.gov.uk

website: www.keighley.gov.uk

Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

OAKWORTH CONTACT POINT

The Police and Community Contact Point in Holden Hall in Oakworth has recently celebrated its first anniversary. Now open three times a week, the Contact Point is establishing itself as the place in Oakworth to report problems with council matters and with Neighbourhood Policing concerns. The volunteers there will always do their best to help and can promise that all messages for our local police team are passed on and, where appropriate, acted upon.

In recent months we have held fortnightly Community Policing surgeries so that residents with concerns on policing matters can meet with our local Police team face to face to find out what is being done in the village to ease problems such as youth nuisance, parking etc. We hold masses of information on crime prevention, and often have items such as electric timer switches, personal alarms and window alarms to give away free of charge.

Do you need to report something to Bradford Council but don't know where to go? Then go to the Contact Point – we can refer your concern to the correct department, and if the Council promise to take some action, we can follow it up for you to make sure it is done.

We have some excellent “freebies” for children about road safety issues, information on pensions, Neighbourhood Watch, local planning applications.....the list goes on! Why not call in some time to find out what we can do for you?

Our general opening times are:

Monday 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Tuesday 9.30am – 11.00am

Thursday 1.00 pm – 3.00pm

The next local Police surgery will be on **Monday 5th March 1.00pm – 3.00pm** and fortnightly thereafter.

If these times are not convenient for you, then please ring and leave a message on 01535 647574 or email contactoakworth@yahoo.co.uk

WORTH VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



- The Worth Valley Mag is a **FREE** monthly door-to-door magazine offering saturation of your local trading area

- The magazine is also available at numerous shops, community bases and tourist points

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- The cost of a display ad starts at just **£19 per month! (VAT free)** which is incredible value for money!

“Advertising in the Worth valley Mag is certainly bringing the work in. It’s the best form of advertising I’ve come across. I get more business out of it than out of any other type of advertising I’ve used.

What I particularly like about the mag is that it’s a local service for local people.”

- Paul Cannon, PC Consulting.

CONTACT US:

Office: 01535 642227 / 01535 280005

Liz Barker: M. 07971 645 609 **Karen Davidson:** M. 07748 103 415

Email: info@worthvalleymag.co.uk

Website: www.worthvalleymag.co.uk



SPOTLIGHT ON ANDY WISEMAN

Andy Wiseman, local lad, married with three young sons, manages to balance a hectic schedule of househusband and entertainer with strong assistance from his wife, Sharon and assorted baby-sitters.

Q: Andy, when did you start performing?

A: My mother recalls me doing shows and circuses at a very early age on our street. I was both ringmaster and clown already having accumulated a stock of wigs and hats, and singing into an empty milk bottle as a microphone! It wasn't until reaching school that I fully realised my ability to do impressions. Frank Spencer and Eddie Waring were always popular, and that is how I was recognised at school.

Q: What was one of your earliest recollections of performing?

A: Eventually putting all my impressions together and appearing at the opening of the Ambulance Training Centre in 1977 in front of Brian Mosley (Alf Roberts of Coronation Street). My early act progressed from winning beer tokens to talent shows.

Q: When did you first have that "Road to Damascus" moment?

A: When I was 18, watching 'Hi Di Hi' on television I decided that I would have some of that. That was the life for me.

I passed auditions for both Butlins and Haven holiday camps, choosing the latter as it offered a more varied depth of experience as bingo caller, DJ and children's entertainer. After two years with the holiday camp my act had become tempered enough for the club circuit.

Q: Tell me about your current duo act.

A: I formed this duo (Smart Moves) ten years ago with my best friend Dave Lovell who arranges the music and plays keyboard. We perform a wide selection of songs from all eras including Barry White,

Neil Diamond, Tom Jones and Robbie Williams.

Q: Have you had any funny experiences in the entertainment world?

A: I've worked as an extra on shows such as Corrie and Emmerdale. I once travelled all the way to Manchester only to be driven onto location by the Granada TV bus to Keighley Railway Station for filming and at the end of the day had to go back to Manchester to get the car to drive back to Keighley!

Q: When did you first

meet your alter ego – Dame Edna from down under?

A: Over many years I followed her development from Australian housewife to the mega star she is today. I was attracted to her humour and Dame Edna enables me to go in different directions with my comedy and to say things within



the character that would not be possible as myself.

Q: Does she wear high heels and are they difficult to walk in?

A: No, they are specially made ladies shoes for men and are not too difficult to walk in - although I don't pick the children up from school in them! They are obtainable from specialist shops in Manchester.

