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COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

July/Aug 2026 1st Item of Baking
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Summer has a way of changing the pace of life. Alongside village fetes, flower and garden shows, picnics in the park and the occasional sporting tournament, there's something rather satisfying about reclaiming an afternoon and losing yourself in a good book.

Local festivals and community events are the threads that stitch the season together, and they're well worth making time for.

This month, Creative Earth Eco Fest at the beautiful Cliffe Castle estate on Yorkshire Day (1 August) offers a blend of hands-on creative activities, and the chance to unwind in a beautiful natural setting.

If music is more your thing, don't miss the spectacular line-up at Cougar Park. JLS bring polished, high-energy pop, while UB40 deliver laid-back reggae grooves and summer classics. Two very different sounds, two very different vibes... and a memorable summer evening awaits.

Enjoy!



Liz Barker, Editor

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BUILDING YORKSHIRE'S FUTURE WORKFORCE STARTS WITH SKILLS INVESTMENT

By Clare Fitzgerald, Head of Business Development, Luminate Education Group



When we talk about economic growth, we often focus on investment, infrastructure, and ambitious targets. But less attention is given to the people who ultimately deliver them.

Across Yorkshire, employers consistently report growing difficulty finding people with the right skills. At the same time, more than one million young people in the UK are not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

These two challenges are closely connected. If businesses cannot recruit, they cannot grow. If young people cannot access opportunity, talent is lost. Solving both together is essential to strengthening the regional economy.

Build & Recruit

Yorkshire is preparing for significant investment in housing development, infrastructure expansion, and the transition to a greener economy. However, Local Skills Improvement Plans continue to highlight persistent shortages in construction, engineering, manufacturing, and professional services.

Skills development is no longer optional, it is foundational to economic growth

At Luminate Education Group, including Keighley College, we work directly with employers to respond to these gaps. In practical terms, this includes the reintroduction of apprenticeships in plumbing and electrical installation,

responding directly to employer demand and supporting critical infrastructure delivery.

We are also supporting housing and retrofit ambitions. These trades are essential to building new homes and upgrading existing stock to meet net zero targets.

In addition, we have brought back the Level 2 Business Administration Apprenticeship. Previously one of the most popular entry routes in England, it was withdrawn in 2024. Its return provides a vital first step into work for young people.

For many learners, apprenticeships are not just training, they are the foundation of a career, combining real workplace experience with essential professional skills.

Why apprenticeships matter

Apprenticeships play a critical role in: Filling urgent skills gaps for employers Supporting social mobility and inclusion Building long-term workforce capacity Creating clear pathways into stable employment.

A call to action

If Yorkshire is serious about delivering its growth ambitions, skills must sit at the centre of the strategy.

We need stronger collaboration between employers, education providers, and government to ensure training keeps pace with real demand.

- If you are an employer looking to develop future talent, or
- If you are someone ready to start your career through an apprenticeship, we are ready to act and we invite you to contact us: apprenticeships@keighleycollege.ac.uk

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THURSDAY 30 JULY - KEIGHLEY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB
SATURDAY 1 AUGUST - LUND PARK
THURSDAY 6 AUGUST - VICTORIA PARK
SATURDAY 8 AUGUST - CLIFFE CASTLE
SATURDAY 15 AUGUST - CHURCH GREEN
WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST - WORTH VALLEY SCHOOL
THURSDAY 20 AUGUST - BRONTE PLAYING FIELDS
TUESDAY 25 AUGUST - MERLIN TOP

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MAKE IT BRADFORD

Bold landscapes and inspiring activities allow you to craft your perfect summer

experience. This summer, visit **Made by Many**

Hands at Bradford Industrial Museum (until 16 November), an exhibition celebrating the many crafts found across Bradford district. It is accompanied by a series of workshops and events in the dedicated **Heritage Craft Room**, where visitors are encouraged to have a go themselves.

Bradford's heritage buildings provide a striking backdrop to museums and galleries across the district. At **Cartwright Hall Art Gallery**, artist **Jim Moir (Vic Reeves)** presents **Neo Fauna (until 31 August)**, while **Bill Bailey's Extraordinary Portraits** are on show at **Loading Bay** in the city centre (**until 26 July**). At **Salts Mill** in Saltaire, **David Hockney's iconic work** sits alongside independent shops, cafés and exhibition spaces.

This year marks **25 years of Saltaire as a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, where heritage and creativity continue to sit side by side. Visitors can take part in workshops at **The Little Craft House** or create their own pottery keepsake at **Salts Pots**.

