

MENSTON NEWS

MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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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



Spring is on its way, but as we bid farewell to winter we remember magical scenes of snow. This particularly striking photograph was taken at Weston Woods. Menston Area Nature Trust recently took legal possession of the woods. Read more about it on page 21.

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MENSTON NEWS

This is my first newsletter article since being elected Chair of Menston Community Association. This year, for the first time in quite a while, we also have a new committee and I am looking forward to working with them on future community events and projects.

New Year always brings New Year's Resolutions. For those of you who managed dry January, I salute you! Maybe your best resolution this year would be to support your Menston community, be it using its local facilities such as the library, joining a local activity, class or club, using local businesses and services for a home repair or project, or using the Community Fridge. **Have you joined the Menston Community Lottery yet? Check out our enclosed lottery leaflet and see just how it would support Menston, and maybe win a prize for yourself as well.**

Menston Park is shaping up to be quite the focus of activity this year. There are plans for renewal and improvement of the children's play equipment, proposals for the rebuilding of the Menston Scouts Hut and Menston in Bloom are looking to celebrate its 20th anniversary with a special park-based project. We look forward to hearing more about these plans and ideas as the year progresses.

Whatever your interest or need there is something for most folk in Menston. Remember Menston is your community so if you have any ideas, need information or would like to help out please get in touch through the MCA or newsletter emails (see pages 6&15). We would love to hear from you.

Cheryl Thornton, Chair, MCA

Building to recommence at Derry Hill, Menston

Yorkshire Housing has announced that the construction of 113 new affordable homes at Derry Hill will recommence in March. After the previous developers went into administration, investigations have been carried out to move the site forward and will soon continue the construction of two, three and four-bedroom properties. These will include shared ownership and affordable homes to rent.

Sian Webster, director of development at Yorkshire Housing, said: "We know the stalling of this site has been frustrating for residents with a significant impact on the local community, which is why we're happy to share the news that works will restart next month."

You'll find dates, details and contact information for key events happening in Menston in this printed edition of Menston News. You may also wish to visit menston.org throughout the year for an up-to-date live calendar of local events.

The Parish Council was delighted to welcome the opening of the new Nisa food store just before Christmas, after many months of discussions about the future of the former Co-op shop. We wish it every success. This, along with the Light Up Menston events and the extra Christmas lights on display this year made December a very special occasion in our community. Thank you goes out to all who made this happen. Please shop locally if you can, to retain all our essential businesses and amenities.

Thank you also to everyone who had responded to the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. A strong sense of community came through, and issues with community facilities, traffic and housing were highlighted. These results are being analysed and will support the design of our Neighbourhood Plan. Following on from the local Highway consultation by Bradford Council last year, the Parish Council have agreed to contribute financially to additional road safety improvements such as re-designing the layout of the Main Street/Bingley Road junction and providing a raised section at the Main Street/Cleasby Road junction.

The Parish Council has been working with the Menston Parks group and Bradford Council on a plan for buying and installing new play equipment in the park. A tender process is now taking place, and we hope that work will be completed by the summer, with funded contributions by the Parish Council. Other Park initiatives include proposals for a path round the perimeter and creating a special feature, maybe even a bandstand.

Park play day events have been arranged for Summer 2024 which will take place on 25th July, 1st August, 8th August and 14th August 2024.

Look out for publicity nearer the time.

At Menston Station we have been advised that work to construct the lifts at the station will start in March 2024 and will take about 11 months to complete.

The Parish Council is continuing to work with the Greenway Steering Group and Friends of Wharfedale Greenway and is supporting the Menston Scout and Guide HQ project. Funding of the Kirklands Trust and the library has been on-going, as well as providing financial grants to many other local groups.

Applications for grants can be submitted at any time. Further details on how to apply are available on the menston.org website.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Goodith White for all her hard work and enthusiasm as a Parish Councillor over the past five years. Following on from her departure to take on other commitments, we wish her every success in her new ventures. As a result of this, a vacancy has arisen, so if anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please see the website or noticeboard outside Kirklands 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 menston.org website.

Philip Moore, Chair, Menston Parish Council

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

Searching for a Menston family grave? St John's churchyard is the final resting place of 1,179 people, mostly residents of Menston village. The first burial, that of 24 year old John Norfolk took place in July 1871; the final burial, that of a baby, in April 1993. In July 2023, St John's began the lengthy process of applying to the Ministry of Justice to close the churchyard on the basis of there being no useful space for new graves. This would not prevent further burials in existing family graves which have sufficient room. We are currently awaiting a final decision but the plan has the approval of Menston Parish Council.

St John's website now contains a digital record of the Burial Register from 1871-1996, a plan of the graveyard plots and a list of the 209 headstone inscriptions and their positions. These are searchable and should enable anyone to find a family grave easily.

Go to St John's website www.stjohnmenston.org.uk/parish-records then scroll down to 'Search for a Family Grave' and click on the picture. This will take you to the Graveyard Searches page where a series of red and blue buttons will open the Burial Register and plan of the graveyard, headstone inscriptions and their rough position. Any problems do get in touch with the Parish Administrator via the Parish Office.

