

MENSTON NEWS

MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 141

www.menston.org

Spring 2025



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



In this year's first edition of the Menston News, we share exciting updates from village groups and organisations. Read on to find out what's going on in our lovely village!

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MENSTON NEWS

Welcome to the spring edition of the Menston News. As I am writing this, I can already see the daffodils beginning to emerge around our village's spaces as well as snowdrops and primroses. These early signs show us spring will be here before we know it, with lighter nights and mornings as well as better weather which gives us much to look forward to. It's great to see the children getting back into the park and making the most of their new play equipment.

Since becoming Chair of the Menston Community Association, myself and the committee have been working to get the name of the Community Association back out there and letting folk know who we are and what we do. So what is the Community Association, and what does it do? Please take a look at our centrefold article for information about us, what plans we have for the year ahead, how we support Menston and what we and you can do to make the most out of our village community.

The MCA does a lot to support our community. We have recently invested in equipment and resources (such as display stands, games equipment and contactless card readers) for the MCA and other local groups and organisations to use. We now have a central email address (info@menston-ca.org) for enquiries, requests and suggestions and a new MCA website will also be launched very soon. Of course, we must not forget the Menston News which is published three times a year and delivered by hand to every dwelling in Menston and its neighbourhood.

There is a lot to look forward to in the Menston year ahead. Plenty of events, activities and classes are running and being planned for as we speak by the Community Association and other groups and organisations. There is something for everyone and we hope you will come along and continue to support and enjoy these events, as they really do make Menston a very special place to live.

Cheryl Thornton, Chair, MCA

MENSTON PARISH COUNCIL

As we venture into spring, it's been very encouraging to see the recently refurbished play areas in Menston Park are being put to good use and providing an improved outdoor space for children to play, and parents, grandparents and carers to meet and talk. It was great to have so many members of the Menston Parks Group contributing their ideas and to see that most of what was requested has been installed. This was made possible through

close collaboration with Bradford Council (CBMDC) who funded the upgrade together with a significant contribution made by the Parish Council from the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Parks Group are now working with the Parish Council on ideas for a circuit path for the park, and together with Menston in Bloom for improving the memorial garden area.



Work has now started at Menston railway station to replace the existing bridge and provide lift access to the platforms. There will be a temporary bridge installed at the Leeds end of the station. The project is part of a programme called "Access for All" run by Network Rail and includes upgraded CCTV, lighting and public announcement systems. Nearby households have been advised of potential disruption, and parking at the station will be reduced for the duration, which is estimated at about 15 months.

By the time this newsletter is distributed, several highways' improvements will hopefully be underway to provide better road safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, following the previous public consultations. Further improvement planning is in progress with respect to the junctions of Main Street with Bingley Road and with Cleasby Road.

One of the attractions of living in Menston is its semi-rural location, surrounded by greenbelt, but accepting that our country needs to find space for an ever-increasing demand for homes. With this in mind, a planning application which was submitted to provide access to Green Belt land to build new homes on the fields to the East of Otley Rd (near the Fox pub) was considered by the Menston Parish Council in January. This potential site will be controversial to many, and the MPC considered carefully and concluded that the current application did not meet several requirements of national and local planning policies and frameworks. As such, we recommended the application to be refused and to be referred to the CBMCD planning panel for further scrutiny in relation to highways and ecological issues and building in the Green Belt. It's not often that we issue reminders in our leafy village, but following several concerns raised last summer about encroachment of hedges restricting access to pavements and roads, a further reminder is issued to encourage local residents to check on overgrowing hedges and trees, and to arrange trimming where they overgrow this spring.

The Parish Council meets on the last Thursday of every month, in Kirklands, 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

Menston Parish Council - Neighbourhood planning

In February there will have been the chance to give your views on the proposed vision, aims and policies that are being suggested for the Neighbourhood Plan. The information is based on the workshops and survey held in 2023/24. There will be further opportunities to give your views prior to the final version being ready in the Autumn.

Menston Parish Council

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

Hello from St John's! It was so good to see so many of you over Christmas.

As you read this, the days are getting longer and brighter, and spring is on its way! Hooray!

At St John's we love spring, not only the light and flowers but the hope and life they point to and that is what we celebrate at Easter – hope and life! We would love you to join us.

We have services every Sunday morning. At 9.30am we have an informal service with contemporary music called Zest, and at 11am we have a traditional service with organ music. We also have monthly "Core" afternoons for kids aged 7-11 and occasional Eco-Days – do keep your eye out for events and dates coming up on Facebook and posters around the village. As we look forward to Easter and wonder together about all that Jesus did and why, we have some special services and events:

Tuesday 15th April, 7pm

Thursday 17th April, 7pm

Friday 18th April, 3pm

Saturday 19th April, 2pm

Sunday 20th April, 5.40am

Sunday 20th April, 10am

Stations of the Cross (guided reflection)

The Last Supper (with Holy Communion)

An Hour at the Cross (space for contemplation)

Zest @ Kirklands - exploring Easter for all the family - look out for the real donkeys!

Sunrise Prayer (watching the sunrise, with a firepit)

Easter Celebration (with Holy Communion)

Why not come along and find out why that Christmas baby was so special?

Looking forward to seeing you again, or meeting you for the first time!

And until then may you be assured of our prayers,

And may God bless you.



Rev Jo, and all at St John's

St John's Menston - Eco Church

The Eco church group will be holding another family eco quiz in the spring as well as an Easter workshop. We will be doing more planting and other "green" activities.

