

MENSTON NEWS

MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 137

www.menston.org

Autumn 2023

Mission Statement of Menston Community Association: To unite the village through community-driven engagement, communications, events and experiences in order to enhance the wellbeing, inclusivity and amenities of the community for its residents.

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF MENSTON NEWS, THE NEWSLETTER
OF MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



The Menston Community Association has obtained a licence for the Community Lottery, which will be up and running very soon!

Keep an eye out on social media, noticeboards and in the library for the launch of Menston's very own lottery.

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MENSTON NEWS

September not only sees the kids returning to school but also signals the start of a new season of village life. Menston Show on 9th September kicks off an exciting programme of autumnal events as classes and clubs - old and new - burst back into life after the summer lull. There's Halloween trick-or-treating, bonfire and firework partying, panto rehearsing, annual park bulb planting, and a multitude of other events from art exhibitions, music concerts, dance and exercise sessions, socials and meet ups, culminating of course in our Christmas Fair and Lights Switch On event (see the back page). So hopefully something for everyone! MCA will be holding our annual Social including AGM in early November at Kirklands - all are welcome to attend. The current trustees: Chris Steele (chair), Glyn Martill (treasurer), Jonathan Gadd and myself hope that more people will want to be involved as we move forward. Looking forward to you joining us, whether you want to share ideas or just meet fellow residents and enjoy entertainment and presentations. Please contact us on mcamenston@gmail.com for any more information.

Cheryl Thornton, Secretary, MCA

MENSTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Menston Parish Council continues to support and fund a range of local improvements and services. The most recent examples include the completion of the Menston Cricket Club Pavilion extension, contributions towards supporting the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme for young people living in Menston, support for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and installation of new and replacement defibrillators which are located around the village. The Parish Council is moving forward with other projects and initiatives and in dialogue with Bradford Council, including ongoing improvements to local roads and to the park. Applications for grants can be submitted at any time, further details on how to apply are available on the www.menston.org website.

Following on from the local elections in May when there were only six candidates for the seven Parish Councillor vacancies, we are seeking to co-opt the remaining vacancy. If anyone is interested in joining, please see the website for further details and an application form.

The Parish Council meets on the last Thursday of every month, in Kirklands Community Centre, when there is always a time to raise issues important to you. Dates of the next meetings, and contact details for your parish councillors, are available on the www.menston.org website.

Philip Moore, Chair

We believe we are a welcoming church...

We extend a special welcome here to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organised religion (we're not that keen either!)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to church.

We welcome those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or are a regular pew sitter.

We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as a kid or got lost and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and You!

This content first appeared in the March 2023 Parish Magazine.

Andrew Howorth, Associate Vicar

Remembrance Sunday Service

This year's Remembrance Sunday Service will take place at Kirklands, Main Street, on **Sunday 12th November at 10.45am**. This will be an outdoor event but there will be seating inside the hall for those wishing to be inside, plus refreshments. The service will be relayed into the hall.



KIRKLANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

We are looking forward to a busy programme of events in the Autumn and the lead up to Christmas. There are lots of old favourites in the diary including Menston Show, Zest Harvest Celebration, the NSPCC Jumble Sale plus their ever popular coffee morning, the Menston Arts Club Exhibition and the village Lights On event. We also have some new events – an ABBA tribute night, an Arts and Crafts Fair and a flower arranging course. Look out for details of these events on our website, Facebook page and on the noticeboard. Thank you to all the groups and event organisers whose varied activities make Kirklands such a vibrant Community Centre.

We have been working hard to make Kirklands more energy efficient and in November we are replacing windows at the front and side of the older part of the building. These are currently single glazed and will be replaced by thermally efficient windows providing much better insulation and better ventilation. The stained glass in the windows will be encapsulated, preserving this beautiful original feature for the future. You may notice that the stained glass will disappear for a time in order for this specialist work to be done but they will be back. This important project has been funded by CIL grant money through the Parish Council and Kirklands (Menston) Trust. We are hoping to complete the remaining windows next year.

We are seeking a social media volunteer to help us manage our online presence. Anyone interested in finding out more about this project should contact Heather Norreys, Centre Manager.