Jan Alexander, Parish Magazine Editor

Upcoming events at St John's Church

Music in the Air, Saturday 2nd March from 3-5pm. A variety of popular classics performed by local people of various ages. Do come along to hear the local talent! Tickets are £5 for adults and children are free. Refreshments are included. Tickets from the Parish Office: email office@stjohnmenston.org.uk, text 07440289248, or leave a message at 01943 872433. In aid of church funds.

Easter workshop on Saturday 30th March from 10am-12pm where families can plant seeds, make the Easter garden and go on a Scavenger Hunt. Do come along.

Family Eco Quiz on Saturday 27th April from 4-6pm. Look out for full details nearer the time.

Pilgrimage to Bradford Cathedral on Saturday 8th June to celebrate 10 years since the creation of the new Anglican Diocese of Leeds. We hope to have a group taking part from Menston, either doing all or part on foot (there are options!)

Look out for more details on www.stjohnmenston.org.uk.

Marilyn Banister

LADIES PLEASE AND HRMG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The annual Heritage Weekend took place again last year at the High Royds Memorial Chapel and Garden in Menston. The weekend always concludes with a short service of blessing, renewal and commemoration. We were particularly mindful of our long-standing Chairman Dr Ron Sweeney, who sadly died last December.



The photograph shows our new Chair, Duncan Slater (centre), beside the Revd Andrew Howorth, the Chaplain of HRMG, who led the Service. The six ladies are all members of Ladies Please choir and standing beside Duncan is our Musical Director, Dorrie Clarke. She is presenting Duncan with a cheque for £305.85. This was the total raised at our Summer Concert on behalf of HRMG.

Elizabeth M Sharp

MENSTON THESPIANS

Heroic Philippa Monaghan braved the monsoon-like conditions of New Year's Day to take part in the Menston Thespians' winter pantomime trail around Menston village. Buying a trail form from the local library, participants had to find out where various shops and local businesses had displayed a poster featuring several characters from the latest panto production. There was also an anagram puzzle to solve.

Philippa was the lucky winner and was presented with two free tickets to the Grand Opening Night of the show along with signed copies of story books related to the show.



The annual pantomime took place in February and once again the production of **Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood** treated audiences to delightful dames, stunning sets, mesmerising music and dancing, rib-tickling gags and creative costumes. All who saw it had a great time. Oh no they didn't... Oh yes they did!

Keith Galvin



Photo of Josie Mitchell whose painting won first prize for "favourite picture", chosen by the visitors over the weekend.

The doom and gloom of the current financial situation did nothing to deter visitors from buying Christmas gifts at the Menston Arts Club Autumn exhibition held at Kirklands Community Centre in November. A variety of works by club members including pastel, oil and water colour paintings were shown. Our chosen charity was Aquabox (www.aquabox.org), which provides fresh drinking water and humanitarian aid to people affected by natural disasters and conflict.

Members of the club are already looking forward to the next exhibition on the weekend of **11th and 12th May 2024**. Open 10.30am-4.30pm both days. The exhibition attracts hundreds of visitors each year, providing a showcase and selling point for local artists.

For many the show is a meeting place, getting together for a catch up over a coffee and homemade cakes after enjoying looking round. It's a real social event in the village.

From September until July we meet on Monday evenings from 7.30pm- 9.15pm at Kirklands Community Centre. We enjoy an

inspiring syllabus of talks, demonstrations and practical sessions.

New members are always welcome. We are a jolly lot. Membership is £70 per year. Come along and get creative!

Sue Brearley

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

The deadline for articles for the Summer 2024 edition of the Menston News will be Tuesday 30th April.

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 IN BLOOM

The spring flowers, daffodils, tulips, primroses and blossoms that herald the start of the year are now in full display. Each bloom a joy, the promise of warmer days to come after the wet and wind of a winter past. This spring display is the result of the actions of many volunteers and donations that Menston in Bloom has received during the past 20 years. In **January 2004** a fledgling group met with the aim of improving the green spaces and environment around Menston for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors, through horticulture. From that time volunteers have been helping Menston bloom through a program of annual planting, the creation of flower beds, street planters, tree planting, bulb planting and garden sessions. By entering the Yorkshire in Bloom Competition, the success of the group's work can be measured.

In the last 20 years we have entered 13 times and been awarded one Recognition, six Silver and six Silver Gilt awards. These are awards the whole community should be proud to have contributed to.

Spring is the nesting season. We have 24 bird boxes in trees in the parks and green spaces. When cleaned of old nesting material in the autumn, 17 had been used, a great result. Most boxes have been made from recycled wood, mainly old pallets, with 21 designed for hole nesting birds, like blue and great tits, and three open fronted boxes for robins or wrens.

We are repeating the May Plant Sale - look out for information and we will see you there as you buy your summer plants. All proceeds support Menston in Bloom's costs of bedding plants and gardening projects. In the coming months we will be out and about most Wednesday mornings and have monthly Saturday garden sessions when we will be keeping our planters and flower beds in the best condition. The summer bedding has been ordered for the planters. With a donation from Menston Show we will be buying and spreading wildflower and bee and butterfly flower-friendly seeds, creating a summer display for the benefit of our local wildlife and the beauty they will bring. If you can join us, you are most welcome. There is no need to commit to a regular session, just come along when you can. Our garden sessions and other news is publicised through our email list (email menstoninbloom@gmail.com to join) or our Facebook page.