Here in the **Worth Valley**, creativity is already part of everyday life. **Haworth's moorland landscape** continues to inspire walkers and artists, while the **Brontë Parsonage Museum** brings

the period to life through demonstrations of traditional crafts including lace making and Victorian hair jewellery.

Haworth Festival adds a contemporary layer, celebrating the village as a living creative community with music, literature, theatre and workshops. Why not take part, try a **pottery session** at **The Classroom** at **Cobbles & Clay**, join community activity at **South Square** in **Thornton**, or simply

challenge yourself to visit familiar places with fresh eyes?

Beside the **River Wharfe, Ilkley** offers independent shops, restaurants

and a lively programme of events, including the **Summer Makers Fair** at **Ilkley Manor House (25-26 July)**, the **Real Ilkley Food Market**, and creative workshops at **Mrs Dutton's Wondrous Workshops**. Over the **August Bank Holiday (30-31 August)**, **Bard in the Yard** returns with outdoor theatre at **Ilkley Manor House**.

Whether you're discovering somewhere new or re-engaging with places you already know, make it a day, make it a weekend...

Make it Bradford! Find out more: visitbradford.com/makeitbradford

saltsmill.org.uk

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Where in the Aire Valley? COMPETITION

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The winner will be selected from all correct answers received by August 16 2026.



The location of last month's competition was Future Technologies Hub, Providence Park,, Keighley and the winner was Rebecca Harper from Silsden.



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Creative Earth Eco Fest: Making change through photography and art produced by Photo Hub North and Impressions Gallery, part of our Summer of Sustainability.

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Who are we?

Our Keighley Denture Expert is Matthew Varley (Dip CDT RCS)

Matthew Varley is the partner and Managing Director of My Denture

Clinics, here he works as a Clinical Dental Technician (Dip CDT RCS).

Matt was born and raised in Pudsey, where he met his wife Angela Varley at school. They have 2 sons; Ray and Austin, he hopes one day they will follow him into the dental profession and share in his passion for dentistry.

Within his 23 years of experience, Matt has changed the lives and smiles of many, some of which are during one day implant immediate loading cases, and same day smiles, which he specialises in. The regular accolades received from clients and patients alike are testament to his passion for his work. Matt has a keen eye for detail and endeavours to provide the best care possible. Matthew completed his dental technology qualification at Leeds Dental Institute, he finished first in his class achieving distinctions throughout and was awarded overall best student and the acclaimed technical achievement award.

Matthew Varley started his journey as a Registered Dental Technician (RDT), however after 23 years experience working as a RDT in highly acclaimed laboratories, Matt made the decision in 2018 to set up his own business alongside fellow business partner Joseph O'Reilly.

Matt also returned to university to further his dental knowledge and become a Clinical Dental Technician, receiving the prestigious royal college of surgeons (Dip CDT RCS).

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Matt's ambition is also his craft, creating lifelike smiles through dentures and implant supported prosthesis.

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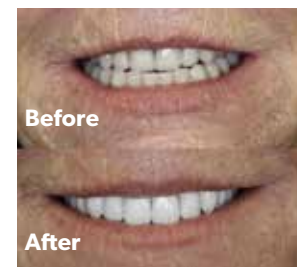


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Gazpacho

This classic chilled soup comes from southern Spain, where it's been keeping people cool for generations.

by Martin Lingard

This is probably the easiest recipe I'll ever write – there's no cooking involved! It's perfect for hot summer evenings, just like the one I'm writing this on.

The secret is to use really ripe, large tomatoes and a good quality extra virgin olive oil. You can use red wine vinegar if that's what you have, but sherry vinegar really does make a difference. I also like to save a little of the tomato, pepper and cucumber, finely chopped, to sprinkle over the top with an extra drizzle of olive oil. You'll often find gazpacho served with croutons in restaurants. Feel free to add them if you like, though they're not really to my taste.

Serves 4–6, depending on appetite and what you're serving it with.

Ingredients

- 75g stale bread, soaked in cold water for 20–30 minutes
- 1 kg large, very ripe tomatoes, halved
- 2 large red peppers, deseeded and roughly chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 cucumber, peeled, deseeded and roughly chopped

- 150ml good quality extra virgin olive oil
- 3 tbsp sherry vinegar
- 1–2 tsp sea salt, to taste

Method

Scoop the pulp and seeds from the tomatoes into a large sieve set over a bowl. Push as much of the juice and pulp through the sieve as you can, then discard the seeds and rinse the sieve; you'll need it again later. Squeeze the water from the soaked bread and add it to the tomato juice. Add the tomatoes, peppers, garlic, cucumber, olive oil, sherry vinegar and salt, then give everything a good mix.

