

# MENSTON NEWS

MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 139

[www.menston.org](http://www.menston.org)

Summer 2024



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



**Menston Yarnbombers have been busy adorning postboxes around the village with their fabulous creations. Have you spotted them while out and about? Find out more about their upcoming projects on page 7.**

## WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MENSTON NEWS

Welcome to the summer edition of the Menston News. It finally looks like summer is on the way but as that old saying goes “Ne’er cast a clout till May be out”. Regardless of whatever the weather may be, there are a whole host of Menston activities and events coming up, making this another bumper edition. One of the objectives I set myself when I became Chair of the MCA was to establish better communications and collaborations with other village groups and I am very pleased that together with the MCA committee we are starting to make progress with this. Firstly I am thrilled to announce that from this year the Menston Show will join the Menston Community Association umbrella of groups of which Menston in Bloom and Light Up Menston are already a part of. Our committees are looking forward to working together and supporting each other. We have also met with members of High Royds Residents’ Association to discuss how we may be able to support, collaborate and share communications better in the future. Menston News is delivered to all the High Royds residents and many residents regularly attend and support village events.

As part of the Great Big Green Week we are hosting a Ladies Fashion Clothes Swap. This is a joint event with Climate Action Menston (see the advert in this edition for full details). It promises to be a fun event, a chance to nab a bargain, help save the planet plus enjoy refreshments, cakes and a raffle.

The Community Lottery is continuing to attract new members. Since it began nearly £400 has been won in prizes. If you haven’t signed up yet check out the advert in this edition. Remember for every £1 weekly ticket the Community Association receives 50% and all proceeds will be used to provide events and support other village groups.

The Association is currently looking at how we can update our communications and social media presence. Watch out for more details in the next edition of the newsletter.

**Cheryl Thornton, Chair of the MCA**

## MENSTON PARKS GROUP

Menston Parks Group, who have been meeting over the last year, is looking forward to the installation of new play equipment in the main park this summer by Bradford Council but with additional funds from the Parish Council. The group was involved in the consultation and there will be a new train!

The Group, who comprise members of the Parish Council, Menston Area Nature Trust, Menston in Bloom, Scouts and Guides, Menston Business Association etc, is also working on a plan for a circuit path of the park, the designs for Ally’s garden and a memorial to Peter Finlay. Proposals will be put to the Parks Dept at BMDC and then we will need to consider funding etc.

The Group meets in Kirklands and anyone is welcome to attend.

**Menston Parks Group - Sub committee of Menston Parish Council**

## MENSTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is continuing to support various exciting projects in the village. Plans for upgrading the play equipment in the park and design of a perimeter path are making good progress in association with the Menston Parks group, Menston in Bloom, and Bradford Council.

**Play Day events have been arranged for this Summer which will take place on 25th July, 1st August, 8th August and 14th August 2024.**

At the last meeting we welcomed John Houlihan as a new parish councillor, following his successful application to the vacancy left by Goodith White who is continuing to help with developing the Neighbourhood Plan. We also welcomed Brian Firth and Andy Bodkin, local champions of public access defibrillators, to give a presentation. The Parish Council has awarded grants to fund various defibrillators and replacement parts in the village, and we are in the process of identifying additional suitable locations.

Applications for grants can be submitted at any time. Further details on how to apply are available on the [www.menston.org](http://www.menston.org) website. Recently approved grants have included support to a range of local groups and a contribution to the High Royds Memorial Garden for repairs and maintenance.

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

**Philip Moore, Chair, Menston Parish Council**

## MENSTON PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Following the Neighbourhood Plan survey, we are arranging a series of workshops to get people together to think a bit more about the various topics. Green Spaces and Travel and Transport have been looked at so far and the housing one will be on **Thursday 20th June at 7.30pm in Kirklands.**

If you would like to be involved in any of the various subgroups in relation to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, and are not already on the circulation list, please get in touch. Having a Neighbourhood Plan enables us to develop a shared vision for the future of our village.

A big thank you to everyone who has participated so far. It is a long process but we are aiming for a referendum date of May 2026. That sounds a long way off but it is probably not given all the hoops to jump through!

**Marilyn Banister**



I wonder how good you are at *waiting*? We have to do it all the time. When we are children, our waiting seems to be focused around birthdays and Christmas, exciting events. As we get older waiting becomes linked to uncertainties, and outcomes. Later still it seems to be about anxiety and fear. Here at St Johns as a Parish we are waiting... many of you will know that in January we said our sad farewells to Steve and Elaine Proudlove, and their family. Steve has been an excellent vicar in the village and will be missed by many people. He has left us to take up a new role in the diocese, to support the formulation of ministry, both for those exploring a vocation, and for those who have been working in the Churches for many years but need to keep refreshed and up to date. We sent

him on his way surrounded with both grateful thanks for all he has given to Menston, and with promised prayers for all he will continue to do for the wider diocese. But now... *we wait!* Maybe with anxiety and fear about who the new vicar will be and when they will join us, but mostly with eager excitement and anticipation at the start of what will inevitably be a new chapter in our life at St Johns.

During the month of May we will be celebrating two significant festivals in the life of the Church, along with our sisters and brothers in the other Churches in our community. First of all, Ascension, when we believe that Jesus told us we were to be disciples for the whole world. He told his first disciples that they should *wait* in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came to fill them with power, making them His witnesses. It was then that He was caught up into Heaven and returned to His heavenly Father. Ten days later, we celebrate together the feast of Pentecost, when we remember how God first poured out His Holy Spirit onto His Church, and the mission work began.