Geoff Lomas

MENSTON CARES AGM

The next Menston Cares AGM is happening on **Tuesday 9th July at 1.30pm** in Menston Methodist Church hall. This will be followed by an entertaining talk by Neil Hanson entitled 'Inn and Out at the Top'. Visit menston.org/local-directory/menston-cares/ for more information.

Jane Pratt

The new Nisa Local store is already proving to be an instant hit with the locals who played an instrumental role in the store being reopened in time for Christmas.

The former Co-op site had remained empty for two years before a local petition caught the attention of Nisa retailer Neil Patel who has links to the local area. Neil, with the backing of the local parish council, took on the store in recent months.

The store stocks a tailored range to support the local community whilst an extensive number of chilled products provide customers with a wide range of everyday products. Neil has also brought in additional ranges such as zero waste, food-to-go and partnered with Cook to provide high quality frozen ready meals.



Neil said: “I saw that there was a real opportunity with this store given the local demographic and the distance to the nearest store for the local people. I knew there had been petitions for the store to reopen for about two-and-a-half years, so I knew there was a determination for the store to be a success. The response

by the local people and shoppers in the area has been amazing.

Everyone has been delighted by the quality of products and Co-op own brand range we supply, alongside an adaptive range to suit our customer base.”

Tony Pickford, Retail Development Manager at Nisa, said: “The store is fantastic and is quickly becoming a real community asset. Neil knew exactly the direction he wanted for this store and the final version has been well worth the effort. It’s great to see the positive reaction the community have had towards the store and I’m sure it will be a huge success.”

Neil Patel

Escape by Martin Fuller

Archibold Grebbins: a thief, swindler, and thug.

His criminal career reached its hiatus, when whilst committing a robbery he killed his victim with a knife. The subsequent hullabaloo and probability of a hangman's noose prompted him to seek refuge with his aunt, a woman known as a seer. One evening she read his tarot cards.

"Archie. You'll avoid the noose if ye run. But go somewhere warm. Ice will kill thee."

Archie complied, booking passage to America, with plans to travel to Brazil. No ice there.

He'd stand the third-class passage on the Titanic. Such a splendid way to escape.

Defrosted Armageddon by Martin Fuller

As global warming bit into the Earth's polar regions, the shackles of ice loosened. It began to stir.

The frozen eons had dented it little, being as ferocious and deadly now as it had been when the Earth was young. It had killed before, inflicting a death only imagined in mankind's worst nightmares. Already it swam in melt-water, suspended, awaiting the final thaw of freedom when it would merge with the oceans, bringing its cruel touch into play.

Microscopic, individual yet conjoined to its brethren. It would take time to traverse the world but time is meaningless to a plague.

NSPCC

The Wharfedale Branch of NSPCC would like to thank you for your support at our past fundraising events in the village. Calls to NSPCC and Childline have increased enormously over the last few years and your support helps us to fund further training and help for vulnerable young people.

Our forthcoming fundraising events to be held in Kirklands are as follows:

March 16th: Coffee Morning, 10am-12pm

April 20th: Jumble Sale, 2pm

May 18th: Coffee Morning, 10am-12pm

We are looking forward to seeing you there. If you need any details, please contact Jane Hughes on 875999.

Jane Hughes

MENSTON METHODIST CHURCH

We extend a warm welcome to our 10.30am Sunday services. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month they are held in our main hall – café style – which is a more relaxed and informal way to worship. Children are particularly welcome to our Sun Club at 10.30am on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays of the month.

The following special services will be held: Mothering Sunday on Sunday 10th March, Easter Day on Sunday 31st March, and Christian Aid on Sunday 12th May. There will be an opportunity to give to Christian Aid, both online and in Cornerstone, during Christian Aid Week (12th to 18th May).

If you are new to church or 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 an Alpha course 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 held on Saturday 23rd March from 10am-12pm.

Proceeds will be split between the Church, Christians Against Poverty and local food banks.

Lunchtime organ recitals, given by our organist Michael Pratt, are held on the 2nd Friday of the month from 1-1.30pm on 8th March and 12th April. Free entry with retiring collection.

Vivace, our youth choir (for ages 7+) had a busy Christmas, singing at the Light Up Menston lights switch on, entertaining residents at Abbeyfield and participating in our Carol Service. They meet on Thursday evenings from 6.30-7.15pm at the Methodist Church. 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), Tennis and Table Tennis (Mondays at 10am), Walking Group (monthly on Thursdays), Vivace Youth Choir (Thursdays at 6.30pm). Details of our activities are advertised on the Church noticeboard, Church Facebook page and website: www.menstonmethodist.org.uk.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those in our community and their families. If you need someone to talk to or pray with, please contact our Minister, Rev Tim Perkins (revtmp1971@gmail.com) or our Lay Pastor, Jo Dixon (jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com / 07870 700713). All calls will be in strict confidence.

