

AIRE VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

February 2026



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As we turn the page on a new year, February feels like a quieter kind of beginning. The rush of January has eased, routines are settling, and there's a little more space to look ahead with clarity. This first edition of 2026 brings with it familiar voices, local business features, and practical inspiration to carry you through the month ahead. I can especially recommend the Keema Shepherd's Pie recipe on page 10; it really is a delicious and comforting dish, and you have Marsh Top, an excellent local butcher, to supply the lamb.

We celebrate our 20th year trading this year and reflect on the ups and downs, though, to be fair, it has been a privilege and mostly a lot of good fun. We are really grateful to everyone for the support and look forward to more good times!

Be well and have a great February.



Liz Barker, Editor



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www.sightairedale.org.uk

Charity No 1080245

Paula loves reading, but an eye condition has made what was once a relaxing pastime frustrating. Then a friend mentioned Sight Airedale, a local charity based in Keighley. There, she tried a device that let her read electronic books with adjustable text size, and an app that read printed materials aloud.

Sight Airedale is a local independent charity supporting people across Keighley, Bingley, Skipton, Cross Hills, Silsden and Ilkley. They help people who are blind or partially sighted, or who have eye conditions such as macular degeneration, glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy that make reading standard text difficult, even with glasses.

Paula visited the Daily Living Shop at 31 Scott Street, Keighley (behind the library). She tried products designed to make life with sight loss easier, including a talking Air Fryer, and received private advice on issues

such as lighting. She also tried a USB Talking Book player, giving her access to the charity's library of over 2,000 titles. Books are posted to her on a USB drive, listened to, then returned free of charge. Staff can also choose books for her based on favourite authors.

The charity's Technology Service helped her use her laptop by suggesting a large-key keyboard and simple setting changes. She later watched a tutorial on the charity's YouTube channel about screen magnifier software.

The Keighley Social Centre, held at Sight Airedale on the first and third Thursdays of the month, gives Paula support from others with sight loss. Having someone say, "I get that too," really helps.

To find out more about Sight Airedale or book a visit to the Daily Living Shop, call 01535 602354, Monday to Thursday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Karen's



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A Fresh Year, A Thoughtful New Beginning

As the New Year begins, many of us take time to reflect and set intentions for the months ahead. It can also be a helpful opportunity to review our personal and financial affairs, or simply check that the arrangements we already have in place still reflect what matters most to us.

Putting these plans in order can include making a Lasting Power of Attorney for property and financial affairs and/or health and welfare. A Lasting Power of Attorney operates during your lifetime and allows you to choose who you trust to assist with decisions about your finances or wellbeing if the need arises in the future. Having this in place can bring reassurance and clarity about who will be there to support you. It may also be a good time to make a Will, or to review an existing one, to ensure it accurately reflects your wishes. A Will allows you to appoint Executors to manage your affairs after death, decide who will benefit from your estate and in what proportions, and set out whether gifts are made outright or held in trust. You can also record your wishes regarding the care of your children and pets. Making a Will provides certainty and peace of mind about the future.



Whether it's protecting your loved ones, safeguarding what you leave behind, or ensuring your legacy lives on, taking a moment to plan now can offer peace of mind today and security for tomorrow.

If you would like support in putting your affairs in order—through wills, trusts, estate planning or powers of attorney—our dedicated team at Walker Foster Solicitors are here to help. We provide expert legal advice built on knowledge and years of experience.

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Three Valleys Tractor Run

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The start of the run will be from Scott Street car park Keighley (BD21 2JH) arrival time from 9am to start booking in at 9.30am for a 10.00am start. The run is in aid of 2 charities, Manorlands Hospice Oxenhope and the Baton of Hope suicide prevention campaign (both chosen charities the by Mayor of Keighley Mr Chris Herd). Entry cost is £20 per tractor and £10 per passenger (this includes pie and peas and a brew at the end of the run!).



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by Martin Lingard

Just before Christmas, I met a friend for lunch in Leeds. I had a a shepherd's pie made with lamb keema curry and lentils mashed into the potato. It was really good. This is my attempt at copying it. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do. I like to serve it with a homemade tomato sauce but gravy works just as well. This is really filling, comforting and warming on a cold winterly evening.