Q: Was it coincidental that you have taken the purple path from Dame to Knight four nights a week?

(Andy is currently playing the Sir Cliff Richard part in "Summer Holiday".)

A: Yes, this was quite by accident. I've always done a Cliff Richard impersonation as part of my act. I'm looking forward to playing in this production and rehearsals are going very well.

If you missed the bus first time round, or would like another trip, why not join



Andy Wiseman and the rest of the cast of Sutton Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society in "Summer Holiday". Do you remember the songs? "Batchelor Boy", "In the Country" and "Dancing Shoes"? From 28th March – 31st March at 7:15pm at Sutton Village Hall.

Tickets:- Adults: £6.00 Concessions £5.00 Available from Eclipse Hair Salon, Oakworth or from Bryan Blackie (01535) 632289



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In any event it is likely to take longer to finalise than if you had made a Will. During this time your beneficiaries may not be able to draw any money from your estate. It can mean arguments and distress for relatives. Making a Will lets your loved ones know that you cared for them enough to "sort things out" in advance.

If **YOU** are a single person you will want your estate divided between friends family and charities of your choosing and in the proportions you want.

If **YOU** are living as a couple but not officially married or in a civil partnership, you may be treated as a single person and a surviving partner may get nothing at all. One thing you can be certain of – there will be argument and dispute at a time when the family should be coping with the loss of a loved one.

If **YOU** are a parent, you should consider who would look after your children in the event of your death. This is particularly important in the case of one parent families or unmarried parents living together. A valid Will nominating guardians is invaluable in such cases. If no one knows what you would have wanted, the court will decide on the future of your children, and it may not be what you would have wished.

If **YOU** are retired maybe you made a Will long time ago. It probably needs updating to include additional grandchildren or deletion of persons you no longer feel you wish to leave anything to.

If **YOU** may be worth more than £285,000 (£300,000 from April 6th 2007) when you die (don't forget to add the value of your house, life policies, jewellery, cars etc – you may be surprised just how much you are worth!) then without a Will you may be leaving your beneficiaries with an unexpected tax bill that they have to pay BEFORE they can inherit anything – a Will may save your beneficiaries up to £114,000 yes £114,000 (£120,000 from April 6th 2007) of tax!

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Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

PUB REVIEW



If you wanted to show visitors from outside the area a typical Yorkshire pub, you'd be hard pressed to find one as good as The Lamb in Oxenhope. A quick search on the internet will find any number of glowing reviews from like minded people who have nominated this fine old stone building as their favourite pub and judging from our experiences it's not difficult to see why.

Overlooking moor land on the road to Denholme, The Lamb oozes character and rustic charm. Judging by the banter it appears to have a regular clientele of locals, but still manages to appear friendly and inviting to first time visitors like ourselves. This is a real pub with a warm atmosphere and a traditional old world décor that is very pleasing on the eye. The interior is a vibrant mix of earthy colour washed walls, wood panelled seating and best of all a real coal fire and gas lamps. There's low background music and no annoying fruit machines or video games. Whilst there were people of all ages on our visit, this is not a pub for young lads on the pull.

House beers include Black Sheep, Taylor's Landlord, Greene King IPA and hand pumped Tetley Dark Mild. There're also the usual lagers such as Stella, Carling and Carlsberg, but as a big fan of Landlord and Black Sheep I was sticking to the bitter. After a pint of each I couldn't decide between them. Both were as good a pint as I've tasted anywhere. Smooth, creamy and obviously well looked after.

On ringing ahead to check they were serving food we were advised to reserve a table and such is the size of the eating area I could see the sense in that. At peak times I expect it can get a bit cramped, but at 6.00pm on a Sunday night there were just ourselves and a couple of other families. The menu appeared to be mostly traditional home cooked food and the prices looked very encouraging. After our orders were taken the food appeared in very good time. I had a starter of warm goats cheese on a bed of salad leaves and red onion chutney. It was impossible to criticise - absolutely gorgeous. The coriander leaves were a nice touch and the overall presentation of the meal was excellent. For the main course I opted for the chilli con carne with chips and side salad. It was another good choice. The chilli had just the right amount of oomph and the chips were superb. Crispy on the outside, soft in the middle and absolutely massive! With such generous servings we found we had no room for dessert so I can't report on that but if it's anything like the rest of the food it will be worth a look.

Our bill for two - without drinks - came to about £22 which is outrageously good value.