If you want to hold an event or start a new group in the centre come and see us and we will be happy to help or contact us by phone 01943 874335, by email kirklandsct@gmail.com or visit our website kirklandsmenston.org.

Heather Norreys, Centre Manager

Have you visited the Menston Community Fridge yet? Based at Kirklands Community Centre, the Community Fridge is free to use and since opening on 20th February 2023 has stopped over 10 tonnes of food being sent to landfill.

Opening hours:

Saturdays: 9.30-10am; 10.30-11.15am

Mondays: 9.15-10am; 10.30-11.15am

Wednesdays: 6.15-6.45pm

Thursdays: 2-2.30pm; 3-3.45pm

MENSTON 2025 HERITAGE GROUP

We have continued to attract new members to our meetings as we gather information and archive material for our project as part of Bradford UK City of Culture 2025. We will be working with students from the University of Bradford to put together film clips for our heritage trail. If you have pictures or postcards of Menston in earlier years, please do get in touch. The menston.org website now has information on various topics including the former Wharfedale Children's hospital, so do take a look. We will be starting to work on how we film places and people of interest for our trail and do get in contact if you are interested in this aspect of what we are doing. Further information from Marilyn Banister on 874220.

CLIMATE ACTION MENSTON

On **Wednesday 20th September at 7.30pm** at Kirklands, we will be welcoming Dr David Williams, Lecturer in Sustainability and the Environment, School of Earth and Environment at the University of Leeds who will be talking about **'How to save the world without really trying'** focused on reducing meat consumption. Do come along! Over the last weeks, we have been putting together information about solar power installations in Menston. If you have solar panels and maybe batteries, and would be willing to share your experience, please do get in touch with us.

Given the extreme heat/fires experienced around the world this summer, limiting our use of fossil fuels is ever more urgent. If you would be interested in working on whether a community energy scheme would be viable in Menston, do get in touch. In the meantime, please continue to reduce your consumption, re-use what you can and recycle the rest! For further information about CAM and to contact us see:

<https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/enquiries/> or ring Marilyn on 874220.

Marilyn Banister

Should you wish to contact the Menston News either to submit an article or volunteer to become a distributor our email address is menstonnews@gmail.com

The cutoff date for the Spring 2024 edition of the Menston News will be Wednesday 31st January.

As has been said before, the content of all articles within this Newsletter is the sole responsibility of the contributor.

Sophie Joelle Venner, Editor

MENSTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

As our Summer season draws to a close, I take pleasure in letting everyone know the details of our Autumn list of speakers.

Sept 20 Sue Woodcock, a talented and amusing lady, whose subject is 'The Joy of being Eccentric'.

Oct 18 A welcome return to the delightful Colin Anderson, who will be telling us about his years as chef to our late Queen Elizabeth.

Nov 15 Janet Senior, a local historian, is giving us a talk on the little known but beautiful Markenfield Hall, near Ripon.

Dec 20 Our Christmas party is the time for fun and food and chatting to old and new friends.

Jan 17 Patrick Clarke will be describing some of our many listed buildings in Leeds and Bradford.

Feb 21 Liz Sharp who promises to make us laugh at her many escapades.

We meet at 2.30pm every 3rd Wednesday, in Kirklands, Menston. Many activities also take place, including our monthly lunch club, a book club, a Scrabble club, a theatre club and outings and we support a number of charities too. Visitors are welcome, the entry cost is £3.50 and this includes a cuppa, biscuits and raffle prizes.

Call **Laura Moorhouse** on 01943 875041 if you need more information.

MENSTON ARTS CLUB

Please find below our syllabus for the Menston Arts Club Autumn term. Further details and up-to-date information can be found at menstonac.blogspot.com

September 2023

18 2023 AGM - Please attend, as important decisions about the club will be made.

19 Fees for the year now due, please pay by bank transfer, cash or cheque.

25 Illustrated Talk – David Iredale: A Sculptor's Tale.

October 2023

2 Watercolour Demonstration – Ian Hobson: Lakeside Sunset.

9 Workshop – Bring reference material & your preferred medium.

16 Picture (Critique) Night– John Ridyard.

23 Life Class – David Iredale: Bring drawing paper/pad & pencils or charcoal.

30 Last evening for Exhibition entries.

30 Pastel Demonstration – Andrew Moodie.

November 2023

6 Illustrated Talk – Alex Purves: My Own Voyage Of Discovery Through Art.

13 Portrait Demonstration – Catherine Inglis.

18/19 Menston Autumn Exhibition.