Before Pentecost could occur, the disciples had to *wait*. In eager anticipation, in fear and dread, with a sense of excitement. They *waited* and God fulfilled His promise. As a Parish and as a village we *wait*, and we pray. Please join us in praying, and always know that whatever else is happening, YOU are assured of a warm welcome, whoever you are, at your Parish Church here in Menston.

**Revd Andrew Howorth, Associate Priest**

## News from St John's Churchyard

You may remember that several months ago an application was made to the authorities for permission to close the historic section of the Churchyard. All the grave plots were filled several years ago, and there is no more space for it to function as a cemetery. No burials have taken place in this area for many years. His majesty the King has now granted permission and formally closed that part of the churchyard, meaning that the responsibility for its upkeep now switches to the local authority. The Parochial Church Council and the Church Wardens are working closely with Bradford Council to ensure that this happens in a safe and timely fashion. Part of this task requires repairs and remedial work doing to some of the older graves and monuments. Anyone walking by will see that some of the angles of the head stones are precarious and in need of attention. We believe that most of these graves are of an age where it would be difficult to find surviving relatives, to inform them of the repairs that will take place. However, we are certain that they would approve of this work. The local authority will then keep the grass mowed and the pathways safe. This probably means that it gets a "good cut" around three times a year. Our willing team of volunteers will try to do maintenance in between times, and our much-appreciated garden will not be affected. All this work was carried out with great care and with consultation, and we hope that we can preserve this historical corner of the village for years to come. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [office@stjohnmenston.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnmenston.org.uk). **Revd Andrew Howorth**

### St John's Menston - Eco Church

There will be a summer workshop at St John's on **Saturday 20th July from 10am to 12pm**, where we will hope to harvest some crops from the seeds that were sown at Easter. There will be various family friendly activities so do come along.

Each week at St John's there is an informal service at 9.30am where all ages are welcome. More information from the website [www.stjohnmenston.org.uk](http://www.stjohnmenston.org.uk) or Parish Office 872433. **Marilyn Banister**

### West Yorkshire Ecology Service

Are you out and about in the Parish and want to record sightings of local wildlife? If so, West Yorkshire Ecology Service would be pleased to hear from you. You would need to include the species, date, 6 figure (or better) grid reference (or what3words) and contact details. Reports can be submitted on their website: [www.wyjs.org.uk/ecology/records-submission/](http://www.wyjs.org.uk/ecology/records-submission/)

**Marilyn Banister**



# Join MENSTON'S COMMUNITY LOTTERY

and Help Boost Funds for Local Causes & Events

- Tickets are just **£1 PER WEEK** or £4.34 by monthly Direct Debit
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to **MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**
- Win prizes up to £25,000



## PLAY NOW:

Scan this QR code or go to:

[www.onelottery.co.uk](http://www.onelottery.co.uk)

and search for: **Menston Community**

or ring **01865 678 679** for more information



GambleAware

onelottery

Supporters must be 18 years of age or older - See Website for Terms & Conditions



**MENSTON COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION**



**PRESENTS**



**CLIMATE ACTION  
MENSTON**

# **LADIES FASHION CLOTHES SWAP**

**REVAMP YOUR WARDROBE & SAVE THE PLANET**

**KIRKLANDS**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

**CLOTHES ACCEPTED FROM 11.00am**

**WANT TO DROP OFF BEFORE THE DAY??**

**CONTACT [menstonnews@gmail.com](mailto:menstonnews@gmail.com)**

**SWAPPING COMMENCES 12.30 – 3.30**

**ENTRY £1**

**GOOD QUALITY, CLEAN ITEMS PLEASE  
(NO SHOES, UNDIES OR ACCESSORIES)**

**MAXIMUM 5 GARMENTS = 5 TRADING TOKENS  
EXTRA TOKENS CAN BE PURCHASED - £1 EACH**

**RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
(ALL GARMENTS NOT TAKEN WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY)**



# THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

**CAM and MCA will be holding a ladies clothes swap in Kirklands on Saturday 15th June as part of the Great Big Green Week.** The focus for GBGW is “Let’s swap together for good”.

The fashion industry is estimated to be responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions – so the more we can re-use what we have, the better for the planet.

We are also looking to swap stories of what you have done - are you a composting guru? Have you insulated your home? What’s your experience of an electric car or bike? Other actions? Would you be willing to share the highs and lows? If so, do get in touch.

For further information about CAM and to contact us see:

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

**Marilyn Banister**

## **Friends of Wharfedale Greenway Public Survey shows 95% in support**

Wouldn’t it be nice to be able to take a family ramble or cycle ride to Ilkley on traffic-free paths? Or for children to be able to cycle safely to Prince Henry’s? These are some of the possible advantages of the Wharfedale Greenway, which would create a link from Otley to Bolton Abbey (including a link to Menston), mainly using disused railway lines. The Friends of Wharfedale Greenway (FOWG) was set up in 2021 by volunteers from communities along the valley who support the vision of creating an off-road shared use path supporting wildlife, leisure and active travel.

In 2023, FOWG ran a public survey to gauge public opinion on the greenway and any concerns or issues respondents may have. They intend to use the results to inform those responsible for planning and building the Greenway. 1,705 people responded to an online questionnaire over a ten-week period. Respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of the Greenway with 95% in support or strong support of the proposal. You can read the whole report on the survey on the FOWG website (<https://friendsofwharfedalegreenway.org.uk>). Climate Action Menston (<https://climateactionmenston.org.uk>) keep in regular contact with FOWG and support the aim of giving local people sustainable travel options and creating a fully accessible recreation asset for Wharfedale.