Jalna Jenkins

Menston Methodist Tennis Club

This is a small friendly club which would welcome new members. Social play takes place on a Monday morning 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 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 hot and cold drinks. 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 for those living with dementia and their carers on the **first Wednesday in the month from 10am to 12pm** 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.

We will be joining in with the **Big Help Out between 7th and 9th June**, celebrating the positive impact of volunteering across the UK. If you sometimes have free time during the week or on Saturdays and would like to volunteer in Cornerstone, we would love to hear from you. You don't have to be an expert cook - we also need people who can take orders, make drinks, wash up or clear the tables. You can contact us on one of the numbers above or call in and leave your name and contact details.

Charlotte Montague

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, where we welcome speakers and illustrated talks on a wide variety of subjects. We are a group of retired young at heart men who value the companionship of a great social group. Our programme for early 2024 is as follows;

March 6th: David Knaggs - The Art of Drumming

March 20th: Graham Read - Magical Monaco

April 3rd: Philip Davies - Westminster Update

April 17th: Members Morning

May 1st: Alan Hemsworth - Pub Crawls - Inn Signs

May 15th: Peter Palmer - Paestum and Pompeii

This will be followed by a summer break. If you wish to come and join us, you will be made most welcome - if you need any details, please contact Mike Hughes on 875999.

Mike Hughes

MENSTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

We have enjoyed a very successful year with an almost full membership and are looking forward to the new season of meetings.

These are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 2.30pm in Kirklands. The entry fee is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for visitors. This includes tea and biscuits, a raffle and time to chat to old and new friends.

March 20th: This will be our AGM. Come along, the business part is essential but does not last long and feedback can be given about what our members would like our group to do.

April 17th: Stuart Atkinson, a very accomplished performer, will talk and sing about his 'LIFE IN MUSIC'.

May 5th: Sarah Tomkinson 'THE YORKSHIRE CHOCOLATIER', a delightful lady who tells us about her new very successful career (formerly a hobby). Samples of the delicious chocolates can be tasted and perhaps to buy also.

Our meetings last a couple of hours and we also have other activities such as a monthly lunch club, Scrabble in the library, visits to interesting venues, a book club and we also support a number of charities.

Call Laura Moorhouse if you need any further information on 01943 875041.

Laura Moorhouse

MENSTON GARDENERS

The Autumn programme of presentations commenced in September with an array of enlightening talks and, of course, our Christmas special in December.

The New Year started as usual with our AGM, unfortunately coinciding with the icy conditions around the village. In February we had a demonstration by Maxine Nelson of 'Planting Containers', with the results being raffled, with a plant sale by our speaker.

This will be followed in March with 'Science in the Garden' and in April with 'From Swarm to Jar' - a beginner's guide to a year's beekeeping. The end of our Speaker programme will see the return of Don Witton, one of our regular speakers.

Then with summer on the horizon we will have a trip to a 'Yellow Book' garden at the end of May, a summer two-course meal in July and a summer social at a member's garden in August.

And we start again in September. Notices for Menston Gardeners are posted monthly in the library, on the village noticeboard at Kirklands and inside the foyer at Kirklands. All welcome.

Contact 872892 for further details.

Evan Johns

THURSDAY OIL PAINTERS (TOPS)

We are a small group of artists who meet on a Thursday at 1.30pm in the Hall in Kirklands, Menston. We all enjoy the medium of oil painting and generally that is what we do, but no one is unduly disturbed if a member occasionally brings some other media to work on to the group meeting. We have been meeting for some years now and usually just paint. Occasionally we invite a very talented artist to demonstrate and further inspire us, which we hope will happen again in the very near future.

At the present moment members are busy preparing for an exhibition to be held in Menston Library from the 19th February to the 15th April.

We are a small group but would be delighted to welcome new members. So if you are an aspiring artist (and we all started as aspiring artists) do come along and meet us.

Judith Tomlinson

MENSTON CROWN GREEN BOWLING CLUB

Menston has a Crown Green Bowling Club. It is behind Kirklands Community Centre. The path between the doctors and the taxi office gives way to a magnificent open green with surrounding walkway and seating. It is reputed to be one of the best in the league.

But what of bowling? Isn't it just a matter of rolling two big balls across a lawn to get close to a little white one? Well sort of, but it gets more interesting if you're up against your friend. Don't you feel just a little bit smug if your bowl gets closer to the jack than theirs? But no, you've lost that end. Not a problem. You re-group, the game continues to 21 points. You continue and win 21-20. A narrow victory but a self-satisfying victory all the same.

You may lose however, but you persevere, you gain more experience, you play again and again. You're hooked. Like the fisherman who has had a blank day or the golfer who has had the worst round ever, they know that the next outing is going to be much better... or is it?

The reality however is that "it's not just a load of old bowls". It's also the social interaction with other like-minded people. People who are on their own for whatever reason. Those who are recently retired and can't just sit around all day. Those who feel the need to get more exercise. Great! I'm in... but what next? Ring Peter Hammond (Secretary) on 01943 863417 or Mike Ripley on 07472800126. Still in two minds? Check out menstonbc.wordpress.com/about for full details of our activities.