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas jumper swap at the Lights Switch On. 69 jumpers were donated and 37 were re-homed; the rest going to charity. This saved about 807kg of CO₂, or the equivalent of driving 5,492 miles in an electric car, which would have been emitted if new jumpers had been made and purchased.

The charity, Recoup, who assisted with the project, hopes to roll it out to schools and community groups nationally.

If you are interested in eco church activities do get in touch with the group via www.stjohnmenston.org.uk or the Parish Office 872433.

Marilyn Banister

Save the date! St John's Menston - Music in the Air concert

Saturday 21st June - time to be confirmed.



Menston in Bloom began its volunteer work in 2004 and has since planted 1000s of bulbs, donated or bought with donated funds, which we hope you are enjoying.

Following the award of a grant from Shipley Area Committee Community Chest Fund, we will be progressing the horticulture project in Menston Park. This will create a new garden accessible to all, with scent, colour and wildlife opportunities. The location at the junction of Farnley Road and Main Street was the war memorial garden in the 1960s. The memorials were moved to Kirklands Community Centre, where they are looked after by Menston in

Bloom and others. The grant supports the planting of a 28m lavender hedge along the Farnley Road wall. We plan to prepare the planting site in March, with the lavender planted in April. The current annual wildflower bed will be sown with grass to support the grass cutting maintenance programme.

New rose beds will be created and initially sown with an annual/wildflower seed mix, becoming rose beds later. We would also like to add

three trees into the existing perennial wildflower meadow. Other work may include the removal of the small wall around the central bed and the removal of the dying tree. The stone from the small wall could be used to repair the nearby walls along the park path.

With your support we will once again make this area a garden, complementing the other opportunities that the park offers.

We are seeking a small digger, walling materials and skills so, if you can help, please get in touch.

Why not join us if you can? We would love to see you. **We meet most Wednesday mornings and monthly Saturdays for our garden sessions.**

Our garden sessions and other news is publicised either through our email list (email menstoninbloom@gmail.com), the Village News Calendar (menston.org) or our Facebook page.



Geoff Lomas

We welcome you to our 10.30am Sunday services.

On the **1st and 3rd Sundays of the month** they are held in our main hall, café style, a more relaxed and informal way to worship. Children are welcome to **Sun Club at 10.30am on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays** of the month during term time.

As we welcome spring we look forward to **Mothering Sunday on 30th March, Easter Day on 20th April and Christian Aid Sunday on 10th May.**

If you are looking for something a little different, why not try Breathe, held **once a month on a Wednesday at 7.30pm** in Cornerstone. We also run Alpha courses if you are looking to explore life's bigger questions or just curious - for further information on both please contact jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com.

Our Easter Fayre will be on Saturday 12th April from 10am to 12 noon. Lunchtime organ recitals with our organist, Michael Pratt, are held on the **2nd Friday of the month from 1pm to 1.30pm.** Free entry with retiring collection.

Vivace, our youth choir (for ages 7+) meet on **Thursday evenings at 6.30pm.** New members welcome; for further information contact Eleanor Cree on 01943 875637.

Our usual activities continue: Friday Friendship Group (fortnightly at 2pm), Wednesday Group for ladies (monthly at 2pm), Tuesday morning prayers at 9.30am, Friday Club for 7 to 13 year-olds (monthly at 6pm), Friday Live for 13+ years (monthly at 7.30pm) and Tennis & Table Tennis (Mondays at 10am). Details of our activities are advertised on the Church noticeboard, Church Facebook page and website: www.menstonmethodist.org.uk.

If you would like to speak to someone regarding a wedding, baptism or funeral, please contact our Minister, Rev Cameron Stirk (thestirks@tiscali.co.uk).

Jalna Jenkins

Menston Methodist Tennis Club

This is a small friendly club which plays on the court behind the Methodist Church. Social play takes place on a Monday morning from 10am, when table tennis is also available in the main hall. Members can play tennis at other times when the court is free.

For membership enquiries please pop along to the court on a Monday morning or telephone 01943 870871.

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

We opened our new kitchen in September and are thrilled with the extra space for volunteers and customers alike.

For those who haven't already found us, we are a community café, open every day except Wednesday and Sunday, from 9.30am to 1.30pm, on Main Street next to the Methodist Church.

We serve breakfasts, light lunches, cake and great coffee. Check our website (www.menstonmethodist.org.uk/cornerstone) or Facebook page for more information and information about any changes to our schedule. We also host a Memory Café in association with Home Instead for those living with dementia and their carers on the first **Wednesday of the month from 10am to 12 noon** and **village Cameo lunches on the second Wednesday** for older people living alone to enjoy lunch and a chat with others.

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.

Cornerstone is staffed by volunteers so if you have some spare time and would like to join us, we'd love to hear from you.

Charlotte Montague

MENSTON 2025 HERITAGE GROUP



Following lots of research and visits to other archive collections locally, the group are about to start cataloguing what we have been given and recording it on a searchable database. The resources will be based in the room at the back of the library and access information will be available soon.

There is a rich variety of material - photos, maps, periodicals etc. The trail is being designed ready for publication - as a paper version and probably online too. There is

already a lot of information on the menston.org website.

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm in Kirklands**. Do come along if you're interested in getting involved in our local history. Further information from Marilyn on 874220.

Marilyn Banister

MENSTON RETIRED MEN'S FORUM

Menston Retired Men's Forum meet every first and third Wednesday morning in the Wharfeside Room in Kirklands at 10am for refreshments, and then we welcome speakers sharing knowledge on a wide range of topics to entertain us. We have about 40 members who value the friendship of our group, and we have room for more members!