Ingredients (serves 4)

For the filling:

3 tablespoons of sunflower oil
1 medium onion, peeled and chopped
6 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped
1 thumb length piece of fresh ginger, peeled & grated
1 green chilli, finely chopped
1 teaspoon of ground cumin
1 teaspoon of ground coriander
1/4 teaspoon chilli powder
750g minced lamb
300ml water
300g frozen peas
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon garam masala

For the mash topping:

200g red split lentils, rinsed
500ml water
2 slices of ginger about the thickness of £1 coin
1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
750g floury potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
75g butter, Salt to taste

Method

Start with the filling, heat the oil in a large frying or saute pan and chuck in your onions, fry, stirring often until starting to colour, then tip in the garlic. Stir for a minute or two before adding your ginger, green chilli, cumin, coriander and chilli powder. Give another quick stir then lob in the lamb.

Fry, stirring frequently till the lamb is browned then pour in your water. Bring to a gentle simmer, turn the heat to the lowest possible setting then cover and leave to cook slowly for 30 minutes.

Finally, add the peas, lemon juice and garam one and the peas masala. Cook uncovered until almost all the liquid has gone and the peas are cooked.

Turn off the heat and set to one side.

Now put the lentils in a pan and pour over the water and bring to a simmer, skimming off any scum from the surface. Now add the sliced ginger and turmeric powder and simmer gently, uncovered for 20-30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the lentils are fully cooked. It needs to be quite a thick porridge type consistency. Once cooked, fish out the slices of ginger.

Whilst your lentils are cooking, bring a large pan of salted water to the boil and carefully add your potatoes. Boil for approximately 20 minutes until the potatoes have lobbed then drain and mash well with your butter. Now tip in your lentil mixture, stir well to mix thoroughly and season to taste with salt.

Finally, preheat your oven to 180C and assemble your pie as you would for a normal shepherds or cottage pie. Lamb filling first in an appropriately sized oven proof pot, topping with the potato and lentil mash and levelling using the back of a fork. Bake in the oven for 20-30 minutes until the topping is nice and golden.

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Working in the Worth & Aire Valley



A belated Happy New Year from everyone at the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway and what an exciting year we have ahead of us along the Worth Valley.

Before looking forward, it's worth pausing to reflect on what a memorable 2025 it was for the railway. My sincere thanks go to everyone who travelled with us during the year, whether for a quiet countryside journey, a special event, or one of our major highlights. We were proud to be involved with Bradford 2025 City of Culture, welcoming visitors travelling to experience The Railway Children in the very landscape that inspired the story. We rounded off the year in tremendous style with our sell-out festive events, which once again showed the enduring appeal of steam railways for families and enthusiasts alike.

The year ended on a real high note with the transformation of our Water Tower into a new Visitor Centre being recognised nationally. The project was awarded the Greater Anglia Volunteers' Award at the 2025 National Railway Heritage Awards, a fantastic achievement and a testament to the dedication, skill, and sheer hard work of our volunteer teams.

~ Matt Stroh

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Chairman

Looking ahead, trains will be running every weekend throughout the year, supported by a regular and varied programme of events. We begin with daily services during the February Half Term from 14 to 22 February, followed by our popular Mother's Day Special, featuring a round trip on the railway and a two-course meal at The Old Parcels Office. One of the highlights of the spring will be our four-day Steam Gala Extravaganza from 19 to 22 March, which will feature visiting locomotives 5029 Nunney Castle and 34046 Braunton, alongside our home fleet.

Alongside these events, we are also turning our attention to the next round of essential maintenance and overhaul work. Planned projects include track renewals, building repairs, and the many behind-the-scenes tasks required to keep a 150-plus-year-old railway operating safely and reliably. This is a never-ending commitment, demanding both significant funding and countless volunteer hours, with months of planning needed to deliver each project.