Oxenhope is blessed with some great pubs in comparison to other similar sized villages in the area and The Lamb is well deserving of its reputation. It's the kind of place that would feel like heaven after a long hike on a cold wet winter night.

Thankfully, we got there by car!

To advertise call Karen or Liz on 01535 642227



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Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

COMMUNITY PAGES

FREE Listing for any non-profit making community based activities

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Thurs 1st March

**Tickets go on Sale for Skools Out For-
Ever Weekend** at Bronte Middle School.
Disco with bar on Fri 6th April (suggested
age group 34 and
over) and Sat 7th April
(suggested age group
18 to 33) Tickets £6
and all proceeds to
Manorlands. 01535
640432



**Sat - Sun. 3rd & 4th
March Fairtrade**

Fortnight first weekend

Visit www.haworthfairtrade.org.uk for
details. Look for the Fairtrade stall on
Haworth Main Street.

Wed 7th March

Inspired - The Brontes' Influence

A Panel discussion. West Lane Baptist
Centre. 7:30pm £6.50 contact Andrew
McCarthy on 01535 640194

Mon 12th March

**Seed packets go on sale for Manorlands
Tallest Sunflower Competition.**
Open to Schools, community groups and
individuals. Packs of Seed £2 minimum
donation and great prizes to be won for
yourself and chosen community gardening
project. Ring Andrew Wood on 01535
640432 for more information.

Wed 14th March

Over the Nab 7.5mile Circular Walk

10:30am Starting from Haworth Station.
Bring a packed lunch and be prepared for
variable weather conditions.

Wed 14th March

'It's not fiction, you know': Mrs Gaskell's Bothersome Life of Charlotte Bronte:

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of
the publication of Mrs Gaskell's "Life
of Charlotte Brontë", a talk by Gaskell
biographer Jenny Uglow - West Lane
Baptist Centre - 2.00pm - £2.50 - contact
andrew.mccarthy@bronte.org.uk / 01535
640194

Sat 17th March

St Patrick's Day Ceilidh

7.15pm to 11.00pm
Parkside Social Club, Haworth
Music by Northern Comfort.
Adults; £8.50/ Children; £3.50 (includes
supper) Tickets; 01535 642323 or from
the Brontë Parsonage Museum shop

Sun 18th March

Mothering Sunday Praise Service

Led by the youth group. Oakworth
Methodist Church. 10:30am

Mother's Day Luncheon Train KWVR

Places on this very special train are limited
and cost £30 (adults) and £15 (children
12 and under). phone 01535 645214 for
more details.

Fri 23rd March

Charity Gig with 4 varied bands Holy
Family Catholic School. Doors open 7pm
Tickets £4, pay on door. Proceeds to
CAFOD and Sue Ryder Care Manorlands

Fri 23rd March

Jane Eyre: Continues the series of special
Brontë movie screenings in Haworth, with
the 1995 version of Jane Eyre, - West
Lane Baptist Centre, 7.45pm - £5.00
[£2.50 under 16s] - Tickets in advance
from andrew.mccarthy@bronte.org.uk /
01535 640194

Sat 24th March

6.5 mile Circular Walk- A Light Sprang

Up- where Jane Eyre may have gone
when she met Rochester! Led by David
Oates. Starting at 10:30am from Haworth
Tourist Information Centre. Packed Lunch
required. Be prepared for variable weather.

Sat 31st March

Spring Market at Oakworth Methodist



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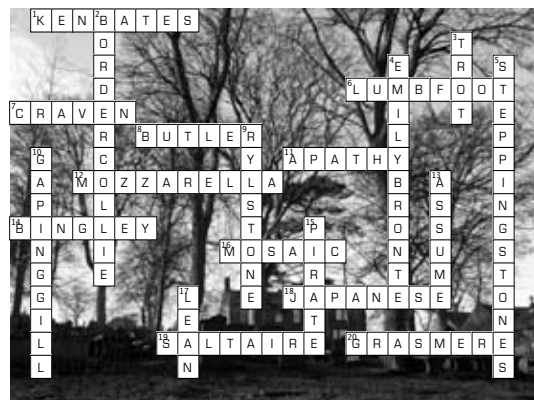
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Keighley & Dist. Bus Enquiries.....	01535 603284
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Worth Valley Mag.....	01535 642227

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WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

For practical travel information this month's website of the month could help you decide between Benidorm or Bulgaria for your next holiday. This site is "real holiday information for real people written by real people."