Our meetings are as follows:

February 19th	Anna Dixon MP – 'Westminster Update'
March 5th	David Winpenny – 'Up to a Point'
March 19th	Malcolm Johnson – 'Children's Favourites 1 (The 1950s)'
April 2nd	Eric Jackson – 'After You're Dead!'
April 16th	Martin Lunn – 'The Sun and the Northern Lights'
May 7th	Graham Read – 'Iconic Cars'
May 21st	Sir Thomas Ingleby – 'All in a Knight's Work'

If you would like to come and join us or would like any further information please contact Mike Hughes 875999.

Mike Hughes

NSPCC

Children these days are growing up in a complicated world and with challenges from online grooming to cyberbullying and lack of self-confidence.

Childline councillors are contacted by a child every 45 seconds, and it is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Every £20 raised could help answer a call from five children who desperately need support.

The Wharfedale Branch of NSPCC believe that a safe and happy childhood is the most powerful gift there is, and so we continue with our fundraising to support NSPCC.

We are holding a Coffee Morning at Kirklands on Saturday 29th March from 10am, a Jumble Sale at Kirklands on Saturday 26th April at 2pm and a Bridge Drive at Kirklands on Wednesday 16th July at 1.30pm.

Please put these dates in your diary and come along to support us. If you need any further details, please contact Jane Hughes 875999.

Jane Hughes



The New Year is the time to get active and focus on your wellbeing and you will find lots of opportunities to do this at Kirklands.

The Studio runs Pilates and keep fit classes throughout the week, during the day and in the evening. They are located in the old building on the first floor and have a dedicated studio.

Three types of yoga can be accessed here – Iyengar yoga with Jo Lovell on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Dru Yoga with Rachel Ewing on Tuesday evening and Hatha yoga on Thursday morning. Ravenmoon Sound Bath meditation also have sessions booked in.

The Menston Crown Green Bowling Club will be opening up for the new season in April. They are located at the back of the Kirklands building and have their own clubhouse. You can come for coaching, just to come and play, social bowling and competitive matches. Beginners and experienced players will receive a warm welcome.

Badminton clubs run on Monday evening, Thursday evening and Friday morning. Enthusiastic players are always welcome.

For more information about these and other classes at Kirklands please go to our website kirklandsmenston.org and look at the timetable.

Events to look out for:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 29th March | NSPCC coffee morning |
| 13th April | Craft Fair |
| Easter holidays | PE People holiday club |
| 19th April | Zest Easter Special |
| 26th April | NSPCC jumble sale |
| 10th/11th May | Menston Arts Club Exhibition |
| 7th June | Menstonbury (Menston Pre-School) |
| 21th June | “Get Me Home” Menston Thespians performance |

If you want to hold an event or start a class up at Kirklands please contact Heather Norreys on 01943 874335, email kirklandsct@gmail.com or go to our website and make a booking request.

Heather Norreys

Bird Walks: Andrew Kelly will be running occasional bird walks on Saturdays, depending on the weather. These will be emailed to members and advertised on the website a couple of days in advance, so keep an eye on mant.org.uk.

Working Parties: These will continue to occur in Menston on occasional Sundays from 2-4pm – please check the events page on the website. Members will be emailed with details. There are also volunteer events taking place in Weston Woods, from Rhododendron removal to building dry hedging or litter picking. Again, these will be advertised on the website, or you can sign up for the free Friends of Weston Woods email to be kept in touch: <https://tinyurl.com/4tsja9t2>. All welcome.

Miss Porritt's Field: Observant readers will have spotted that the conservation cattle looked slightly different this year. Three handsome White Park cattle came to help munch down the herbage in the autumn, on a brief holiday from their normal home at Denton Reserve. So efficient were these beauties that they only stayed for 3 weeks. Our usual friendly Dexters, Annie, Kai and Joni, send their apologies but were very busy over at East Keswick. In the next few months a second fence will be put up at the back of the field, to join the existing copse with the new planting up the side. We are hoping to get help from Menston Primary School once again to plant more native trees behind it next autumn. This will provide further shelter and a corridor for wildlife to traverse in central Menston.

Weston Woods: The Woodland Management Plan is being written, which will help us to manage the woods for nature, and allow us to apply for government grants for work needed in the future. Meanwhile, Friends of Weston Woods (FoWW) has carried out a couple of Discovery Days in Otley with the community, to find out what is important to people about the community woodland, and to explore how the community can help enhance the environment for nature.

Many thanks to all who participated in the FoWW Auction in November – we raised a further £3000 which has gone to paying off the bridging loan used for buying the woods.

People can still sponsor a 3x3m square in the woods, and locate it via the What3Words app. Visit: mant.org.uk/sponsored-squares.

Menston Biodiversity Plan: MANT has been charged with surveying the wildlife hotspots and natural habitats across the village, to feed into the Menston Neighbourhood Plan, being drawn up by Menston Parish Council. We are being supported by the Yorkshire Wildlife WY Ecology Service. Please send us records of any wildlife you see, with time and place.

Trustees: MANT is still looking for more Trustees, or other volunteers who could help us run the charity. If you are enthusiastic about nature and have the energy to match, please get in touch at info@mant.org.uk.

Francesca Bridgewater

MENSTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our membership is full but visitors are welcome to come along and add their names to our waiting list if they are interested in joining us.

Our last season was busy with our regular meetings and outings to Boundary Mill in Colne, Harden Garden Centre for Christmas shopping and to the pantomime in Yeadon which was rated 'Excellent'.