**Tommy Knowland**



## MENSTON YARNBOMBERS

The knitting needles and crochet hooks have been flying as our new group have been producing both small and large items to adorn the two postboxes. Our first project went up for Easter, and the start of Spring. The two bunnies stood up really well in every kind of weather, and we are learning about engineering and structure as we go along.



Our maypole dancers welcomed in May, and the bees are busy buzzing round their hive. We would once again like to thank the Menston Village Show for the start up grant, and Cygnet yarns for their on-going support.

We are now busy working on our summer project, and a special D-Day commemoration for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June. We also hope there may be a surprise or two round the corner. If you would like to contact the group please email [menstonyarnbombers@hotmail.com](mailto:menstonyarnbombers@hotmail.com) or you can find us on Facebook.

**Anne Lomas**

## WRITING ON THE WHARFE

### **Lockdown Walk by Tommy Knowland**

Someone has provided a bench.  
Simple legs, simple wood, simple shape  
Left by the careworn path  
For us, for peace, for rest  
In a place that is curiously light  
It stands true, simple and polite.

*Writing on the Wharfe meet every other Saturday at the Menston Library between 10.30am and 12pm. Anyone interested can contact Martin Fuller by emailing [martin\\_fuller@live.co.uk](mailto:martin_fuller@live.co.uk).*

Design and Technology (DT) is an integral part of our school curriculum at Menston Primary. We have a detailed and carefully thought-out long-term plan, which ensures that each child learns and develops new skills whilst also acquiring a broad range of subject knowledge. Learning in DT draws on disciplines such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art.

The DT curriculum is split into the following four topics: structures, mechanisms, food technology and textiles. When children get to KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6), they are introduced to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) and digital world units, and the children start to develop a critical understanding of DT's impact on daily life and the wider world. DT is taught from EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) all the way up to Year 6, alternating with Art every half term. At Menston Primary, food technology, textiles and structures are taught throughout school, whilst mechanisms units are taught in most year groups. Our curriculum follows the guidelines of the National Curriculum and has clear skills progression.



In our most recent DT units, teachers have been making links with the wider community and children have been able to access the Menston Community Fridge for food technology projects. The Community Fridge is a fantastic resource and using it allowed the Year 4 children to explore, investigate and create their very own exciting soups! They loved planning their recipes, and being able to source their own produce promoted their

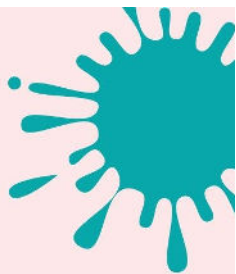
independence. There were certainly some rather interesting flavour combinations created! This project would not have been possible without the fabulous support from Laura and Rick. Without them, the children would not have had the same experience and we thank them for their continuous support of the school. More recently, Year 1 linked with the Community Fridge by donating their leftover food products after they had made smoothies, ensuring leftover food did not go to waste and went into the community. The fridge is an excellent resource base for us at Menston Primary and one we will continue to link with.

If you think you might have a project or specialism that will enhance DT learning at school, we would love to hear from you.

**Emily Hammans, Design and Technology subject leader**

Interested in

**Art?**



Then why not try

**Menston Arts Club?**

Our next **exhibition** is on Sat  
& Sun 16 & 17 November 2024  
at Kirklands, Menston

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

To view our syllabus, visit  
[menstonac.blogspot.com](http://menstonac.blogspot.com)  
or phone Pam on 01274 566576



## MENSTON METHODIST CHURCH

Our Minister for the last 11 years, Rev Tim Perkins, took his final service with us at Menston on Sunday 28th April. Tim will be on sabbatical from 1st May and then from 1st September will be taking up a new role as Superintendent of the Skipton and Grassington Circuit as well as continuing as Superintendent of the Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit and Minister with pastoral charge of Burley in Wharfedale Methodist Church.

We are sad to see Tim go but are delighted to welcome Rev Cameron Stirk as our new Minister. Cameron has been with the Wharfedale and Airebrough Circuit for two years as Minister at Otley and Pool in Wharfedale Methodist Churches and will be adding Menston to his portfolio. Cameron is already known to many of us with his involvement in Forest Church and Breathe. We know that he will be keen to get to know our village and we are excited about this new chapter in the life of our Church and the gifts that Cameron will bring to us and the community of Menston.

**Our morning service is still held at 10.30am.** On the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month this is held in Church and on the 1st and 3rd Sundays it is held in the main hall, café style, which provides a more relaxed and informal style of worship. **Sun Club for young people also meets on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month during term time.**

Thank you to those who supported our Easter Fayre on 23rd March. We raised £620 which is split between the Church, Christians Against Poverty and local food banks.

**The Friday Friendship Group continues with fortnightly meetings on a Friday at 2pm over the summer and the Wednesday Group will resume their monthly meetings in September. The Tuesday morning prayer group continues to meet every week at 9.30am in Room 1.**

Friday Club (7 to 13 years) and Friday Live (13 to 16 years) **meet on the last Friday of the month** with a variety of activities.

Our Walking Group meets on the **first Thursday of the month** for walks of approximately 3 to 5 miles. For further information please call 01943 511571.

If you are curious about faith and would like to learn more, please contact Jo Dixon and ask about Alpha [jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com).

Details of our activities are advertised on the Church noticeboard, Church Facebook page and website: [www.menstonmethodist.org.uk](http://www.menstonmethodist.org.uk).

Our thoughts and prayers are continually with those in our community and their families. If you need someone to talk to or pray with, please contact our Minister, Rev Cameron Stirk ([thestirks@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thestirks@tiscali.co.uk)) or our Lay Pastor, Jo Dixon ([jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com) / 07870 700713). All calls will be in strict confidence.