Before you even look at a brochure it's worth reading the reviews on this site. Some are complimentary, some are damning and many are downright hilarious. Read about people who's holiday in Spain was ruined because there were "too many Spanish people", undercooked food, dangerous hotel lifts, filthy swimming pools, pickpockets, lager louts, ignorant travel reps, rude family entertainers, rats as big as cats, fights over sun loungers... Who says the British don't like complaining?

Holidays are given star ratings so it's easy to find the best or worst reviews.

For entertainment or information, this site will ensure you never end up on a holiday from hell.

www.realholidayreports.com

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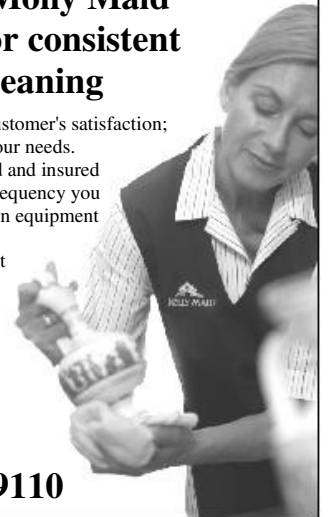
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BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."
(Henry Van Dyke)

The first sight of daffodils are nature's way of announcing Spring. Little shoots of sunshine pop up everywhere, inviting you to cast aside your heavy coat, scarf and boots. Radiant and golden, they explode overnight suggesting we've finally escaped the freezing white chaos of Winter's evil spell. Its icy spears have long since fallen from branches and guttering; its biting winds no longer tear at our ears; its slippery paths numbing our toes with frost; ice, snow and sludge all are just a memory. No more pitch black mornings scraping sheets of ice from the car windscreen. No more little rascals pelting buses with snow balls. It's March! Winter is over!

At least that was our misguided view when, this time last year - to quote my favourite film : we went on holiday "by mistake." We had bravely decided March was a good time to book a cottage in the Lake District. On the first day we sat outside a pub next to Lake Windermere admiring the wonderful scenery and reflecting on how mild the winter had been. This global warming wasn't such a bad thing after all!

The next morning we woke up to find everything under three feet of snow. At first I was impressed at how beautiful it made everything look, but after digging the car out, shovelling the drive clear, building a snowman in the garden and then trying

to push a pram to Ambleside through half a mile of snow drifts I began to hate the stuff, especially after it snowed in the night and I had to do it all again (apart from the snowman who just woke up fatter).

There's probably nothing sadder than seeing a cage full of shivering (arctic?) monkeys, but as soon as the snow ploughs had cleared the roads we decided to take the little 'un to a zoo. We thought she'd enjoy seeing a few animals she's unlikely to see in the Worth Valley. She didn't. It was baltic and we appeared to be the only visitors. We ran around the enclosures shouting out the names of the animals to her - with a quick impression - ("Donkey! Ee-Aww!") before racing on to the next bewildered looking specimen.

Pointing hypo-thermic children at frozen kangaroos is not a great day out. It was perfect weather for polar bears and penguins, but there weren't any and most of the beasts we saw were literally pining for the fjords.

We ran for the reptile house hoping for some respite from the bitter gale, but it wasn't much warmer in there. A lady from the zoo gave us a talk on snakes and showed us a couple of pythons, but she ended up having a coughing fit and had to drop the snake and run off somewhere, presumably to hack up in private. We waited a while, but she didn't come back. The snake seemed okay so we headed for the café where we discovered other miserable humans thawing out and arguing about who's dumb idea it was to go on holiday in England at this time of year.

The Off Comedun has just returned from sunny Portugal, a very much better idea.

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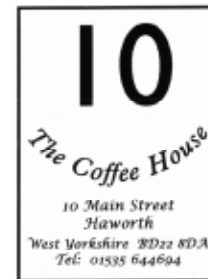
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Here is a real treat from our resident poet who kindly provides a translation for those 'Offcomeduns' amongst us!

PUT T' WOOD I' TH' OIL!

Shoo ast mi, "Wheer's ta bin, lad?"
Ah tow'd 'er, "Ah've bin dahn the pub -
Ah fancied a nahce coolin' bev'rage,
an' fer once, a plate o' good grub!"
Ah knoo as shoo di'nt lahk me answer,
(Thah should o' seen t' look on 'er spoil!)
Shoo sed Ah could go sling me 'ammock,
an' meck sure Ah put t' wood i' the 'oil.