Our programme for the next few months is:

February 19th **Malcolm Johnson whose talk has the intriguing title 'Famous for 12 minutes'**

March 19th **A.G.M. - Our business meeting and socialising**

April 16th **Steven Caldwell tells us about his working life in property at Windsor Castle**

May 21st **Tracy Dryden, a new Menston resident, shares her love and passion for pottery and ceramics**

June 18th **Roy Vickers and Martin Sunderland of Mercury Movies are entertaining us with a professional film (details later) to delight us all**

July 16th **David Hardcastle, a retired police officer, shares a light-hearted historical overview of 120 years of the service, with artifacts to handle, so 'good behaviour required'.**

August 20th **Ian Howe, a well known Menston resident, asks us 'How did we get here?' (not the biological way!)**

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in Kirklands, Main Street, Menston.

Laura Moorhouse

MENSTON YARBOMBERS



After a very busy Christmastime, and our new advent initiative, we have been planning for 2025 and getting ready for another yarn-filled year. We are already working on new postbox toppers for February, March and April, and we are producing themes that are new to us, and to the village. You can expect to see some old favourites popping up through the seasons too. Last year, we developed our signature style of having something fly on the toppers; this year, we are expanding our engineering skills, so hopefully we can go bigger and bolder. As always, we are keeping the subjects a secret, as we know that people have enjoyed the surprise element of the big reveal.

Our new spring project, in addition to toppers, will feature the Woolly Walkers and Hikers. They will be appearing on footpath signs around Menston so please say hello if you bump into them. We are very grateful that we live in such a lovely place, and that our work is relatively untouched; as we move further out, we're not sure what to expect, so do let us know if they need any attention.

Our calendar is now full for this year, but if you have any thoughts about projects for 2026, do please let us know. As always, thanks to Cygnet Yarns, to our engineers, and to all the people who stop to say how much they enjoy the work. We are very grateful for your support. Thanks also to Menston Community Association, for including us in the group.

You can contact us at menstonyarnbombers@hotmail.com and via Facebook.



Anne Lomas

MENSTON CROWN GREEN BOWLING CLUB

At the moment we are in the closed season for bowls. The Airedale and Wharfedale league fixtures were completed around the end of September and won't start again until the beginning of April 2025. A note to anyone thinking of joining the club. Now might be a good time to start making enquiries, as you could start playing at the start of a new season and have all the glorious English spring and summer to enjoy the game.

However, this does not mean that our members have been moping about watching daytime TV, eating the endless supply of Christmas chocolates and biscuits and pining for the start of the new season.

No, they have been taking part in the closed season activities. Table tennis on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and Whist on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Just need to find a way to transfer these new-found skills into Crown Green Bowling.

On 29th September we had our presentation day buffet at the Menstone Club. A well attended social occasion. Our members had been competing for the Five club cups and trophies. The club social secretary had done an excellent job of calculating the handicaps and seeding the draw to give all participants an equal chance of winning. Please, check out our blog at menstonbc.wordpress.com for pictures and winners.

During this closed season, improvements have been made to the public footpath round the bowling green. The path had become uneven, so some tree roots have been removed and the path resurfaced. Green maintenance has continued throughout the winter with fertilising, moss control and a light grass cut. It's looking in good condition for the beginning of the next season.

I hope you will consider joining us for the new season. All the information you need is at menstonbc.wordpress.com/about.

Check it out then ring Peter Hammond (secretary) 01943-863417 or Mike Ripley 07472-800126.

Mike Ripley

MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

About Menston Community Association

When the Parish Council was established, the Community Association became a registered charity and took on the role in the village providing social and educational events for the community and its neighbourhood. To this day, we are still committed to this.

Community Association Membership

Everyone who lives in Menston and its neighbourhood is a member of the Menston Community Association. It is a free membership (not something you hear very often these days!) and everyone can come along and take part in any MCA events.

The MCA and Partner Groups

The MCA consists of four trustees and a committee but it also has several partner groups including: Menston in Bloom, Light Up Menston, Menston Village Show, Menston World War Memorial Group and the Menston Yarnbombers.

Newsletter Update - can you help us deliver the Menston News?

Recently, two of our newsletter delivery team members have retired after many years of loyal service. We could not let this go unnoticed so we wanted to thank Jane and Dudley for all their valuable help.

We are always looking for new people to join the team, particularly as the village is growing and by the next edition the new houses at Derry Hill will be starting to be occupied. If you can spare an hour just three times a year please contact us at our email address info@menston-ca.org.

Perhaps you could make a family event of helping with the newsletter delivery and combine it with a nice walk in the village! Family groups would be welcomed and we would be happy to enrol any little helpers as special Honorary Newsletter Deliverers complete with badge and certificate.

Cheryl Thornton

MCA Events for 2025

Sunday 8 June - Family Day, including the Menston Boundary Walk & Famous Menston Cream Tea with Open Gardens

Morning - Menston Boundary Walk (option of routes for all abilities)
Afternoon - Menston Cream Tea plus some beautiful local gardens to visit. Will include a variety of crafts and other stalls plus children's games and activities.

Sunday 5 October - Annual Community & Family Day (including AGM)

To be held at Kirklands 1.30-4pm. A free event for all the family with stalls, games and refreshments.

Watch this space... Following the huge success DJ Wilko Wilkes had at the Christmas Light Up we are hoping to run a collaborative event with him later in the year.

MENSTON COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The Menston Community Lottery was launched just over a year ago. Have you signed up yet?