NEXT STOP: DISCOVER THE RAILWAY

All Aboard for a Great Day Out at the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

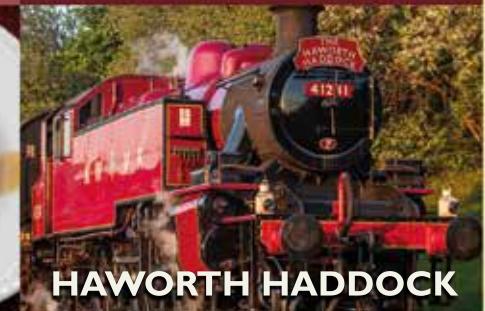
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Who are we?

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).

How can we help you?

Technology has moved on massively over the last few years as far as dentures are concerned. The fact is, **you don't have to suffer badly designed or ill fitting dentures anymore.**

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Matt creates dentures which can offer the dual effect of restoring your smile and correcting the proportions of your face.

He can add volume to your lower face and upper lip region to achieve a more natural, youthful look. Everyone is different, so your dentures are influenced by your age, personality and gender to ensure they look perfectly natural. Matt will discuss your individual needs and the best choices available before providing you with the information you require to determine what is right for you.

The smallest alteration can make the biggest change and Matt is committed to providing the highest level of care, quality materials and the latest digital technology to achieve the best results for you.

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

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(Please note our new address!)

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

Happy New Year from everyone at the Brontë Parsonage Museum! We're well underway with our collection cleaning and conservation work in the Museum right now. Staff are busy going through our collection stores and taking care of the lesser seen items, and now as we approach our reopening, they'll be busy getting the rooms ready and setting up our brand-new exhibition.

2026 is set to be an incredible year for Brontë enthusiasts, with the release of the brand-new *Wuthering Heights*



adaptation by award-winning director Emerald Fennell. Everyone at the museum is very excited about this adaptation, and we can't wait to welcome new Brontë fans when we reopen in February!

We're also excited to finally open this year's exhibition, *The Colonial Brontës*.

The Brontë children were avid readers, and much of their childhood reading contained the colonial ideas of the time which inspired again their earliest writing.

The latest adaptation of Emily Brontë's

Wuthering Heights has resurrected longstanding discussions about colonialism, particularly debates about Heathcliff's racial identity. This exhibition provides resonant historical details about people of African descent who worked in Yorkshire between 1771—the date Emily's story reaches back to—and the author's death in 1848. You can come along to see the exhibition when we reopen our doors on Wednesday 4 February, we'd love to see you there! Plus, we've got a whole programme of exciting events coming up, including

fascinating Thursday Talks by Brontë experts, and online Brontë Lounge sessions for those of you who can't reach us in person! Find out more about the new season at the Museum over on the 'What's on' page of our website, bronte.org.uk.

Remember, local residents enjoy concessionary prices and free entry to Thursday Talks, children go free, and you can return time and again on your ticket for twelve months at the Museum – including admission to our 'free with entry' events!

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6	7		5			
8		5	6			4
		2	1	7	8	5
			8			9
2	4		5	9	3	1
	3			6		
7		9		6	5	4
	6			9	5	3
			4		7	6

		1	5	2	6	
6				3	2	
	2	9		7	5	
8	6	4	7		1	
	2			1	3	7
	5		6		7	1
8		3				5
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		4	9		3	
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3	1		2			5
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	5				2	1
9		5			6	
	9		3	4		2
4		3	2	1		
	4			8		3
8	1				6	
	2		3	6		

Where in the Aire Valley? **COMPETITION**

Where is the **red x** located in the photo to the right?

This month's prize is donated by
Keighley Picture House:
Family ticket

Email your answer including your name
& address to:
mail@worthvalleymag.co.uk
The winner will be selected from all correct
answers received by the 16th of February 2026.



Last month's competition location was Sights Airedale,
Keighley, and the winner was Bob Moorehouse from
Keighley.



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COMMUNITY PAGES

River Worth Friends – litter picking and conservation tasks **Volunteers wanted** Tuesdays, 10am–12 noon Contact: info@riverworthfriends.org for more information

Every Monday 6.45 pm - 9pm Steeton Male Voice Choir meet at Steeton Methodist Hall. New members wanted call Ian 07949626675

Art at East Morton Institute Monday's 10am to 12pm & 1pm to 3pm. **Thursdays 10am to 12pm.** More info contact karenredhead@hotmail.co.uk **Friends of East Riddlesden Hall** - meet once a month between Oct and April on a Thursday 2pm to 4pm in the Airedale Barn. Contact Secretary on 0771 373 3516 for more details **Every Monday 1-3pm Tea Dance** at Keighley Civic Centre £2.50 inc tea & biscuits.