Mike Ripley

In each edition we will be publishing a curriculum report from one of the subject leaders at Menston Primary School. In this edition Mr Peter Frost, the school's Science subject leader, has written an informative overview of how science is taught at the school. Members of the local community with a background in Science may be interested in being involved in the school's British Science Week event, which will run in the week commencing 11th March. Read on to find out more.

Science at Menston Primary School

Science forms a core part of the children's learning at Menston Primary; from the first dawning of knowledge and understanding of 'Our World' in Foundation to the detailed investigations of Year 6, all of our children enjoy a rich curriculum which brings science to life.

The structure of our Science curriculum is to follow the guidelines of the National Curriculum but with two central approaches in all units of work: substantive knowledge and disciplinary knowledge. Substantive knowledge represents the key facts the children need to know (for example - properties of materials, names of bones in the human skeleton etc). Disciplinary knowledge represents the skills we want the children to develop as scientists. This is done through each lesson having a scientific enquiry element covering different scientific skills (research, problem-solving, comparative/fair testing, observations over time, pattern seeking and identifying, grouping and classifying).

Using this two-pronged approach to all science learning ensures the children have a balance of key facts and scientific skills as a foundation for their work in Key Stage Three and beyond.

Across the year groups, a wide range of subject matter is experienced including plants, animals including humans, electricity, properties of materials, evolution and inheritance, sound, forces and magnets, habitats, Earth and Space, the human digestive and circulatory systems amongst many more!

Where possible we try to use our fantastic outdoor spaces to support learning in Science; this obviously supports some focus areas better than others but is a real advantage to the learning of Science for our pupils. For example, in Year 6 the children learn how to construct effective classification keys; as part of this, they use classification keys to identify mini-beasts found in our wooded area.

Peter Frost



Science Week 2024

In the week beginning Monday 11th March 2024, we will be celebrating Science Week with a range of activities planned across the school as opportunities for further enhancing our children's learning in science.

During this week, we would welcome anyone from our local community with a science specialism to come into school to share their experiences and knowledge with our children. If you are able to support us during Science Week, please contact Mr Frost at peter.frost@menston.mt.co.uk.

MENSTON COMMUNITY FRIDGE

We are delighted to have reached the milestone of redistributing **30 tonnes of surplus food**, within a year of opening. Apparently, this is equivalent to the mass of 24 family cars! As always, huge thanks to our wonderful volunteers, without whom this would not have been possible. Thanks also to everyone who comes along and takes what they can use, helping to reduce the huge amounts of food that would otherwise be wasted. You are all helping to ensure that the energy and resources used to grow, harvest, process and distribute food do not go to waste. Thank you Menston!

Cathy Tully

Again the Menston Community Association would like to thank all the volunteer contributors and distributors who give 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.

It's been a busy few months at your community library.

Our craft group meet on Thursdays from 10am-12pm and have been active in a variety of projects for a number of local organisations as well as encouraging one another and sharing ideas for their personal projects. They have knitted hats for Homeless Hampers and both hats and comforters for the Bradford Baby Bank. They currently have knitted cowls, hot water bottles and peg bags for sale to raise funds for the new Scout Hut.

The Scrabble Group is thriving. Do come along and join them from 2.30pm on Thursdays, they're a friendly bunch who welcome all comers regardless of experience or ability!

Also on Thursday, both Rhymetime at 10.30am for preschoolers and Story with Craft for Key Stage 1 children from 3.30pm-ish continue to be popular. **From 22nd February until 14th March we will be running our annual Rhymetime Challenge** when we will be learning five new songs to sing to Bookstart Bear when he visits us on 14th March. Bookstart Bear will present a certificate to all participants.

At the time of writing we are hoping to form a new group meeting at 2pm on Wednesdays to play Canasta. If you enjoy playing or would like to learn please come and give it a try.

The local writing group, Writing on the Wharfe, meets in the library on alternate Saturdays from 10.30am. They are a friendly supportive group who are always ready to welcome new members.

I recently received a couple of emails containing poems relating to Menston which made me think it would be fun to start a poetry board in the library. Please call in to pin up or write and pin up your poem and inspire others to have a go, all ages welcome.

The exciting news for teenagers is that the craft group have funded 42 new Young Adult books to read for pleasure, which have been chosen by young people for young people. Do spread the word and come and borrow them. Additionally, Menston's teenage section has been chosen to house an extended collection of 'Reading Well' books for teens. These are a Reading Agency initiative of books recommended by teenagers and health officials.

We actively support recycling and up-cycling initiatives and we are currently a collection point for used stamps, used batteries and contributions for Homeless Hampers. We will shortly be collecting for Oxfam too. Additionally, we accept donations of good as new books. Please note all non-fiction must be less than five years old unless of local interest for the heritage collection.

All this activity is only possible because of my wonderful team of volunteers, a big thank you to you all. It has been a pleasure to welcome several new volunteers to the team since I last wrote. If you have a love of books and could spare a few hours to help please do call in or phone on 01943 876539 to find out what is involved. We are open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, and on Saturdays from 10am-1pm.

Do come in and see what we have to offer. **Jill Cooke, Library Manager**

THE CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group would like to thank all those who have supported them over the past twelve months in purchasing their handmade goods from the library to finance under-clothes for Bradford Baby Bank (BBB). BBB are truly grateful for your generosity.