- Any person over 18 can join
- Tickets are just £1 per week (£4.34 monthly)
- Guaranteed weekly Menston winner plus a national £25,000 weekly prize
- 50% of all proceeds go to the Menston Community Association
- Over £2,000 community funds raised so far.

This year we have set ourselves a target so, as well as raising the funds to run events, we want to raise enough money to invest in new outdoor event equipment. We're thinking new chairs, tables and gazebos etc. As well as using these for our own events, we would like to be able to offer these to other local groups and organisations for their activities too.

Can you help us?

Join the Menston Community Lottery by scanning the QR Code or go to www.onelottery.co.uk to subscribe.



Special lottery draw news

If you join by the end of May, all active members will go into our special summer draw where you could win £150 like our recent winner. You can read all about it below!

Our Christmas lottery draw winner



Zoey is well known in the village as she works at the school and other local businesses.

She recently won £150 in our special Christmas draw - congratulations, Zoey! Next time... it could be you! By entering the Community Lottery, you will be providing valuable support not just for the Menston Community Association but for the whole Menston community. All for less than the price of a couple of cups of coffee per month.

Our history curriculum helps children at Menston Primary School to develop the confidence to think critically, ask questions, and be able to explain and analyse historical evidence. Through our history curriculum, we aim to build an awareness of significant events and individuals in global, British and local history and recognise how things have changed over time.

Our history curriculum provides opportunities for children to learn to appreciate the diverse make up of societies and the relationships between different groups. It helps children to develop empathy for others while providing opportunities to learn from mankind's past mistakes and successes.

History enables children to develop a context for their growing sense of identity and a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people. What they learn through history can influence their decisions about personal choices, attitudes and values. At Menston Primary School our intent, when teaching history, is to stimulate the children's curiosity in order for them to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding.



Our history curriculum supports pupils in building their understanding of chronology, making connections over periods of time and developing a chronologically-secure knowledge of history. We aim to develop pupils' understanding of how historians study the past and construct accounts and the skills to carry out their own historical enquiries.

Within their topic on dinosaurs, our Reception children learn about how the world has changed over time,

comparing their life with that of people long ago. In Key Stage 1, children learn about significant people, including Rosa Parks, Amelia Earhart and Nelson Mandela. In Key Stage 2, children learn about significant periods and events in history including WWII, the Windrush, ancient Greece and the Industrial Revolution.

This term, our year two pupils will welcome a local visitor who will talk about Bleach Mill in the context of the curriculum enquiry question 'What can a street name tell us about the past?'

Our year three pupils enhance their learning with a historical immersion day at Herd Farm. Herd Farm is home to three full-sized replica Iron Age roundhouses. During the visit, children develop their understanding and appreciation of the challenges of prehistoric life and the knowledge, skills and ingenuity that were required to survive over 2,000 years ago in Britain.

Mrs Lynsey Hardiman, History subject leader

MENSTON ARTS CLUB

Something bright and sunny for the diary when the snow has long gone!
Our next exhibition and sale of Arts & Craft will be on the weekend of 10th and 11th May, 10.30am to 4.30pm both days.

We will be celebrating our 60th anniversary next year. Though our founder members are no longer with us, we strive to maintain the high standards and friendly atmosphere that they initiated.

The club has encouraged many budding creatives over the years, with visits from established inspirational artists, demonstrations, practical tutorials and film.

We still meet at 7.15pm on Monday evenings at Kirklands & new members are always welcome. Do come along and try us out.

We look forward to opening the doors at Kirklands at 10.30am on Saturday 10th May and are hard at work creating a varied and wonderful display of framed pictures in oils, water colour and acrylic for sale.

Portfolio mounted work can also be purchased. Entry is free and with disabled access. We have a fabulous raffle, craft section, refreshments and ample parking.

Sue Brearley

WRITING ON THE WHARFE

Writing on the Wharfe meets every other Saturday at Menston Library at 10.30am. Please find below upcoming meeting dates:

- **8th March 2025**
- **22nd March 2025**
- **5th April 2025**
- **26th April 2025**
- **10th May 2025**
- **24th May 2025**
- **7th June 2025**
- **21st June 2025**

Writing on the Wharfe

Hello! I'm Rebecca, a degree-qualified acupuncturist and owner of Thrive Acupuncture Clinic (previously known as Wharfedale Acupuncture Clinic). I first discovered acupuncture when I was trying to conceive my eldest son, and I was absolutely blown away by how much it helped me to relax as well as helping me to fall pregnant! A few years later, having had two children, I realised my corporate role in financial services was no longer the best fit for my family life so I made the decision to re-train and become an acupuncturist. Doing a degree over the age of 40 was certainly a challenge but I love every minute of my new career, and I can honestly say I've never looked back! I established my acupuncture clinic in 2023 in Menston and following a relocation and a change of name, it's gone from strength to strength. I'm passionate about sharing the benefits of acupuncture with as many people as possible. The principles of acupuncture are rooted in the understanding that we need to identify and treat the root cause not just the symptom and that everything in our bodies is connected and doesn't operate in isolation. For example, the interconnectivity between our physical and mental health or our gut health and our emotional well-being. Acupuncture is recommended by the World Health Organisation for over 100 conditions. I've included below some of the conditions I've supported patients with in the last few months to give you some idea:

- Fertility support (including IVF)
- Menopause
- Menstrual health (PCOS, endometriosis, etc)
- Stress, anxiety and depression
- Allergies
- Headaches / migraines
- Facial rejuvenation
- Arthritis
- Vertigo
- Back pain, knee pain, shoulder pain – all kinds of pain!
- Digestive issues
- Energy / fatigue
- Insomnia
- Support with cancer treatment side effects

If you'd like to know more about how acupuncture could help you, please do get in touch on 07733217116 or via the website at www.thriveacupunctureclinic.co.uk and I'd be delighted to speak to you!