Working in batches, blend the mixture in a liquidiser or food processor until smooth, then pour it through the clean sieve into your serving bowl. You may need to help it through with the back of a spoon or a spatula.

Cover and chill in the fridge for at least a couple of hours. Before serving, check the consistency. If it's a little thicker than you'd like, simply stir in a splash of ice-cold water. Serve in chilled soup bowls, topped with the reserved chopped tomato, pepper and cucumber, and finish with a final drizzle of olive oil.

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

It's certainly feeling like summer here at the Brontë Parsonage Museum, and we've got plenty in store to keep the whole family entertained, and lots of events which you can pop in to for free when you visit the Museum.

We're very excited to be taking part in this year's **Bradford Heritage Festival**, between **Monday 13th and Sunday 19th July**. We'll be hosting a **daily guided walk up to Penistone Hill** where you can be inspired by the very same



landscape that was so beloved by the Brontës and explore the remnants of the area's industrial past. We'll also be joined by storyteller **Sophia Hatfield on Wednesday 15th July**, who will be performing her unique take on local tales and folklore with music, costumes, and props! Plus, **Thursday, 16th July** you can take a trip back to 1848 and **A Saunter Round the Sights (and a Canter up the Cobbles)** with the Brontës own faithful servant **Tabby Ackroyd and Haworth grave-digger**

John Brown. This outdoor performance brings history to life, starting from the Brontë Parsonage Museum and heading out to the churchyard and the cobbles at the top of Main Street. **On Saturday 1st August**, we'll be joined again by conceptual artist and historian **Donna Lawson** who will be demonstrating techniques used in creating Victorian hair jewellery. Plus, on **Saturday 15th August** we'll be joined by lacemaker **Catherine Lillie**,

who recently led a sold-out workshop at the Museum. Catherine will be showcasing the art of bobbin lacemaking. Through her work, she aims to revive the endangered craft of bobbin lacemaking through participation and teaching, so come along and be inspired! **All these events are free with admission to the Brontë Parsonage Museum**, and remember, if you live locally, you can book Museum tickets for just £9 and come back as many times as you'd like within 12 months! bronte.org.uk.

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Rowan, Janice, Morgan, and Richard Charlesworth

After ten years of dedicated service, we'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to the Charlesworth family, who are retiring from delivering the Aire Valley Mag. . Some of our most reliable delivery teams have been families working together. For many young people, delivering the magazine is a first job, helping them earn pocket money while learning responsibility and reliability. The support of parents is often what makes that first experience such a success.

Mum, Jancie explains, "We started in 2016 when Morgan was 13 and wanted to earn some pocket money. We delivered together as a family to support her. When Morgan got her first Saturday job, Rowan took over the round, and later Dad, Richard, carried it on when Rowan also started work. Although the girls have now grown up, we still delivered together whenever we could. Now it's time to pass the round on. To Richard, Janice, Morgan and Rowan, thank you for your loyalty, commitment and cheerful service over the past decade. Your family has helped keep our community connected, and we're truly grateful. We wish you every happiness and hope another local family will enjoy the same rewarding experience.

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COMMUNITY PAGES

Steeton Bowling Club

Welcoming new members to join us for the 2026 season. All ages, all abilities. Contact Dianne 07961 749962
www.steetonbowlingclub.co.uk

Every Monday & Friday 1pm - 4pm

Knit & Natter Craft Group Steeton Hub More info call Diane 07873 485149

Every Monday 6.45pm - 9pm

Steeton Male Voice Choir meet at Steeton Methodist Hall. New members wanted call Ian 07949626675

Glusburn and Crosshills WI meet at 7.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Glusburn Community & Arts Centre. A friendly group for local women.

Sutton in Craven WI meet 1.30pm every second Monday of the month Sutton in Craven Cricket Pavilion all local ladies welcome.

Wellbeing Café at Glusburn Institute

Every Monday 10 am to 12 noon. . Contact 01535 630223 for more details.

Every Tuesdays Community Post Church Last Tuesday of a month is **Afternoon Coffee, chat & cake** at Steeton Methodist Church 2.30pm - 4pm with The Salvation Army food bank collection point.

First Tuesday of a month **Crosshills Goldie's Sing & Smile** – St Peters Methodist Church 2 -3pm singalong to the popular hits of the 50s, chat and laugh.

Games Club **Every Tuesday 1.15 - 3.15 pm** at Glusburn Institute. **Every Tuesday Rethinking Pain** at The Hive , Elliott Street. Silsden 3pm - 4pm

Steeton Bobbins WI 7pm meet on the first Tuesday of a month at St Stephen's Church Hall

Every Tuesday 7.30pm Airedale

Male Voice Choir at Steeton Methodist Church, Skipton Road, Steeton. No audition all welcome or call Roy 07944 092883

Every Weds Dementia Friendly 10am - 11.30am at Silsden Methodist Church

Every Weds Glusburn Lunch Club at 11.45am Glusburn Institute for a two course, home cooked meal, for £6.00 and company. Contact Pauline on 07436 113748.