**Jalna Jenkins**

## CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

**For those who haven't already found us, we are a community café, open every day except Wednesday and Sunday, from 9.30am to 1.30 pm, 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/](http://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 excited to be planning a refurbishment over the summer months so keep an eye out for more details and information about any revision to our opening hours.

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 7 and 9 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**

## THURSDAY OIL PAINTERS

The Thursday Oil Painters are still busy, busy, busy... not doing nothing but producing some really beautiful work. We have very recently had an exhibition in Menston Library and have only just taken down the pictures. The group have been asked if they would consider another exhibition some time later in the season.

Unfortunately the attendance has been a little lower than usual due to various illnesses but it seems soon we will be back to normal. However, there is room in the group for new members who have an interest in oil painting. We are a very welcoming, friendly group willing to help anyone new to oil painting. We occasionally invite an able professional oil painter to demonstrate for us. Always very fascinating. We do have a walk, talk and discuss ten minutes in every session. Most of our general advice is considered seriously and quite often implemented. If you are interested then come along and meet us on any

**Thursday afternoon between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.** We gather in the main hall of Kirklands. There is ample room for any amount of painting 'gear' and space to spread out as much as anyone could want. Do join us.

**Judith Tomlinson**

## MENSTON CARES

An important date for your calendar is **Tuesday 9th July, which is the date of our AGM. This is to be held at Menston Methodist Hall at 1.30pm**

Following the short, formal business there is to be an excellent presentation by **Neil Hanson** who is a renowned speaker and author. We are very privileged that he has agreed to come and tell us about his time when he ran Britain's highest inn in the 1970s and 1980s. It should be very entertaining and not to be missed! His talk is entitled - **"Inn and Out at the Top"**. Refreshments will also be served - no charge, but donations would be gratefully received!

Other news - The Strolling for Health group of Menston Cares would welcome more strollers! We meet on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 10am outside the Nisa store** (formerly the Co-op) on Main Street. We walk for about an hour (going at the pace of our slowest walker), then we go to the Cornerstone Cafe for coffee and chat.

Also, we are still seeking new volunteers to help with Menston Cares. If you are interested then please contact me on 01943-876945 or email - [jp Pratt@rpadesign.co.uk](mailto:jp Pratt@rpadesign.co.uk).

**Jane Pratt**

## MENSTON RETIRED MEN'S FORUM

Menston Retired Men's Forum meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning at Kirklands, where we have had a very successful first quarter, attracting a couple of new members. The group is now 50 strong, but we still have room for anyone who would like to join us, you will be made very welcome. We now have our Summer break, but our programme for Autumn commences on **Wednesday 18th September with our AGM** and is followed by meetings with a variety of speakers and interesting subjects. Please contact Mike Hughes on 875999 for further information.

**Mike Hughes**

## MENSTON COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Menston Community Fridge has started 'Fridge Chat' - a monthly session on Saturday mornings in the library. This is a chance to pop in for a cuppa and chat about all things food related. The next session will be on **25th May at 10.15am**. Come along and join us!

**Cathy Tully**

## MENSTON VILLAGE SHOW

### **We can't wait for this year's Menston Village Show on Saturday 14th September at Kirklands Community Centre.**

Entries for the show are now open so, whether you're a keen crafter, star baker or veg grower there's bound to be a suitable class for you to enter! This year, you can either register your entry online or simply come along with your entries between 10am and 11.30am on the day of the show. Each entry cost 50p for children and £1 for adults or it's just £5 for unlimited entries.

Whether you're entering the show or just prefer to marvel at the talents of our fabulous community, please do come along when the show opens to the public between 2pm and 4.30pm on the 14th September. Check out our winning entries, enjoy some refreshments, enter our exciting raffle and take part in our auction for your chance to take home a Menston Show souvenir.

**We welcome all local groups, organisations and individuals to enter our special class. This year's community group challenge is to design a tile to adorn the new Menston Scout and Guide hut wall (max size A4).**

**Remember, we have classes to suit all skill sets and age ranges so please do check out our show schedule at [www.menstonvillageshow.co.uk](http://www.menstonvillageshow.co.uk).**

All the money raised at the Menston Village Show goes back into the local community. Last year we were proud to donate hundreds of pounds to worthy causes, including a new start-up grant to help launch the fabulous Menston Yarnbombers. This year, we hope to raise even more money to support the community... and we need your help. We're looking for volunteers to join the show team and help make September's event a success. Please contact us at [menstonshow@gmail.com](mailto:menstonshow@gmail.com) if you'd like to help organise this year's event or if you are able to volunteer on the day.

Huge thanks to all of this year's kind sponsors, whose generous support couldn't be more appreciated. We'd also like to take this opportunity to offer particular thanks to our Gold sponsors: Manor Coating Systems, Shipley Glen Tramway, FMJ Plastering, Chris Steele, Menston Parish Council and Shankland Barraclough Estate Agents.



I launched FMJ Plastering in February 2019 after completing a Diploma/NVQ in plastering. Having gained three years of on-site experience and working on domestic projects alongside my father, I decided to take the leap and set up the business. I was already beginning to create a growing client base and gaining a good understanding of the trade. Whilst this was challenging at such a young age in an industry predominantly dominated by older people, where experience is usually key to establishing a strong business, I quickly went from just myself to a team of three. FMJ Plastering has since expanded to include a diverse mix of employed members of the team and subcontractors, along with administrative team members.