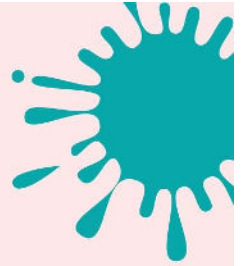
20 Acrylic Demonstration– Nigel Overton: Landscape.

27 Workshop – Nigel Overton: Landscape. Bring acrylic, or any medium.

Ian Hobson

Interested in

Art?

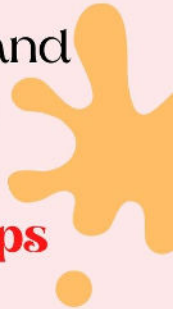
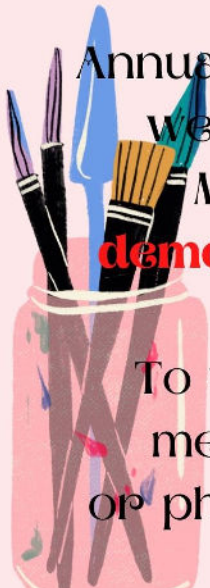


Then why not try
Menston Arts Club?

Our next **exhibition** is on
Sat & Sun 18 & 19 Nov at
Kirklands, Menston

Annual membership is £70 and
we meet in Kirklands on
Monday evenings for
demonstrations, workshops
and **talks**.

To view our syllabus, visit
menstonac.blogspot.com
or phone Ian on 01943 877555



Your community library continues to be a welcoming space. Our cosy corner with games, newspapers, magazines and free refreshments is proving popular. During the summer we have been very busy encouraging our younger customers to take up the challenge to read six books before they return to school. This is proving popular and a great incentive to keep reading during the holidays and to discover the joy of reading for pleasure. To support the challenge we are hosting Zoolab and have also organised some games and sporting activities.

Your library is run by a willing team of friendly volunteers. Perhaps you could spare a few hours to come and join us? Do call in and see what we have to offer.

Jill Cooke



Their Finest Hour Project

Do you have a story or an object from World War II? Maybe it was passed down to you by your parents or grandparents or other family members? Can you help us to build an archive of these memories for Menston before they disappear?

You will also be contributing to an Oxford University research project (similar to the very successful World War I project run by the village).

Find out more at: <https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/home>.

Book the date! **November 4th 2-5pm** at Kirklands to bring your object and your story. We have a great team waiting to record your history. Please do get in touch with Goodith if you have any questions or would like to contribute: 872043.

Goodith White

MENSTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION - FULL CIRCLE FUNERALS

Independent funeral service Full Circle Funerals, which launched in Guiseley in 2016 and recently opened a new site in Ilkley, is the latest business to join the MBA.

Full Circle was founded by Dr Sarah Jones, a former NHS surgeon who wanted to realise an ambition to create a modern funeral care service that is fully focused on supporting wellbeing following bereavement. Full Circle Funerals was the first UK funeral director to become a B Corp, recognising the business's commitment to positive environmental and social impact. The firm was shortlisted for a national Purpose Before Profit award in last year's Lloyds Better Society Awards and has been named Funeral Director of the Year and Green Funeral Director of the Year by the Good Funeral Guide.

Sarah is the author of *Funerals Your Way: A Person Centred Approach to Planning a Funeral*, which is now in its second edition and is stocked at The Grove Bookshop in Ilkley.

Sarah said: "We are delighted to be part of the Association and look forward to collaborating with our fellow members to make a positive impact on our local communities. I am a passionate supporter of the Business for Good movement and look forward to finding new ways to partner with others to create positive change in our area."

Full Circle Funerals is at 114 Otley Road, Guiseley (tel: 01943 262 626) and 38 Leeds Road, Ilkley (tel: 01943 262626)

www.fullcirclefunerals.co.uk

MENSTON GARDENERS

Menston Gardeners commence their Autumn Programme on **Thursday 21st September at 7.30pm** in Kirklands (ground floor Wharfe room) with a presentation by Katy Merrington and "The Garden at Hepworth."