Every Monday 7 - 9 pm Andy's Man Club Project 6, Devonshire Street, Keighley

Every Monday to Friday Dementia Friendly Keighley 10am – 4 pm Open for drop-in anytime for coffee and chat for people living with dementia and their carers and families. 6 College Walk, Airedale Shopping Centre, Keighley.

First Tuesday of each month Walk & Wheel Group 1.30pm meeting at Keighley Leisure Centre outside the main entrance. The session will last approx 60 mins and will be at a relaxing pace.

Every Tuesday 10am - 12 noon Keighley Remember When? Fancy a chat? Age UK Unit 8 Airedale Centre, Cooke Lane, Keighley.

Every Tuesday 10.30am -12

Dominoes Club at Keighley Civil Centre, Keighley, BD21 3RZ no need to book simply show up and enjoy the game. **Every Tuesday Dementia Friendly Keighley 10am – 12.30 pm Games Morning**, for people/carers living with dementia

Airedale Shopping Centre, Keighley. **Tuesdays (Term Time) 2.30pm - 3.30pm Calm at the Castle** Relaxing & meditation - friendly group. FREE & no experience needed at Cliffe Castle Keighley

Morton WI every second Tuesday evening each month. Social evening with refreshments at **The Institute in East Morton 7:20 pm.** Contact Ann 07968094238 or email presidentmortonwi@gmail.com

Every Tuesday 7 - 9pm Men's Peer Support Group Free Safe & Friendly environment for men to share, chat & laugh. Airedale Enterprise Services, Sunderland Street, Keighley, BD21 5LE

The Craft and Chat group which meet on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12pm** in the Church Hall. Keighley New Church, Braithwaite Road, Keighley. Enjoy crafting or just a friendly chat amongst friends.

Every Wednesday 10 am - 2pm Keighley Dementia Advice at Keighley Library and will be there on subsequent

Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Whether you need advice, a listening ear, or guidance through the challenges dementia can bring.

Every Wednesday Morton Meet and Tiny Feet Cafe at East Morton Institute on 2.15pm to 4.15pm.

Every Wednesday 1pm - 2.30pm Civic

Centre Keighley Gibson Dance Exercise Class for ladies 50 plus.

Coffee Morning every 4th Thursday of the month 10am to 12pm at Keighley New Church, Braithwaite Road, Keighley BD22 6PX. All are welcome.

Thursdays (October - April) Keighley Men's Forum, Corner entrance of

Keighley Playhouse, 1 Devonshire Street, Keighley Refreshments from 9.30am, Speaker at 10.15am Variety of speakers/ presentations £2/week inc. refreshments

Every Thursday from 1.30pm Time For Me Bereavement Support Group meet at The Three Horses, Fell Lane, Keighley, BD22 6BZ. Further info contact helen.timeforme@gmail.com

Keighley & District Men's Forum meet Every Thursday from October to April. Refreshments

from 9.45am, speaker from 10.15am. £2 admission. Keighley Playhouse, 1, Devonshire Street, Keighley. **Thursday & Fridays 10.30am to 3 pm The Drop-In at The Civic Centre, Keighley.** A great place to meet new people, play board games or dabble in arts & crafts.

Every Friday 9am - 11.30am Table

Top Sale (clothes, houseware, furniture etc) at **The Good Shepherd Centre, West Lane, Keighley, BD22 6ES.** **Every second Saturday** of a month **10am -12 noon Riddlesden Green Connection Community Cafe St**

Mary's Meeting Room, Banks Lane BD20 5PA . Eco liquid refills, book swap and cafe every time. **26th Jan - 31st Jan Educating Rita at Keighley Playhouse.**

1st Feb: Denholme Circular -

Three Reservoirs. 6.5 miles. Meet for a 10.30 start on Parkinson Road, Denholme. www.ramblers.org.uk/Keighley **Sat 14th & Sun 15th Feb Haworth Craft Fairs** The Old School Rooms Haworth 10am -4pm £1 entry inc free tea or coffee, dogs welcome.