In 2023, I set up FMJ Decorating in response to frequent requests for decorating services following the completion of plastering projects. This offered a full cosmetic package to clients' construction projects and has allowed us to extend our high-quality work and organisational skills, by providing clients with both these trades. This ensures continuity and peace of mind, maintaining familiarity with the same friendly faces throughout the whole project. It's an integrated approach which not only helps to improve client satisfaction but also helps to show our aim of giving clients a customer-centric service.

I recently wrote an article for "Construction News" discussing the difficulties of being a young person within the industry and the lack of attention towards younger people entering the sector. Looking back on my entry into the construction world, I can't help but notice the lack of support for young people like me. It's not surprising to see that when Checkatrade surveyed hundreds of 14 to 25-year-olds, 17% reported they received minimal career advice on trade jobs, 13% stated their parents didn't think a trade career was suitable for them, and 27% believed a career in trades would not suit them. The prevailing notion that success is synonymous with further education and not with a career in construction is a cause for concern to me, therefore I have and will continue to use the apprenticeship schemes to bring in potential new talent to the FMJ family.

I think it's important to prioritise this within the development of our business as I think it helps create a better workforce who learn to carry our values from day one with a better understanding for all aspects of the industry.



Our aims with FMJ are to prioritise continuous improvement in both communication and our quality of work. We have multiple communication channels, from social media to website forms, mobile phones, and emails. We try our best to respond promptly within 24 hours, making sure clients understand how important their potential projects are to us. Our team embodies our values, comprising skilled tradespeople who are awesome at the work they produce but at the same time remain friendly and approachable. I want to help remove stereotypes within the construction industry, showing that professionalism is prioritised. Our main goal is to deliver high quality work regardless of the scale of the project and create unparalleled customer satisfaction.



**Frederik Murphy-Jackson**

## MENSTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

We have had another successful season with an almost full membership. Here is our programme for the Summer.

**18th May SARAH TOMKINSON 'The Yorkshire Chocolatier'**. She will be describing how her hobby developed into a highly successful full time career and sharing samples with us to taste.

**19th June SOCIAL MEETING**. A fun time where we play some games, quizzes, competitions, and generally chat and get to know each other better.

**17th July NEIL HANSON whose talk is 'Inn and Out of the Top'**. Sounds mysterious and intriguing.

**21st August TIM FORMAN**. Tim tells us some 'Anecdotes of an Ordinary Gentleman.'

We meet on the **3rd Wednesday at 2.30pm in Kirklands** and the cost is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for visitors and this includes tea and biscuits. Many other activities take place, including a monthly lunch club, a book club, scrabble club and outings. We also support a number of charities. Call Laura Moorhouse on 01943 875041 if you need any further information.

**Laura Moorhouse**



We are continuing to enjoy producing handcrafted items in order to raise funds for the rebuild of the Scout and Guide Hut along with our own projects. As summer is approaching, hopefully, the **pegbags are back for sale (£5)** with their unique fabric combinations, all from donated or upcycled materials.

The **cavernous beach bags with their interior zipped pockets, some with external places to take water and sun cream containers (£15 to**

**£18)** are proving extremely popular to the point where they are not even going into the library to sell, but being sold prior to crafting. It has been a bit of a push to keep up with the orders! We are trying out a new style of shopping bag - **a Hobo bag with interior pockets at £18 each.** We have also been lucky enough to receive orders for bags of specific dimensions to meet different requirements which we always enjoy creating.

This summer we are also selling **spec cases, again using donated fabric and thread at £5 each, or more sassy versions costing £6.**

On **27th July**, all being well, we hope to have **a stall at the Scout and Guide Picnic taking place at the Scout Hut** in order to raise more funds.

Please help the Craft Group in supporting the rebuild of the Scout and Guide Hut by taking a look and possibly buying one of our goods.

**All items are being sold in the library (open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm; Saturday 10am to 1pm).**

**The Craft Group meet every Thursday in the library between 10am and 12 noon** and would welcome new members both with existing skills or those wishing to acquire new ones.

Please contact [menstoncraftgroup@gmail.com](mailto:menstoncraftgroup@gmail.com) for more information.

**Anne Gadd**



We are now in the best of the summer season. The 26 flower planters, the annual wildflower meadows (seeds supported by Menston Show), the permanent beds and the garden areas that we look after are in their full summer glory for us and the wildlife of Menston to enjoy. The refurbished beds at the corner of Farnley Rd and Main St performed particularly well through the spring and summer. The fruits of the 'jam and jelly hedge' are now ready for picking at the rear of Kirklands.

The volunteers of Menston in Bloom have been creating colour and wildlife opportunities since 2004. In our 20<sup>th</sup> year we hope to create a new garden, a garden accessible to all, to enjoy scent, colour and garden wildlife. The area we wish to develop with the support of Bradford Council Parks Team, Menston Parish Council, Menston Community Association, Menston Park Group, and Menston residents is at the junction of Farnley Road and Main Street, on the edge of Menston Park. This area was developed in the 1960s as a war memorial garden, dedicated to the fallen of two world wars. The memorials were subsequently moved to Kirklands Community Centre, where they are looked after by Menston in Bloom and others. With your support we feel that we can once again make this area a garden, which will complement the other opportunities that the park has to offer.

To progress this exciting development, we have drafted a design and are in discussion with the appropriate groups and landowner. Should this horticultural project get the go ahead, it will be phased and may take a number of years to complete. The project will have many opportunities for your support, including donations, volunteering and collaboration as we create a space that is different and fully accessible, supporting the health and wellbeing agenda.

We thank you for supporting the May Plant Sale where we raised much needed funds to support our activities, planting and gardening projects.