Newcomers are particularly welcome who wish to join us or try us out!

We have a programme of speakers, socials and garden visits for 2023/24. Subs for the year are £20 or £3 per session for visiting guests.

Future presentations include Tracy Foster and "The Bronte Connection" (Oct 19th), Michael Myers and "Yorkshire Gardens" (Nov 16th) and a Christmas Social with a Quiz and Wine & Nibbles (Dec 14th).

The annual programme is displayed in and outside the library and in the Kirklands entrance. A monthly description is also displayed on the noticeboard outside the library.

Evan Johns

Our entry into 'Yorkshire In Bloom' was judged in July and we are looking forward to the results which are due in late September at a regional dinner. Thanks to all who supported our entry particularly the Primary School, MANT and High Royds Memorial Garden. The two judges were also shown the fruiting 'jam and jelly' hedge, bee and butterfly beds, vegetable patch and memorial beds at Kirklands. Then it was around the village to look at the planters, flower beds, gardens, bug hotels, bird boxes, planted trees and wildflower meadows managed by the Menston in Bloom group and its community supporters. In the past 20 years the village has won numerous certificates, an achievement we can be proud of, and we hope to do well again.

With the support of the Shipley Area Committee Community Chest Funding, a 1200 litre water butt has been purchased to collect rainwater from the roof of the Kirklands Community Centre. This replaces the current 80 litre water butt which has proven very useful during dry periods, to water the planters on Main Street, but its capacity has proven to be too small. The 80 litre water butt will be repositioned to continue its rainwater harvesting. Menston in Bloom is improving its sustainability position and the new water butt will considerably increase the amount of rainwater we can harvest to water the summer displays.

The flower beds at the junction of Main Street and Farnley Road, which have been empty over the summer, will be redeveloped with perennial plants in the autumn. These beds, some 15 years old, had become overgrown and no longer provide the horticultural feature that we seek. We hoped to work on the beds over the spring, but the dry hot weather required us to delay their development with the planting of herbaceous flowering plants, shrubs and bulbs.

We are seeking your help with the donation of spring bulbs once again. There will be a box within the library to receive snowdrops, croci, daffodils, alliums and camassias or other bulbs that can naturalise in the green spaces of Menston. So if you're buying a few bulbs for your own garden or as presents why not buy an extra few for the village?

Donations from previous years have been added to the many thousands which we have bought for Menston Park and beds around the village.

Last year we expanded the displays when we planted hundreds of snowdrops and daffodils in the green spaces at Hargrave Crescent which will bring spring colour for many more years to come. Can you help to further enhance the displays?



At the time of writing, we hope once again to offer our Christmas Wreath Making kits for purchase. This annual event not only gives you all the components you need for a super seasonal wreath for your door, but also raises much-needed funds to support Menston in Bloom projects like those above. Look out for more information on the village social media.

2024 is a landmark year for your 'In Bloom' group. The embryonic group undertook its first projects in 2004 and has continued to develop and influence the village green spaces. During 2024 we will continue the work so far undertaken, as well as develop new projects that will benefit the people of Menston, its wildlife, whilst bringing colour and natural beauty to the place we live and work. So why not join our dedicated group of volunteers who will be out and about most Wednesday mornings and on the monthly Saturday garden sessions, when we will be keeping our planters and flower beds maintained and developed. There is no need to commit to a regular session; just come along when you can as we would love to see you. Our garden sessions and other news are publicised either through our email list (email menstoninbloom@gmail.com to join) or Facebook.

Geoff Lomas

SCOUTS AND GUIDES

Scouting and Guiding is run by men and women who give up their free time, around their jobs and families, to plan and deliver adventure and #skillsforlife to children and young people in Menston and all around the world. They do not get paid, they do not get thanked enough, and they absolutely love doing it. However, Menston Scouts are facing the sad prospect of having to close one of its sections due to a lack of volunteers: we desperately need some lovely fresh faces, who care about young people, who like to have fun, to come forward and embrace this new challenge. Could you help? Contact gsl@menstonscoutsandguides.uk.