Sat 14th Feb - 22nd Feb Half Term Happiness on the KWVR

Sun 15th Feb 10am Charity All New Vintage Tractor Run (Three Valleys) in support of Sue Ryder & Baton of Hope starting from Scott Street Car Park (BD21 2JH) Via Keighley, Cross Roads, Haworth, Stanbury, Oldfield, Oakworth, Laycock, Tarn Lane, Shann Lane, Jubilee Tower into Steeton onto Keighley Road back to Scott Street Car Park.(BD21 2JH)

Weds 18th Feb 11am - 1pm How to cook Chinese Dumplings at Downstairs Project Civic Centre , North Street Keighley, BD21 3RZ Free however booking is essential www. keighley.gov.uk

Sat 28th Feb & Sun 1st March 10am - 4.30pm Keighley Model Railway Club 2026 Exhibition

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2	4	8	5	9	3	6	1	7
9	3	7	4	1	6	2	5	8
7	2	9	3	6	5	4	8	1
4	6	1	7	8	9	5	2	3
5	8	3	2	4	1	9	7	6

3	7	1	4	5	2	8	6	9
6	5	8	1	9	3	4	2	7
4	2	9	8	7	6	5	3	1
8	6	4	7	3	5	1	9	2
1	3	7	9	2	4	6	5	8
5	9	2	6	8	1	3	7	4
9	4	5	2	6	8	7	1	3
7	8	6	3	1	9	2	4	5
2	1	3	5	4	7	9	8	6

6	7	5	4	9	8	3	1	2
9	8	2	1	5	3	7	6	4
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Dr Carl Taylor qualified from the University of Leeds in 2002. During seven years working in the NHS, he saw first-hand how many people struggled with dental anxiety, shaping his commitment to creating a practice where patients feel safe, respected and in control. In 2009, he opened our first practice on Cavendish Street in Keighley, later expanding to practices in Idle and Wibsey.

We offer a full range of services, from routine check-ups and hygiene appointments to advanced treatments including implants, "Dentures In A Day" and sedation for highly anxious patients. We pride ourselves on exceptional dentistry, leading technology and genuinely tailored care.

In November 2025, we celebrated 16 years in Keighley and began a new chapter by relocating to our fully renovated, state-of-the-art practice on Airedale Road.

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Innovation plays a vital role in our patient experience. Pain-free injections, digital scanners and patient-control clickers allow patients to pause treatment whenever needed, helping them feel safe and in control. Supporting nervous and phobic patients has always been at the heart of what we do, and their feedback is our greatest measure of success.

"Thank you to each and every one of you who have changed my life. I can now smile brightly and say dental anxiety is a thing of the past." — Wendy Brown

We are proud winners of 'Treatment of Nervous Patients – North' at the Private Dentistry Awards in both 2024 and 2025, and were also honoured with 'Practice of the Year – North East' and 'Clinical Dental Technician of the Year' for Matthew Varley. Dental anxiety is real, and we are here to help break that cycle. Our ethos is simple: **Dentistry For Those Who Don't Like Dentists, delivered with care, empathy and respect.** (See page 15 for our contact details).

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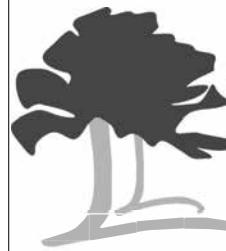
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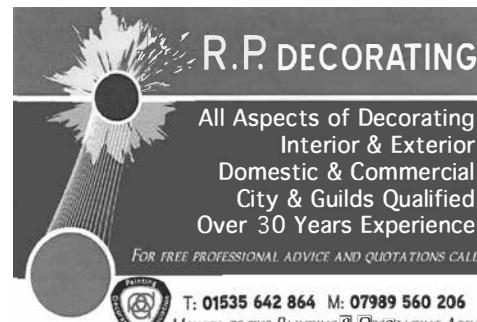
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