**In the coming months we will be out and about most Wednesday mornings and monthly Saturdays for our garden sessions** when we will be keeping our planters and flower beds in the best condition. 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, we would love to see you.

Information about our garden sessions and other news is publicised either through our email list ([menstoninbloom@gmail.com](mailto:menstoninbloom@gmail.com)), the Village News Calendar ([menston.org](http://menston.org)) or visit our Facebook page.

**Geoff Lomas**

## MENSTON BOWLING CLUB

It's been a disastrous start to the season for many of our fellow clubs in the Airedale/Wharfedale league. The incessant rain over winter and in the early spring has turned some greens to mud. Some clubs can't play at all and others are trying to play their home matches on the away team's green.

However, we at Menston are lucky in that when our green was constructed, much care was taken to provide a well drained sub-surface. Even if it rains and this causes puddles to form on the green, once it stops raining the puddles drain away in about 30 minutes, leaving a somewhat heavy and damp surface but still playable.

I know very little about the origins of our bowling green, but assume that it was part of the garden of Kirklands house that became surplus to requirements when Kirklands was taken over by the then local authority of Ilkley Rural District Council. Of course Kirklands goes back much further. It was originally called Fourness house and in around 1630 was the dwelling of Anne Fourness. Around 1872 the house and adjoining small holding (possibly the site of the bowling green?) were owned by Miss Mary Rhodes. During the late 19th century the property was taken over by the Exley family (cloth makers), and Robert as Justice of the Peace governed Menston and district from Fourness House. This historical data is taken from "Story of Menston" by Elsie Fletcher and "A history of Menston and Hawksworth" by Alastair Lawrence. If you have any further detail regarding the origins of our bowling club, please get in touch with me through our website contact us page.

However, back to the present. Locals appear to be getting more interested in our Bowling Club and we have managed to recruit five new members during the closed season. They have fitted seamlessly into the club and three are confidently playing with us in the local league. But our recruiting campaign never ends. Please come round to the club house if you are at all interested, introduce yourself to a member and arrange a "taster" session. We have many lovely, warm, summer weeks of bowls left before the season ends in September. For more information and to contact the club, check out the website at <https://menstonbc.wordpress.com/about>.

**Mike Ripley**

## MENSTON 2025 HERITAGE GROUP

The Heritage Group are hoping to move resources into the room at the library shortly and then we will be in a position to start cataloguing what we have. The Heritage Trail is in process - more to write and then to produce in an attractive format.

We meet about **every six weeks in Kirklands** so do get in touch if you would like to find out more. Further information from Marilyn on 874220.

**Marilyn Banister**

## MENSTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY



In early April we invited families to a “grow your own veg” event on a Saturday morning. Hopefully by the time you read this there will be produce growing in the various pots and boxes in front of the library. If you took home some seeds from the library please keep a photo diary of how you get on and send your pictures to [menston.library@gmail.com](mailto:menston.library@gmail.com).

If you are fed up with the rain and are spending more time indoors, why not call in to borrow one of our lovely jigsaws? If games are more your thing, we also have an eclectic selection of table top games suitable for all ages. Do call in and ask to try them out. If you are interested in playing regularly do let us know which day you would like to play as I am keen to start a games club!

We currently have two very specific games clubs, both of which are thriving and warmly welcome new members whatever their experience or ability. **At 2pm every other Wednesday the Canasta group meet and on every Thursday at 2.30pm the Scrabble Group meet.**

The crafters meet on a Thursday morning from 10am until 12pm and are currently busy making a variety of goods to sell to raise funds for the Scout Hut.

Last year on June 21st we very much enjoyed participating in “Making Music Day”. **This year June 21st falls on a Friday and we will be having a special opening from 10am until 1pm and 2pm until 5pm.** Do come in and listen to our talented local musicians. If you’d like to perform in our safe and friendly space please contact us.

For our younger members, we continue to share rhymes from **10.30am to 11am every Thursday morning**. For key stage 1 children during term time only we have a **story and a craft session at about 3.30pm on Thursdays**.

During the School Summer Holidays we will be running the Summer Reading Challenge. This year’s theme is Marvellous Makers. We will be supporting the Challenge with the following free activities. Please do email [menston.library@gmail.com](mailto:menston.library@gmail.com) or call 01943 876539 to book so that we can have enough staff and materials available.

**Thursday 25th July at 11am: Learn to knit or crochet for 6 to 12 yr olds**

**Thursday 8th August at 11am: Paper sculpting for 6 to 12 yr olds**

**Thursday 15th August at 11am: Sewing buttons onto cloth bags**

In addition on **Wednesday 14th August at 11am** we have a visit from Mud Pie Arts who will be performing Edward Lear’s Jumblies followed by a drama workshop including making a map to take home.

Finally, on **Thursday 22nd August from 10.30am** we will be holding a teddy bear’s picnic in Menston Park by the scout hut. Do come and join us. Bring a picnic and your bear. Everyone is welcome.

All these activities are facilitated by a wonderful team of volunteers. Thank you all for your continued support and a warm welcome to those who have recently joined us. We are a community library, run by the community for the community. If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see in the library please let us know. If you would like to join the team please call in for a chat.

**Jill Cooke, Library Manager**

## MENSTON AREA NATURE TRUST

**Bird Walks:** Join Andrew Kelly for a summer birdwalk on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June**. Meet outside Kirklands at 9am.

**Working Parties:** Much work has been taking place in Weston Woods, and will be continuing over the summer. Consequently working parties in Menston are more sporadic. Please see the MANT website for all opportunities.