Looking to the future the Craft Group will continue to support BBB, the Homeless and Bradford Maternity Department by knitting hats and other articles **using donated yarn**.



We will be switching our fundraising efforts to supporting the building of a new Menston Guide and Scout hut. The intention is to make items such as tote bags, shopping bags and beach bags as well as coin and card purses which are attached to key rings. Also we will be making hairbands and scrunchies plus shoe bags for those muddy football boots.

All fabrics and zips are either donated or recycled.

We will be handcrafting more useful items over the coming year which will be available from the library and through our email address:

menstoncraftgroup@gmail.com.

We look forward to your continued support of this community venture.

Many thanks.

Anne Gadd

MENSTON VILLAGE SHOW

The 2024 Menston Village Show is happening again on **Saturday 14th September 2024** so there is plenty of time to plan your entries!

For further information please visit the Facebook page or website:

<https://menstonshow0.wixsite.com/menston-village-show>.

SCOUTS AND GUIDES

On the first weekend of the year, Menston Scouts & Guides held a public consultation about building a new HQ - it was held at the new Burley HQ as an example of what we could achieve. It was well attended by members of the group, families, neighbours, Parish Councillors, members of the public and other interested parties. We were delighted with all the enthusiastic contributions and we are now eagerly working towards a concept design and costed project plan with a view to inviting interested professionals to tender for the project.

Menston Scouts and Guides has over 200 young members and more than 60 volunteers running its programme (both those leaders who wear uniform and those behind the scenes) and we have long waiting lists. 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!

Our fundraising volunteers have visited all the units and to the younger children issued the Smarties challenge - the children are trying hard to fill their Smartie tubes with coins towards the project. Their small efforts combined will all help towards our goal of £1 million. We are so grateful to local businesses and organisations like the Menston Village Show, FMJ Plastering, and Kirklands Community Centre for their kind contributions. And to enterprising local resident Cheryl Thornton for her yard sale proceeds. And to other generous individuals who know who they are. It is this kind of generosity and community spirit that we will need as we pull together to make the new HQ a reality, and a resource that will benefit the whole community.

The Scouts are really willing to do their bit: they raked leaves and pulled weeds around Kirklands to earn their donation. They also plan to wash cars in the summer so watch out for that event - coming soon!

The Rainbows have already arranged a bag-packing session at Sainsbury's in Otley and have planned a bake sale at the Primary School on Founder's Day/ World Thinking Day. The Guides are putting on a theatrical performance at the LDS church to raise money on 12th March at 7pm.

If you want to find out more, you can join a mailing list by contacting the email address below, or we will have a website very soon - look out for more information displayed around the village and in the library and on social media. If you want to donate, there will be collection tubs in local businesses, there is a SumUp link on the Hut Development Facebook page and you will be able to donate via the website, or with Give as you Live, please get in touch for more info. We are close to raising our first £100k – can you help us get over the mark?

What else could you do to help? Contact

hutdevelopmentmenston@gmail.com with your ideas or offer to volunteer!

Naomi McMorn

MENSTON YARNBOMBERS



A lone knitter has been decorating the post box on Cleasby Road for a couple of years, and now with thanks to a start-up grant from Menston Village Show, a new community group has been formed to hopefully expand the number of sites across Menston.

Menston Yarnbombers met in January to plan a programme of guerilla knitting and

crocheting across the year; we hope to include more seasonal installations, bigger projects, and of course there will be some surprises. We are grateful for the support of Cygnet Yarns in Bradford, who have supplied appropriate yarn, and who continue to offer their support. If you would like to help in any way, knitting, crocheting, donating supplies, or perhaps helping with the “technical side” of installing, and making figures stand up straight, please contact menstonyarnbombers@hotmail.com.

Anne Lomas

CLIMATE ACTION MENSTON

On Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm at Kirklands, we will be welcoming local architect, Cathy Hunt, who will be talking about: Retrofit - adapting homes for the climate crisis. What does it mean and how to do it.

Thank you to those who supported the recycling event at Kirklands in January. Crisp packets and blister packs were collected as well as Christmas cards for upcycling into gift tags. Those who did this found it surprisingly enjoyable. In the Autumn, we will see if we can organise another upcycling session.

On 15th May at 7.30pm we will be holding our annual general meeting with elections and a review of the year. Too early for full details so do check out our website nearer the time. For further information about CAM and to contact us see:

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

Marilyn Banister

Kirklands belongs to Menston.

In 2018 CBMDC handed the keys to Kirklands to a charity, “Kirklands Menston Trust”. All the trustees are Menston residents. The Trust has a long lease and has so far invested over £300,000 on renovation and development. More investment is planned to improve the centre for the benefit of Menston.

Each year we have received significant financial support from MPC, and secured grant funding from other sources. Having substantially increased utilisation since taking over management of Kirklands, 50% of income now comes from our activities. In the coming year we expect to completely fund day-to-day costs from this income, helping to secure the community asset long into the future.

We are at the heart of the village, providing facilities and resources for the benefit of everyone in the local community throughout their life.