This Autumn, we will be raising funds for our Scouts and Guides with some exciting events for Menston: A bonfire on Friday 3rd November (venue tbc - look out for info closer to the time), the Big Sing at the Scout hut with brass band on Saturday 16th December (food and hot drinks will be served) and Santa's Sleigh will be touring on 18th & 19th December so keep the kids up! More info to follow via the Menston Village group on Facebook.

Naomi McMorn

Bird Walks: Friday 15th September and every 3rd Friday of the month. Meet outside Kirklands at 9am for a 9:10am start. No dogs please. Donations to MANT very welcome!

Working Parties: Now moved at popular demand to the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2pm. Please see <https://mant.org.uk> for details. Next date Sunday 17th September.

Miss Porritt's Field: Several Scouts and Guides groups have enjoyed some time surveying the field, discovering lots of different plants and fascinating bugs. Thanks to all the leaders and helpers who have made this possible. The field is already showing signs of improved plant diversity too, with some large patches of yellow rattle, which will help weaken the grass and allow more wildflowers to grow. We will be planting out some more wildflowers this autumn. And our lovely cows, Kai, Annie and Jonie will be returning any day now, to eat down the grass and rough up the surface for more plants to seed.

Weston Woods: The legal process has been lengthy and as I write is not yet complete, but on track for MANT to take possession soon, on behalf of Friends of Weston Woods. We still need to repay the loan we have been offered for buying the woods – if you are able to make a donation please visit <https://mant.org.uk> If you would like to be involved in the management of the woods, please contact info@mant.org.uk

Otley Road Fields: Sadly the bid we put in along with Menston Parish Council and another party was unsuccessful. If you donated to the appeal to buy the fields and would like to have your donation refunded, please contact info@mant.org.uk with your bank account details, if you haven't already done so. Any donations not returned will be used to help establish our fighting fund for future purchases unless requested otherwise.

Trustees: MANT has been so successful over the last two years that we now need more people to get involved with running the charity. We're looking for more trustees with good organisational skills, but mostly enthusiasm and a willingness to pitch in. Any fundraising/legal/marketing/social media experience would be particularly welcome, but not essential. We have been amazed by the response to our efforts and running MANT has been the most satisfying work I have ever done. In-depth knowledge of nature is not required, just a passion for wildlife and a desire to help nature thrive.

Francesca Bridgewater

We all have our favourite ways to spend those lazy days of summer. Perhaps sinking deeper into a garden deckchair as you gaze at a glass of chilled Chardonnay or what about a perfect Pimm's as you hear the thwack of leather against willow? Or even ices on the beach as the calming waves of the North Sea lap against your feet?

I may be a little naughty as I write this article, against a backdrop of sheeting July rain but I really want you to think about WINTER!

Yes, I can now inform you that after looking at many scripts, the winter 2024 Pantomime Production will be (drum roll)...

ROBIN HOOD AND BABES IN THE WOOD

This spectacular production will take place on **Thursday 15th February to Saturday 17th February** at Kirklands Community Centre.

After our sell-out extravaganza of Alice In Wonderland, start looking at our website for booking details shortly.



We also need your help. We are looking out for new faces who could be our next delightful dame, audience hissing villain, thigh-slapping hero or a fabulous fairy. We also need help with set construction, costumes, lighting, sound, front of house, bar management and many other very important jobs. So come along to our auditions on **Wednesday 13th September at Kirklands Library, children 6.30pm to 7pm and adults 7pm onwards**. Join our band of friendly men and women today!

Keith Galvin

MENSTON METHODIST CHURCH

Our services, groups and activities are open to all and we offer a warm welcome to everyone. Details of all our activities are publicised on the church notice board and website: www.menstonmethodist.org.uk and you can follow us on Facebook.

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10.30am. Our services are varied, either held in church or are more informal in the main hall. The children meet for their own activities in Sun Club.

Alpha: We run regular evening Alpha courses in Cornerstone. If you are interested in exploring some of life's bigger questions, email: jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com.

Breathe: The next Breathe session will be on Wednesday 4 October at 7.30pm in Cornerstone. This offers a relaxed space in the busyness of life to think about deeper things, faith, God and to be refreshed. For those with or without faith.

Tuesday Morning Prayer group continues to meet at 9.30am.

Friday Friendship Group meets on Friday 1 September at 2pm with a quiz and will meet fortnightly thereafter. Further information from 873573.