**Table Top Sale in Menston on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 from 2 to 4pm.** Please start looking out for unwanted goods to sell, to make yourself some cash and raise a little to help us. More information and a place to sign up will be available on <https://mant.org.uk>.

**Miss Porritt's Field:** Over winter many more wildflowers have been planted in Miss Porritt's field, slowly building up the variety and quantity of vegetation. We hope to be able to see increased bird activity, as the number of insects increases. Equally, you may notice some verges, and an area in the park are being left unmown. These are also being planted with more wildflowers and should become havens for wildlife. Please consider leaving an area of your lawn uncut for most of the season – mowing a path through it will make it look intentional! You will be rewarded with a variety of wildlife and it will help the grass survive any dry patches (if any!).

**Weston Woods:** We are getting set to carry out a major ecological survey in the woods, which will guide future enhancements for nature. In the meantime, we have carried out a litter pick, and two different groups have started the long task of rebuilding all the stone walls. We are still raising money, so please see our website for future fundraising events, or consider giving the sponsorship of a 3x3m square as a gift <https://mant.org.uk/sponsored-squares>.

**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](mailto:info@mant.org.uk)

**Francesca Bridgewater**

## NSPCC

Many thanks for all your support for our recent fundraising events in the village. Calls to Childline and NSPCC are still increasing so all monies raised enables more staff and volunteer training to help vulnerable children. Our forthcoming events are as follows:

**20th July from 2pm: 'Timewarp' Band playing at Ilkley Bandstand, generously in aid of NSPCC.** Please come and listen and dance and bring change for a bucket collection.

**24th July at 1.30pm: Bridge Drive with Afternoon Tea in Kirklands** - Book your tickets for just £15 per person.

**18th August from 10am to 11am - Burley Community Event, Burley Park.** Come and see us at our stand, which will showcase the work done by NSPCC.

We look forward to seeing you over the Summer and if you need any details contact Jane Hughes 875999.

**Jane Hughes**

## Menston Lights Switch On and Christmas Fair - Saturday 7th December

It's too early to mention that word, but Light Up Menston will be at it again in December 2024 (and for a couple of months before). If you have a bit of time, don't mind getting cold hands - and especially if you have ladder or cherry picker skills - please get in touch and you can join the small band of elves who make this all happen. Just email [nigelcawthorne@talktalk.net](mailto:nigelcawthorne@talktalk.net) or text 07532114375 and we can have a chat to see how you could be involved.

**The Lights Switch on and Christmas Fair with FoMPS is on the afternoon of Saturday 7th December**, lots of publicity to follow.

**Nigel Cawthorne**

## MENSTON CRICKET CLUB

As I write, the 2024 cricket season is just getting underway after a two-week delay owing to the very wet weather over the winter. This year our 1st and 2nd teams are playing in Divisions 2 and 1 of their respective Aire-Wharfe leagues. Our 4th and 5th teams, based at the High Royds ground, are competing in the Craven & District League and our Women's team has 13 matches in the West Yorkshire League.

Our Junior section this season has around 120 members aged 8 to 17, playing on Wednesday and Friday evenings and Sunday mornings in their various age groups. The increasing interest in girls' cricket means we now have two girls' U15 teams playing competitive matches.

As mentioned previously, we are using the High Royds ground for both senior and junior matches but unfortunately the promised new sports & social club and pavilion has still not materialised. This means we are having to hire temporary changing rooms and toilets. The club is grateful to Leeds City Council Outer North West Community Committee for financial assistance.

We welcome all visitors and supporters at our grounds to enjoy our facilities whilst watching the cricket. Social membership is available by visiting our website ([menston.play-cricket.com](http://menston.play-cricket.com)), where all fixtures and results can be seen, or by scanning the QR code in the picture below. This entitles members to 10% off bar prices and entry into monthly prize draws.

**Mike Pratt**



Here's what's going on in Kirklands for youngsters in the village. There's something for all ages.



**Menston Pre-School** has been established in Kirklands since 1970 and Kirklands (Menston) Trust provided the opportunity for them to move from the main building into the purpose-built children's centre in 2018. They are Ofsted rated "Outstanding" and provide pre-school education Monday to Friday.

**Baby Sensory (Bradford North)** run classes throughout the day on Mondays. Early learning for babies through sensory activities and experiences.



**You and Me Baby Massage** run courses on Tuesday mornings for babies 1-9 months. The courses are five taught sessions covering different parts of the body including a special colic routine.

**Footloose Dance** are here on Tuesday afternoons livening up the main hall with their urban, street and freestyle dancing for 6 to 10 year olds.



**In Gear Cycling School** run five-week courses on Wednesday mornings. Pre-school children (18 months to 4 years) learn the basics of riding a balance bike including balance, coordination and agility.

*"When looking for a venue to hold our Toddler Balance Bike Club we couldn't have hoped for better than Kirklands Community Centre. It serves the community of Menston so well from the library, children's spaces and meeting rooms for community projects and events."* Jo Vine, Ingear Cycling School

**Stagecoach Ilkley** have lots of fun at Kirklands on Thursdays. They nurture and develop young potential through dance, drama and singing. Early stages for 4-6 year olds and main stages for 6-18 year olds.



## **PE People**

**PE People** have recently established a very popular holiday club. Children aged 5-11 can enjoy multi-sport activities including football, dodgeball, badminton, crazy golf and dance and other activities including arts and crafts, origami and board games. The club runs during Bradford school holidays.

*"Shout out to Kirkland's Community Centre! With its fantastic facilities, we're able to offer a diverse range of activities. From sports and dance on the professional stage to arts and crafts in the separate rooms, there's something for everyone!"* Charles Langan, PE People



More details about all these groups, contact details and how to join in can be found on their websites. Look on [kirklandsmenston.org](http://kirklandsmenston.org) and go to "Timetable" to find out when these groups, and all the groups at Kirklands, are running.