Our tenants include the doctors’ surgery, community library, preschool, Bowling Club, businesses like Rideaway, the Studio, UNP Ltd. and, for a period, the Co-op. Since February 2023 the trust has facilitated and acted as an umbrella organisation for Menston Community Fridge which, with initial financial support from MPC, has redistributed over 30 tonnes of surplus food away from landfill for use by all in the community.

We are home to the regular meetings of MPC and MCA and to Neighbourhood Forums where residents can discuss issues of importance to the community.

We provide a base for many groups, including arts clubs and classes, yoga, Pilates, badminton, choral and other music, retired people, bridge, gardening, mother and baby, dance and exercise for all ages as well as support groups. We even provide a regular space for the visiting Village Chippy.

We have hosted fundraisers for Friends of Menston Primary School, Menston Preschool, NSPCC, and Light Up Menston. Voices of Yorkshire, Menston Thespians, Rock Choir, “Sally’s Army”, an Abba tribute band, a ceilidh band, and even Aireborough RUFC’s pantomime could be enjoyed here in 2023, as well as exhibitions from Menston Arts Club. It was also great to see our young people taking part in drama, dance and singing classes with Stagecoach and in PE People sessions during the school holidays.

In recent years Menston has used Kirklands to host parties, dances, movie nights, performances, competitions, meetings, training courses, weddings and wakes and every year, the annual Menston Village Show takes place here.

The community comes together annually here for Remembrance Sunday and to see the Christmas Lights switched on, and of course, Kirklands is a polling station for local and general elections.

Kirklands values the loyalty of our tenants and many longstanding users and welcomes newer users. We hope to welcome more and diverse groups in future. Kirklands Trustees are volunteers and work with a dedicated staff led by Heather Norreys. There is one current vacancy for a charity trustee but there are other ways to help. Please explore the “Trust” page on www.kirklandsmenston.org or call Heather on 01943 874335.

Heather Norreys, Centre Manager

Kirklands upcoming events for your diary

Saturday 16th March - NSPCC coffee morning

Saturday 20th April - NSPCC jumble sale

Saturday 20th April - Angels for Children Disco

Saturday 27th April - Musical tribute night

Thursday 2nd May - Local elections

Saturday/Sunday 11th/12th May - Menston Arts Club Exhibition

Saturday 18th May - NSPCC coffee morning

Saturday 15th June - Angels for Children Ceilidh night

Saturday 29th June - Menstonbury Menston Pre-school fundraiser

MENSTON AREA NATURE TRUST

Bird Walks

These will now happen on varied days, allowing more people to take part.

Please watch the website for more information at <https://mant.org.uk>.

Working Parties

Currently working parties are being shared with work in Weston Woods, and may take place on different days. Please check the website (see above) for more information.

Miss Porritt's Field

Kai, Annie and Joni, the Dexter cows, visited us for their annual holiday in the autumn, and did a great job of chewing the grass and making varied habitats for different types of wildflowers. We should start to see more varieties of plants thriving this summer.

Weston Woods

MANT finally took legal possession of Weston Woods in December 2023. Before Christmas we had an exciting online auction which raised over £3,000 towards the loan we are paying off. Further fundraising events will be taking place, so please keep an eye on our website (see above). At the end of January we carried out the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch there, and will be doing a full ecological survey to guide our future management plan. We are also organising working parties in the woods, so please come and get stuck in!

Trustees

MANT is still looking for more Trustees. If you are enthusiastic about nature and have the energy to match, please get in touch at info@mant.org.uk.

Calling for Gardens

On Sunday 9th June 2024 MANT is planning to repeat their hugely successful Wild Gardens Open Day but we need some gardens to take part! If you have a garden of any size at all and would like to share it with others to encourage them to welcome wildlife into their gardens, please get in touch at info@mant.org.uk. It couldn't be easier, as "tidying" the garden is absolutely discouraged!

Francesca Bridgewater

MENSTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION - JAMES HALL COACHING

A member of Menston Business Association since 2020, James Hall has been growing his part-time virtual coaching, mentoring and accountability business, James Hall Coaching, to help his clients achieve the transformational change they had been wanting to achieve.

James grew up in Menston and attended both the infants and junior school. He moved away from the village in 2000 to live firstly in Guiseley, in Biggar in Scotland and then Richmond in North Yorkshire before moving back to the village in 2012.

James has 21 years of management experience at a FTSE 30 company and has now been coaching for 10 years after gaining his ILM level 5 qualification in coaching and mentoring in 2014 and then became a certified NLP Licensed Practitioner in 2016 before starting his business in 2020.

Using his 6-step **Create Your Tomorrow Today** process, James helps clients clarify what they want to achieve and why, support them to take action, measure and celebrate their progress until they achieve their desired success. James strongly believes in putting his clients at the heart of everything and provides one-to-one support tailor-made to his clients' needs. He has also recently launched his new CREATE IT group coaching programme.

If you are wanting to make a change be it personal, career or in business and have found it difficult to move forward please contact James.

James's clients have achieved successes which have included gaining promotions, changing careers, supporting lonely business owners who have created double digit growth to their businesses, making more time for themselves, their families and what is important to them and overcoming self doubt, procrastination and imposter syndrome.