Shoo sed Ah'd bin drinkin' while midneet,
an thowt as Ah maht be kidnapped;
shoo wor lossin' 'er mind aht o' worry,
Ah sed "Lossin' yer mind? Ah'm not
capped!"
Shoo sed, "Get thissen back to the Flappit,
Ah'm sick o' this constant turmoil.
Thah mun sleep on the floor i' the
taproom.
On thy way put the wood i' the 'oil!"

Ah ran up the steers fer me toithbrush,
Feelin' like t' patriarch Job,
Soa imagine me feelin's at findin'
this bloke 'idin' in me wardrobe!
Soa Ah drew 'im a map to the Flappit,
Cos ahtside it wor blacker nor coil,
Ah sed, "Get thissen off wi' me missis,
An' thah can both put the wood i' the 'oil!"

By Ludorum, Cross Roads

PLEASE CLOSE THE DOOR

My dear wife had demanded I tell her
where I'd been, but her manner was rude,
So I told her I'd been to the Flappit
for a drink and a little hot food.
I could sense I'd not been diplomatic -
my reply made the good woman shout,
as she told me to clear my belongings
and to please close the door going out.

She was rather annoyed at my absence;
I'd been kidnapped is what she surmised,
half out of her mind with the worry
(only "half" made me rather surprised).
She said, "Why don't you live at the
Flappit?
You know your way back there, no doubt.
The landlord won't notice the difference,
and will you please close the door going
out?"

I ascended the stairs for my suitcase,
Remembering Job in the Bible,
But, was I astonished at finding
in my bedroom, an undisclosed rival!
I pointed the way to the Flappit
so he wouldn't go wandering about.
I suggested he take my dear lady
and could they both close the door going
out.

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SKOOL'S OUT FOR-EVER AT BRONTE

Two top nights out to commemorate the end of the school
in aid of Sue Ryder Care - Manorlands Hospice

Fri 6th April (recommended ages 33+)
Sat 7th April (recommended ages 18 - 32)
Each night featuring:

Top DJ playing classics from your schooldays Reasonably priced bar
Old Skool Tuck Shop Nostalgia corner, multimedia presentation
Dress: Smart Casual or School Uniform (optional) Quieter area to chat
Plus a few surprises Ticket Price £6

Open to all! Former pupils, family, friends, and all locals who enjoy a good night out.

For further information or contributions to nostalgia corner phone Andrew Wood on 640432.

To order tickets please send a cheque made payable to Worth Valley YFC, to Mrs Julia Wood, High Wheathead Farm, Exley Head Keighley BD22 7LB. Or purchase them at Wuthering Heights Inn, Stanbury, Sue Ryder Care Shops in Haworth and Keighley, Matt's Headroom, Lidget Oakworth or Whitaker's Animal Feeds, Oakworth Road, Keighley. Please state clearly which night you want them for.

This publicity for this event has been kindly funded by Keighley Area Committee



**A Worth Valley YFC
Organised event**

To advertise call Karen or Liz on 01535 642227



Martin Dutton (Centre) and partner Joe Green

When Martin Dutton was working in the city, fully caught up in the rat race and all too aware of the hassles and hazards of being in a job that was less than satisfying, he would sometimes day dream about getting away from it all ... finding a place where he could make his mark, utilize his unique talents, be a part of a small community and create a whole new life for himself.

That daydream became a reality when last month, Martin and his business partner, Joe Green, purchased the picture perfect florist and gift shop, Willow, on the cobbled Main Street of Haworth.

"Paulette Johnson, the former owner of Willow, was a real inspiration to me," Martin acknowledged. "Friends and family have also been supportive and given

me the encouragement to make the change. I wanted to do something. Life is too short to be in a job that is going nowhere. So, I haven't looked back...It is wonderful to have a business where I

can use my creativity. I am currently taking a further qualification in floristry too."

Taking on an established business with an excellent reputation has made the transition easier. Martin won't need to "reinvent the wheel" as there is already a lot of good will and a loyal customer base. "We know our customers like Willow the way it has been. We plan to do more of the same, with a few tweaks here and

there. We have retained some of the same staff, including two talented and qualified florists. We will also continue to open 7 days a week 9am-5pm with deliveries made daily."

Willow 56 Main Street Haworth 01535 644653



Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Aerials

ILR Aerials p.8

Building / Restoration

M&M Building Services p.9

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Butcher

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Cleansing

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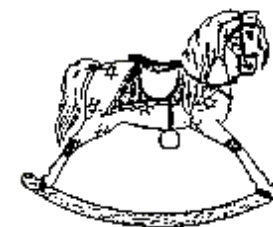
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