Want to start a group here in the centre or have a function? Contact me on **01943 874335** or email: [kirklandsct@gmail.com](mailto:kirklandsct@gmail.com).

**Heather Norreys, Centre Manager**



**WE ARE HIRING!**

**KIRKLANDS**  
AT THE HEART OF MENSTON

As Kirklands becomes host to a growing number of groups and events, an additional **Building Supervisor** is required to ensure the safety and enjoyment of users of the Centre.

**Main duties**  
Open, set up, and lock up rooms and the Centre when events are taking place (frequently involves lifting items like chairs and tables)  
Support our users to ensure their events' success enjoyment and safety

**Hours of work**  
Hours will support Centre operation during peak periods and include evenings and weekends.

**For more details and to apply**  
Please contact the Centre Manager, Heather Norreys on 01943 874335, at [kirklandsct@gmail.com](mailto:kirklandsct@gmail.com) or in person (office hours Tuesday and Friday mornings, all day Wednesday).

Kirklands Community Centre  
Main Street  
Menston  
LS29 6HT

## HIGH ROYDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

An update on the sports and social club pavilion is still ongoing and we are waiting for the developer Avant to comply with their planning obligations to build a sport and social club. We will let the local community know when we have a further update.

We now have a defibrillator on the estate which is on Kingsdale Drive. Weather permitting, we are hoping to organise a litter pick round the estate in June. The date and further details will be circulated via our message boards and Facebook. Grabbers and bags will be provided. Help very much appreciated.

**Cynthia Wood**



MENSTON SCOUTING & GUIDING



# UPCOMING

# events

# 2024

**18**  
MAY

## BREAKFAST & CAR WASH

Join us at the Malt Shovel Menston for our breakfast and car wash event. Breakfast donated by The Pantry & The Malt Shovel!

**19**  
OCT

## THIS AIN'T TEXAS....

Dust off your cowboy boots & join us at Kirklands for line dancing & disco. Adults & by ticket Only. Country music arrives in Menston!

**JUNE**

## SPONSORSHIP WORK

This month all our Scouting & Guiding units are working hard on their own fundraising projects

**01**  
NOV

## HALLOWEEN DISCO

Kids get your SPOOK on this Halloween at Kirklands at this ticketed event. We'll be hosting two back to back Discos!!

**27**  
JULY

## PICNIC AT OUR HQ

Join us for summer fun at our Scouting & Guiding HQ in Menston Park.

**21**  
DEC

## BIG SING!!!!

Everyone is welcome to Menston Scouting & Guiding HQ in Menston Park for carol siniging & mince pies.

**7**  
SEP

## JUMBLE SALE

2PM at Kirklands. Donations welcome. Open for Tea, Coffee & Cakes too!

**DEC**

## SANTA'S SLEIGH!!

A firm favourite, yes we KNOW HIM! Santa visits Menston on his sleigh with help from our Scouts & Guides. Dates TBA

**5**  
OCT

## STALLS & COFFEE MORNING

Businesses & volunteers offer a morning of shopping, teas, cakes & coffee. 9am-1pm Get in touch if you'd like to hire a stall.

**All funds raised from these events go towards Menston Scouting & Guiding NEW HQ Appeal.**

FOR MORE DETAILS FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:

MenstonScoutingandGuiding OR EMAIL:

Made with PosterMyWall.com

hutdevelopmentmenston@gmail.com

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

### **Wednesday 12th June 2024: Accessing Information**

We'll look at how to access useful information and resources to support parents and carers in their advocating role. Members are welcome to bring their phones, electronic devices or laptops for help to access and navigate our Online Resources.

### **Wednesday 10th July 2024 Supporting Young People in Distress and Reframing Challenging Behaviours**

We'll be joined by Laura Hellfeld, a Neurodivergent Nurse, for a workshop about challenging behaviours and reframing these. From there, we can clarify why these behaviours are happening and review examples of each. Importantly, we'll work through the foundations of supporting someone in distress and the boundary-setting that works best for neurodivergent young people. While doing this, we'll be thinking about traditional parenting advice and how we might rethink consequences to build a young person's sense of safety, trust and overall wellbeing.

### **Wednesday 14th August 2024 Summer Celebration**

This year we'll be holding our annual Summer Celebration event at ZEN Sensory Centre near Harrogate, which has been specifically designed for people with disabilities. Members of The Friends and Family Hubs will have exclusive access to the award-winning sensory rooms including their water, light, ultraviolet and activity rooms. Join us to enjoy the centre, as well as pet therapy in their gardens, food, relaxing mini-treatments, and time to have fun, play and meet other families of children and young people with additional needs.

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](mailto:friendsandfamily@thinkingbiguk.org) where we'll be happy to chat.

Thinking BIG can also be contacted on Twitter: @ThinkingBig\_UK or Facebook at: @thinkingbiguk.

**Claire Wright**

## 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 aims to report and provide updates on all events and activities happening in the village. It is the newsletter of Menston Community Association. Should you wish to get in touch with the MCA, please email [mcamenston@gmail.com](mailto:mcamenston@gmail.com) or [menstonnews@gmail.com](mailto:menstonnews@gmail.com).

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](http://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](mailto: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 Autumn 2024 edition of the Menston News will be **Wednesday 31st July 2024.**

The deadline for the Spring 2025 edition of the Menston News will be **Friday 31st January 2025.**

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

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

**Sophie Joelle Venner, Editor**