James also does inspirational talks around how to reach your goals either online or in person. If you want to know more about any of his services, he can be contacted through the Menston Business Association or by contacting him directly by visiting

<https://card.pramaze.com/james-hall>.

James Hall

LIGHT UP MENSTON

The annual Light Up Menston lights switch on and fair will be held on **Saturday 7th December 2024, 1pm until 5pm.**

For more information please visit the Light Up Menston Facebook page.

MENSTON FRIENDS AND FAMILY HUB

Our Hub meetings incorporate guest speakers/workshops and also a space for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs to socialise, share information, and be welcomed without judgement. Parents/carers have a wealth of knowledge and experience and are in the best place to be able to support one another with the feelings, challenges and opportunities that life brings. The Hubs are a safe and friendly place to access and share support and reduce the social isolation that families can sometimes feel.

In the coming months the Menston Friends and Family Hub will be continuing to meet at Kirkland's Community Centre from 10am-2pm, dates as below:

Wednesday 13th March 2024: This session will be about **Mental Wellness**, delivered by the providers of Kooth and Qwell,

Wednesday 8th May 2024

Wednesday 12th June 2024: June's presentation will be on the Padlet and how to access information. The Padlet is a valuable resource, with an electronic summary of each of the Hub sessions that Thinking BIG have held over the past five years, and useful links to additional information and support.

If you have any questions about any of the topics that we'll be covering, or would like to join any of our sessions, please contact:

friendsandfamily@thinkingbiguk.org where we'll be happy to chat. Thinking BIG can also be contacted on Facebook at: @thinkingbiguk

World Autism Acceptance Day

Airedale and Wharfedale Autism Resource (AWARE) are organising the next World Autism Acceptance Day (WAAD) which we'll be once again attending. This will be held on Tuesday 16th April, 10am-2pm at Bradford City Football Stadium, in the Events Suite. Look out for our stall, where we'll be meeting parents/carers and sharing information about our service. Tickets are free, but booking is essential. Contact the organisers by email at info@aware-uk.org or via their website: www.aware-uk.org.

Claire Wright



The Wednesday Club for the over 65s is now up-and-running at the Malt Shovel pub. **The club runs alternate Wednesdays, 12pm-3pm.**

Come with a friend or by yourself - there's always someone to talk to! Some Wednesdays there will be music and entertainment from the golden years, other weeks bingo and quiz afternoons (taking part is optional). For more information call 01943 725 249.

MENSTON HERITAGE GROUP - THEIR FINEST HOUR

On November 4th last year, and in the weeks that followed, a group of us recorded the amazing stories and objects of World War 2 brought to us by a number of Menston residents. They recalled the experiences of family members who lived through the war years and whose memories are slowly passing from our view. Luckily, these particular stories will be stored in a national archive at Oxford University, as well as being made available in various ways to Menston village. They illustrate so much about stoicism and finding humour in difficult situations, social conditions at the time, local history and global travel. Here is just a snapshot of a few of this treasure trove of stories.

James Munro was attempting to escape from Dunkirk when the destroyer he was on was bombed. He jumped off the sinking ship and was left to swim around in the sea. His granddaughter, our Parish Clerk, wrote: *"He soon realised that his army uniform was dragging him underwater and swiftly removed all his clothes. To his immense relief an English fishing boat – one of the 'flotilla of little ships' which volunteered to help rescue the troops – finally spotted him and pulled him out of the water. The fishermen found Jim an old pair of trousers and one of the crew took off his sweater and insisted on donating it. My cousin now owns the donated sweater and as an act of homage he wears it when he goes fishing. Jim was always full of bravado about his experiences, but it was only after his death in 1982 that my grandmother spoke about the aftermath of the Dunkirk evacuation and the terrible nightmares about swimming around in the sea convinced that he would not be rescued that haunted Jim afterwards."*

Richard Wightman praised the unsung heroes, like his father Charles Wightman and many others, who were too old to fight, but who from 1939 to 1945 spent all day working in an office, doing the jobs of the many men and women who had been called up, and then all night on the freezing cold Chevin in a hut tracking German aircraft coming over the Chevin. Richard commented: *"The fatigue must have been enormous."*

Women back in the UK did sterling work in meeting troops and giving them refreshments and a little touch of home. Karen Casson's grandmother and middle daughter were in South Shields train station when approached by a group of local squaddies asking where there was a decent chippy. She invited them home for tea where one young soldier caught the eye of Karen's mother, and the rest was history!

These are only a few examples of the wonderful stories and objects we recorded for posterity. It's not too late to tell us your story, particularly if it's about a woman! Please contact Goodith at: anne.goodithwhite@ucd.ie or 01943 872043 if you'd like us to record your story.

Goodith White

The Menston 2025 Heritage Group are busy gathering information about Menston - people and places as well as Sooty, Lassie and others! Do get in touch if you have a story to share. On the menston.org website we are building up a timeline of information about the village and are finalising the route for a trail to link some of the places of interest.

We next meet on **Monday 4th March at 7.30pm** in Kirklands so do come along to find out more. Further information from Marilyn on 874220. **Marilyn Banister**