Rebecca Klouda



MENSTON/ WHARFEDAILE WI

We're a very friendly group of women and our membership stretches from Addingham to Otley to Guiseley/Rawdon and everywhere in between. Most months we have a varied and interesting selection of speakers, and our 2025 programme includes a novelist, an Australian flower demo, an Easter-themed workshop, and a volunteer from a charity looking after babies and young children in Malawi. We also organise outings, and we usually have a Christmas trip too. We're part of the North Yorkshire West Federation and our headquarters are in Ripon. The team there organises many events including crafting days, outings, taster days, and talks, and they're all available to our members. They also run the hugely popular WI catering at the Great Yorkshire Show and a number of our members volunteer there.

If you think it might be for you why not come along to our next meeting and find out more?

We always welcome visitors and new members. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at Kirklands Community Centre.

If you'd like any more information you can phone Hazel on 07544 948893 or Andrea on 07899 798573.

Sue Appleyard

LADIES PLEASE CHOIR

Ladies Please Choir 20 Year Celebration, 14th June 2025

Ladies Please Choir will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary this year with a special concert to be held at Menston Methodist Church.

Our programme will include items from our varied programme from when we began to the present day.

Throughout the year we give performances for several local groups in Menston, Burley and Otley and a full concert to raise money for Tereli as part of the Burley Festival.

If you like to sing in a relaxed and friendly group we are always looking for new ladies to join us (sorry guys!). We welcome all abilities and ages so if you think you would like to join us in this special year, please come along to see what we have planned. **We meet every Tuesday in Menston Library at 7.15pm** or text Dorrie on 07970 726988 for more information.

Sue Saul

Menston Library opening hours

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm

Saturday: 10am-1pm

Telephone: 01943 876539

Our library continues to thrive. We offer a warm welcome in what has become a community hub and meeting point.

Our newly formed canasta group meets fortnightly **on Wednesdays at 2pm**. They are very friendly and welcome all regardless of experience or ability.

Thursday is our busiest day; our craft group meets from 10am. They are an eclectic group who meet to chat and craft over a cuppa. They keenly share their knowledge, teaching newcomers to knit, crochet and sew. Those who want, make items to sell both in the library and at craft fayres to raise funds for a variety of local charities.

At 10.30am we hold our weekly Rhymetime for under-fives and as you read this we will be participating in the annual Rhymetime Challenge where we aim to learn some new rhymes ready for a special visit from Bookstart Bear who will present all the children with a certificate.

In the afternoon, the Scrabble club meets at 2pm. They are a friendly group who welcome players of all abilities. During term time we have a weekly story and craft session after school for 4 to 7 year-olds. **On the last Thursday of the month, the Menston Thursday Book Group meets at 11.15am** in our sunny foyer. They are a small friendly inclusive group who are actively looking for a few new members.

On Saturdays at 11am, three enthusiastic Duke of Edinburgh volunteers have started a games club for five to ten-year-olds which is gaining momentum. We have a wide variety of table top games to suit all ages and abilities.

The friendly writing group 'Writing on the Wharfe' meets fortnightly on a Saturday at 10.30am.

Menston Community Fridge, a village waste food project, holds its monthly Saturday Fridge Chat coffee morning in the library where all things for food waste avoidance are discussed, and tips and recipes are exchanged. Various treats are shared and all library users are invited to taste the latest innovative bake, from banana bread to Brussels sprouts cake.

Chris Steele, our local Bradford Councillor, holds his monthly Saturday surgery meetings on the first Saturday in the month. He is available from 10.30am to 11.30am to answer all your Menston-related questions.

During the summer, 108 children signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) and had a great time reading for pleasure. As further encouragement to continue reading for pleasure and monitoring your progress, if you are aged 5+, call in and ask us about **The Secret Book Quest**. We will sign you up to read 50 books! In return, you will receive a booklet full of puzzles and a coded message to decipher along the way. There is no time limit so you can proceed at your own pace.

We continue to welcome many class visits from Menston Primary School. If your child is a member of the library, they are allowed to borrow one book per class visit, and are encouraged to bring their parents to the library between visits. Please do remember to send them to school with both their library card and any previously-borrowed library books on library visit days.

Plans are in place to start up an after-school Lego Club. If you have Lego that could be donated to this new group, could you please leave at the library. Also if you have complete sets plus instructions these would be much appreciated.

We take a much-read daily paper and two local weeklies, and always have a community jigsaw on the go in our reading area which continues to be a warm and welcoming space with a hospitality trolley available all year round. This is a much appreciated warm and safe space for local residents who might otherwise be isolated at home.

We are keen to support other local community groups and collect bulbs for Menston in Bloom, collect warm clothing for Homeless Hampers and stage displays for various local groups. We have 12 picture hooks in the library which are used to host art displays by local artists. Please call in to ask if you would like to display your work.

New and upcoming events are advertised on the Menston Village Facebook page.

Menston Community Library gives local people the opportunity to volunteer in their local community and share their love of books.

Volunteers are able to choose when they work via an online rota system, signing up to sessions which fit in with their other commitments. Do come in and ask if you think this is something you could offer and would enjoy.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the library volunteers. You are what makes this all possible.