Wednesday Group for ladies meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm. Wednesday 6 September will be a beetle drive. Further information from 874127.

Friday Club for young people from the age of 7 to 13 years usually meets on the last Friday of the month. The next will be on 29 September from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Friday Live for young people from 13 to 17 years also meets on the last Friday of the month in Cornerstone from 8pm to 9.30pm.

Vivace Youth Choir rehearses during term time on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 7.15pm. The choir is open to young people aged 8 years and upwards. For further information contact Eleanor Cree on 875637.

Lunchtime Organ Music recitals will resume on Friday 13 October. These will take place on the second Friday of the month from 1pm to 1.30pm in church. Free entry.

Walking Group walks of approx. 5 miles monthly on Thursdays, meeting at 9.30am behind Kirklands. Further information from 511571.

Tennis Club members play on Monday mornings and table tennis is also available in the main hall. For further information pop to the court behind the Church from 10am on a Monday morning.

Our thoughts and prayers are continually with all those in our community and their families. If you need someone to talk to or pray with in strict confidence, please contact our Minister, Rev Tim Perkins (revtmp1971@gmail.com) or our Lay Pastor, Jo Dixon (jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com).

Jalna Jenkins

It's been lovely to welcome so many Menston people to our café over the summer months, particularly during the good weather when everyone could enjoy sitting outside in the garden. We also have blankets available for those chillier days if customers want to sit outside with their dogs or just like the fresh air.

We joined in the village celebrations to mark the coronation of King Charles in June, serving (a lot of) cream teas! We have also started to host a Memory Café for all those affected by dementia. **This takes place on the first Wednesday of each month from 10am to 12.30pm.**

We are very aware that the cost of living is causing real worry to many people. As a community café we want to offer something to eat and drink to everyone, regardless of ability to pay. If you, or someone you know, is struggling, please speak to Charlotte (07714 043650) or Jo (07870 700713) in confidence and we will try to help. Similarly, as winter approaches and with heating costs still high, anyone needing to keep warm in Cornerstone will be very welcome.

In June we celebrated Volunteers' Week as a way of saying thank you to all those who keep the café running so smoothly all year round. One of our volunteers said: "Apart from the cliché of "giving back to the community", since volunteering at Cornerstone, I have had the opportunity of meeting the young and old, the new to the area as well as long-time residents, and it is lovely to hear them enthuse about our village and remind us of "how lucky we are" to live here. So whilst I may not always start my session with a smile, I always leave with one after." If you have any spare time during the week or on Saturdays and would like to help in Cornerstone, please call in and leave your details. We are open every day except Wednesday and Sunday, 9am to 1.30pm, on Main Street next to the Methodist Church.

Charlotte Montague

Again the Menston Community Association would like to thank all the volunteer contributors and distributors who give of their time so generously. Yet again the MCA would like to thank Menston Parish Council for paying the printing costs of our Newsletter.

The MCA are grateful to Tom and Justin of Small Print who work so hard to print and collate the Newsletter.

An online version of the Menston News may be accessed through the village website – menston.org

The MCA can be contacted on mcamenston@gmail.com

MENSTON RETIRED MEN'S FORUM

Menston Retired Men's Forum meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning at 10am in the Wharfeside Room in Kirklands.

We are a friendly group of young at heart men, who value the companionship of a great social group, and we welcome speakers with a varied range of topics to entertain us.

Our programme commences on Wednesday 20th September with a short AGM followed by 'in house' social participation.

October 4th – Lesley Newman: An illustrated talk entitled "The Actor, The Singer, The Medics and The Solicitor."

October 18th – David Davies: An illustrated talk entitled "Britain at Ease (Life and Leisure) 1945-1959."

November 1st – Members Morning: Talks by our own members, subjects unknown!

November 15th – Chris Helme: An illustrated talk entitled "So you want to be a Pirate."

December 6th – Open Meeting: In the Main Hall, when family and friends are invited to join us for entertainment and singing.

December 20th – Christmas Party

Mike Hughes

BRADFORD BABY BANK AND THE CRAFT GROUP

Thank you to the people of Menston who have purchased pegbags made by Grace and Glenis over the Spring and Summer months (not sure that we have had a Summer!).