Every Wednesday 1 - 2:30pm Dementia Hub at Glusburn Institute with Dementia Friendly Keighley. Activities and support for those with dementia and their carers. Contact 07961 537888

Every Wednesday 1.30pm Silsden Art Club meet at Silsden Methodist Church New members welcome.

1st Thursday of the Month at Steeton Methodist Church 7-15pm -8-15pm invites you to our **Prayer and Praise Service**

Every Thursday at Glusburn Institute 10.30am - 2.30pm Patchwork. More details contact Sylvia 01535 662698

Silsden Methodist Church Thursday Club 2.30pm - 4pm weekly Music, Games, Quizzes, friendly chatter & refreshments.

Every Thurs at 12.00 - 2.30pm Craven Craft and Mosaic Social Group at Sutton Sutton Cricket Club

Every Thursday mornings Silsden Secret Singers, a feel good choir for everyone! £7 per session, drop in.

10-30 am - 12 at Silsden RC Church Community Room, Wesley Place - look for the concrete ramp next to the church.

Every Thursday 2-3pm Social Singalong at The Studio, Glusburn Community & Arts Centre. All welcome to this friendly and inclusive singing for fun and wellbeing group.

Every Saturday Coffee Morning from 9.30 to 11.30am at Cross Hills Village Centre. Tea or coffee and biscuits. Raffle. All welcome. Monthly trips from May to September.

First Saturday of the Month is **Saturday Social 2 - 4pm** at St James Community Hall Silsden. Have a chat, play games & refreshments served.

Sun 5th July and alternate Sundays Keighley Can Sing 2 pm -3.30 pm

Open singing group for anyone wanting to connect and sing with others for joy. Warm, friendly and supportive group **Central Hall, Alice Street, Keighley, BD21 3JD**

Thurs 9th July 11.00am-1.00pm Lunch Club - bingo, sandwiches & cake **St Stephen's Community Hall, Steeton** All welcome.

Fri 10th July 1.30pm - 4pm Blooms, Bowls & Buns at Silsden Park. Have a go at Bowling, have a guided tour of the park and enjoy a cuppa and cake.

Weds 15th July 10am - 12.30pm Needle Felting Strawberries FREE how to Needle felting session - perfect for beginners. All material provided.

Downstairs Project, Civic Centre, North Street, Keighley Booking required contact

louise.soothill@keighley.gov.uk

Sat 18th July & 15th Aug 9.30 am - 12 noon Silsden Repair Cafe at Silsden Methodist Church

Sat 1st Aug 11am - 5pm Creative Earth Eco Festival at Cliffe Castle Keighley Family Friendly Free admission.

Sat 1st Aug 11 am - 3pm Yorkshire Day Lund Park Keighley BD21 1JQ A packed day of free attractions for all the family.

Sun 2nd Aug Silsden Car Boot 7am - 12 Riverside Field Silsden Sun 2nd Aug "Earl Crag" 6 miles. Meet for a 0.30 start at Cowling Parish Church, on-road parking. Keighley Ramblers

Mon 3rd until 8th Aug Keighley's Jurassic Adventures Keighley Airedale Centre Fossil digging, Dino Bus on Church Green, Arts & Crafts & lots more. **See Keighley Bid for full details.**

Fri 7th, Sat 8th & Sun 9th Aug 11am - 7pm Skipton Summer Festival at Aireville Park Street foods and bars together range of original grocery foods, craft stalls, and world street eats. Entertainment for the whole family live DJ, music stage and children's rides.

Sat 8th Aug 11am - 7pm Skipton Pride at Coach Street Car Park Free Event

Sat 8th Aug Keighley Gala 10.30am Parade on North Street 11am - 3pm at Cliffe Castle Keighley food stalls, fun fair, donkey rides, play in the parks, face painting.



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all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesman so our customers are assured of the best job. Integrity in that we will turn up at the time we say and make sure the house is spotless when we leave, and Value in that we offer our services at a price people can afford. Our business relies on referrals and we get a huge amount of our calls from people who have been referred to us by our existing customers - that simply wouldn't happen if we didn't adhere to our overriding principles.

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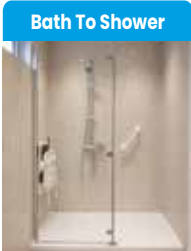
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