Jill Cooke, Library Manager

learn – connect – be stronger

Friends & Family Hub

Thinking BIG for families of children with additional needs

The Friends and Family Hubs are run by Thinking BIG, a Community Interest Company. We support family carers of people aged 0-25 with SEND/additional needs, with or without a diagnosis.

We meet monthly in Bradford, Menston (in the heart of Menston at Kirklands Community Centre) and Keighley. The next Menston Hub sessions are on 12th March, 14th May, and 11th June. All are from 10am-2pm.

We start the session with a presentation from an individual or service that members will find useful and interesting. Recent sessions have been on supporting sibling relationships, eating/food, and planning for parenting a disabled adult.

March's session is on puberty, as children with disabilities often need extra support. Planned sessions later this year will include topics such as communication and sleep. We regularly ask our members for suggestions for session topics to ensure we meet their needs.

We provide lunch, then we have a group support session to talk about the morning presentation and any issues members are having. We are a very friendly and supportive group, and the Hub Facilitators and members have a lot of knowledge and experience to share.

As well as the monthly sessions, we have an online Padlet, with lots of useful information from previous sessions. Finally, we have a WhatsApp group where our members can chat, share information and ask for advice.

Some members come to every session, some come to one a year, and some access sessions and resources online only: we're here when they need us! Thanks to support from The National Lottery and Menston Parish Council, we are free to join and free to attend.

For further information or to join the Hub, please email the Hub Coordinator, Shain: friendsandfamily@thinkingbiguk.org.

Claire Wright

After a successful 2024 in which the men's 1st XI finished top of Division 2 of the Airedale and Wharfedale Senior League, we are looking forward to the new cricket season **starting on 19th April**.

As in previous years, we will be providing cricket opportunities for men, women, boys and girls starting with the youngest category, AllStars, catering for 5-8 year-olds. The next age group is U9s while our older juniors get the chance to play more competitively in age categories U11, U13, U15 and U18, all supported by our team of qualified coaches.

We also run girls' teams at U13 and U15 as well as the women's team competing in the West Yorkshire Women and Girls League.

Last year we had around 120 junior members but we encourage anyone interested in joining, particularly boys in Y3-4 and girls in Y3-6, to contact the club.

Our senior teams will be competing in the following leagues:

- 1st XI Division 1 Airedale-Wharfedale League (AWSCL)
- 2nd XI Division 2 AWSCL
- 3rd XI Division 1 AWSCL (Sundays)
- 4th XI Division 3 Craven & District League (CDCL) at the High Royds ground
- 5th XI Division 4 CDCL at High Royds
- Women's XI Division 1 West Yorkshire Women and Girls League

All 2025 fixtures, along with other club information and contact details, can be found on our website menston.play-cricket.com together with how to join the club as a playing or social member.

Social members are entitled to 10% off our bar prices whilst enjoying the cricket and facilities at the Fox ground, which are now among the best in the area.

We are planning to hold our popular community Fun Day at the Fox again this year on Sunday 25th May, with all the favourite attractions and hopefully better weather than last year. Please check social media nearer the time for information.

For any enquiries about the club please contact the Secretary: secretary@menstoncc.org or use the form on the website. We look forward to welcoming all visitors to our grounds for some sporting entertainment this summer!

Mike Pratt

MENSTON SCOUTS AND GUIDES



The Menston Scouts and Guides have had an incredible year, full of exciting activities, community engagement, and remarkable fundraising success.

Our young members have been busy developing skills, enjoying adventures, and making lasting friendships - all while trying to make Menston a better place

when we can. In 2024 we awarded 10 Bronze Chief Scout Awards, 3 Silver and 4 Gold! This represents an enormous effort by the young people and reflects the great job that the leaders do planning a varied programme.

One of our proudest achievements in 2024 has been our fundraising effort for the HQ rebuild project. Thanks to the dedication of our members, leaders, and supporters, **we have raised an astounding £18,575!** This has been achieved through myriad ways, including bake sales, jumble sale, car washing, the bonfire, line dancing, the annual visit from Father Christmas, the lovely (and this time very windy!) Big Sing, and selling hot dogs at the Menston Lights Switch On. We are so grateful to the Menston community for their generosity and encouragement - every contribution brings us closer to providing a fantastic new HQ for our Scouts and Guides to enjoy for years to come.

We have even received an amazing donation of **£1,315.28 from Nisa** thanks to the nomination of Dale Smith and the manager Neil Patel. We could not pursue this project without the unwavering support of our wonderful village.

The Guides are planning a fun Easter Trail for the School Easter Holidays. Mark & Michelle at Pickards will be selling the trail sheets. All those who purchase a trail map will be entered into the prize draw. If any local businesses would like to donate prizes, we would love to shout about your support on social media.

The fabulous Malt Shovel team have agreed to have us back for another car wash in their car park on Saturday 17th May between 9am-12 noon. So pencil it in your diaries and bring your filthy cars to us!





As we continue to grow and offer exciting opportunities for local young people, we are also looking for **new volunteers and leaders** to join our team. We are specifically looking for a couple of people to join our governance team on the Trustee Board, especially someone who has experience in delivering projects. We have vacancies in the Scouts, Cubs and Beaver Leadership teams. Whether you can spare a few hours to help with events, or are interested in becoming a regular volunteer and making a real difference, we'd love to hear from you. No

prior experience is needed - just enthusiasm and a willingness to inspire the next generation.