The pegbags have raised in excess of £250 for Bradford Baby Bank (BBB). This money will be used to purchase articles, preferably at sale prices, where there is a shortfall.

BBB also provide hospital bags with toiletries and necessities for Mums going into hospital to have their babies as well as formula milk and nappies for all those that need these. All the low income families who rely on BBB are either referred to them by social or medical professions.





BBB asked us to make blankies as shown in the photo to be slipped into the first bag of necessities that a baby receives. After initial design problems we are now roaring ahead and enjoying the process of producing these. We have continued our routine knitting of hats, plus a few scarves, for the up and coming winter for babies to five-year-olds as well as knitted hats for premature babies in Leeds and Bradford. Our plans to raise further funds for BBB

are to make shopping bags from materials that have been donated to the Craft Group. Fabrics have been donated by John of C R Robson & Son in Guiseley, the people of Menston and have come from our own stashes too. We are very much looking forward to making these and the designs will range from regular-looking bags to origami-styled Japanese-influenced creations.

Another fundraiser that we have in mind for BBB is to make Christmas Tree decorations in clay as well as name tags for presents. The present labels will have to be pre-ordered which can be done through our email address: menstoncraftgroup@gmail.com. There is also the possibility of making Christmas-themed scrunchies and bow hair slides.

The Craft Group meets in the Community Library every Thursday between 10am and noon. Why not join us if you are an accomplished crafter or come and learn a new skill as we are more than happy to help you get started.

Anne Gadd

NSPCC

The Wharfedale branch of NSPCC thank you for your support for our fundraising efforts in the village to help vulnerable children and young people. Our next events to be held in Kirklands are...

Saturday 21st October – Jumble Sale from 2pm

Saturday 4th November – Winter Coffee Morning from 10am to 12 noon, with Christmas cards and gifts, raffle, cakes, jams and preserves and jewellery. £5 entrance, pay on the door.

If you need any details please call Jane Hughes 875999.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Jane Hughes

WRITING ON THE WHARFE

For this edition of the Menston News, we have submitted a piece of creative writing for the community to enjoy. **We meet fortnightly in the library on a Saturday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm.** Please join us if you are interested in writing. You certainly do not have to read out any of your work if you do not want to. Just join us and have fun with like-minded people.

Martin Fuller

An event in France by John Ridyard

One hot day we discovered a
Unicorn sheltering from the
midday heat, enchanting
broken light flowing over his
majestic back
His feet out of sight deep in the
cool of long meadow grass.

We were in Auvers-sur-Oise
Walking an exposed unmade
road leading uphill to a
Cemetery
A golden wheat field to our left
With Crows circling as if in
imitation of Vincent's famous
painting.

And me without a hat
Looking into the sun
Our destination
Two sad graves
One dedicated to Vincent
the other to his
Faithful brother Theo.

The white horse without the
hallucinogenic effect of the
heat may have been just a
beautiful, Old, powerful and
faithful friend
The local aristocrats' pet
But for us it will always be our
very own Unicorn.

MENSTON CRICKET CLUB

The official opening of the new pavilion extension at Menston Cricket Club took place on Sunday 2nd July. In a full day's celebration at the club, we were delighted that Dale Smith agreed to perform the traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony during the interval between a Women's 1st XI match against Bradford Park Avenue and a Girls' U15 match against an Australian touring team.



The club is indebted to Menston Parish Council for a grant of £50,000 from the CIL fund towards the building of the extension, with the remainder of the cost being met from an ECB loan and donations to a Buy-a-Brick scheme from members and friends. The extension was built by Smart Modular Ltd of Otley and the project included a full refurbishment of the cricket pavilion with a new kitchen, bar and facilities for the disabled.

As members of the Airedale & Wharfedale Senior League (AWSCL) since 1939, we cater for all levels of junior and senior cricket. We operate four senior teams on Saturdays, including two teams based at High Royds playing in the Craven & District League. Our AWSCL 3rd XI plays on Sundays and we also operate a Women and Girls' team in the West Yorkshire Women's League. Our Junior Section runs various boys' and girls' teams from U9 age group upwards. All results and information about future events can be found on the club's website (menston.play-cricket.com), together with contact details for enquiries about membership and pavilion hire.

Mike Pratt