Menston Scouts and Guides has over 200 young members and more than 60 dedicated volunteers running its programme and every one of them giving up their time for free. A huge thank you to them all. We still have waiting lists for all ages and with two Beaver colonies, two cub packs, two scout troops, a rainbows, a brownie pack and a guide unit, we are bursting at the seams! If you have any interest in giving back to your community, expanding your skills or just having fun, then please reach out to Naomi on glv@menstonscoutsandguides.uk or visit our website www.menstonscoutsandguides.uk for more information. Let's keep the spirit of adventure alive in Menston!

Naomi McMorn

MENSTON CARES AGM

At our latest management committee meeting we were delighted to acknowledge the receipt of two donations. We would like to say a big thank you to the Community Fridge for their donation of £150 and for a generous donation from a private individual.

We also discussed what Menston Cares would do should there be more snow this winter, or snow in future winters. We decided that we would contact all our service users (who are mainly elderly, or disabled in any way) to see if they needed any help with snow shovelling, shopping or simply to have a chat if they were housebound and feeling isolated. In order to do this we would allocate a group of 5 or 6 service users to a designated Menston Cares volunteer to do the contacting. Several of our committee were willing to do this. If any Menston News readers are fit, able and willing to shovel snow please contact our secretary, Caroline Brundle, on 01943 512109.

Jane Pratt

CLIMATE ACTION MENSTON

E-bikes and cargo bikes.

Are you wondering about an e-bike for commuting or leisure, or maybe using a cargo bike for deliveries etc? If so, have a look at our website for Steve's experience of using an e-bike for commuting.

E-Bikes and cargo bikes are available to hire from Climate Action Ilkley or Otley 2030.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 26th February at 7.30pm in Kirklands** when we will be hearing from Dr Lindsay Smales about the Incredible Edible project that started in Todmorden. Do come along - all are welcome. Going forward, we will be arranging for a talk on Ilkley Thingery which lends out useful items that you do not need to own yourself.

For further information about CAM as well as how to join and to support what we do, please go to climateactionmenston.org.uk/enquiries or ring 01943 874220.

Marilyn Banister

MENSTON VILLAGE SHOW

Save the date! This year's Menston Village Show is happening on Saturday 6th September 2025 at Kirklands Community Centre.

As always, entries will be welcomed between 10am and 11.30am, and doors will open at 2pm to 4.30pm when you'll be able to marvel at this year's show entries, have a go on our tombola, enjoy tasty refreshments and bid to take a piece of Menston Show home with you in our popular auction!



All money raised at the Menston Show goes straight back to fabulous local causes and charitable organisations. Our 2024 show raised £1,000 for the Menston Scouts and Guides HQ Development Fund, as well as £250 for other local causes. We couldn't do it without the support of the community, so please do come along again this

year. For more information on this year's show classes, keep an eye out on our website: www.menstonvillageshow.co.uk.

We were very fortunate to be supported by a brilliant collection of local businesses and independent sponsors in 2024 and we are now on the lookout for our 2025 sponsors! If you would like to support the show, whether to sponsor or volunteer, please email menstonshow@gmail.com.

Sophie Venner



We are all fired up and ready for the Easter celebrations. On offer to raise funds for local children's good causes are Easter bags at £4 to collect those eggs during an exciting hunt as well as the return of the Easter chicks with their Cadbury Creme Eggs at £1.50 each or four for £5.



This year we have been able to pass £500 to Bradford Baby Bank (BBB) to again purchase underwear, socks and tights in the sales, as well as changing mats, potties and pramsuits. Regrettably the referrals that BBB have received from social and nursing professionals in 2024 increased by 50% to 1,563. To donate to BBB, either financially or by giving clothes, toys and books plus nursery

equipment please go to their website at www.bradfordbabybank.com. Our happy band of knitters also continues to support the local Prem-baby Units making hats, bonding squares and blankets.

The Craft Group's 'Spring 2025 Collection' will include turban-style towelling wraps for wet hair, fabric bookmarks, limited number of tweed messenger shoulder bags and upcycled denim aprons and bags.

We would like to thank all those who have supported Menston Craft Group in raising so much money for local children by either donating yarn and fabrics as well as purchasing items. Also a thank you to Jill and the library volunteers who have diligently recorded the money they have taken. Please contact Anne Gadd at menstoncraftgroup@gmail.com for more information about the Craft Group.

Anne Gadd

Misson 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.

The Menston News is the Menston Community Association's newsletter. It aims to report and provide updates on all events and activities happening in the village. Should you wish to get in touch with the MCA, please email info@menston-ca.org.

Menston Community Association would like to thank all the volunteer contributors and distributors who give of their time so generously, Menston Parish Council for paying the printing costs of our Newsletter and Tom and Justin of Small Print who work so hard to print and collate the Newsletter.

You'll find dates, details and contact information for key events happening in Menston in this printed edition of Menston News. An online version and an up-to-date live calendar of local events can be accessed through the village website – menston.org.

Should you wish to contact the Menston News, either to submit an article or to volunteer to become a distributor, please email menstonnews@gmail.com. We welcome articles from the local community and would love to hear about any updates or events happening in the village!

The deadline for the Summer 2025 edition of the Menston News will be **Wednesday 30th April 2025.**

The deadline for the Autumn 2024 edition of the Menston News will be **Thursday 31st July 2025.**

The deadline for the Spring 2026 edition of the Menston News will be **Saturday 31st January 2026.**

The content of all articles within this Newsletter is the sole responsibility of the contributor.

Sophie Joelle Venner, Editor