

# AIRE VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

May 2026



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There's plenty happening this May, and it's a good excuse to get out and about in the Aire Valley.

The Keighley Annual Town Meeting on May 21 is a great opportunity to hear what's happening locally (p12). That same day, there's a Road Safety Event at Airedale Shopping Centre: a mix of useful and enjoyable, with a few hands-on activities (p4).

The 1940s Weekend (p17) returns along the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, with the Bronte Gathering (p18) and other events adding variety and choice this month.

Plan ahead for summer and sign up for the epic Manorlands challenges like the Paint Rush in Silsden and the Zip Slide in Ilkley... start gathering your supporters and help raise funds for this vital and beloved local charity (p26). More in the pages that follow...enjoy!



Liz Barker, Editor

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# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



**KEIGHLEY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

## ON THE ADGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Minutes - For Decision
3. Former Town Mayor Report
4. Chairs of Committee Reports
5. Annual Report 2026
6. Questions and Answers
7. Close Meeting

**THURSDAY**  
May 21<sup>st</sup> 2026



**START AT**  
6:00PM



**DOWNSTAIRS PROJECT**  
North Street, Keighley, BD21 3RZ



**TEA, COFFEE AND  
BUSCUITS PROVIDED**

*In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, Paragraph 10, the Annual Town Meeting is a meeting of the electors of the parish. Business may be discussed and questions asked, but no resolutions can be made.*



Running a railway that first opened over 150 years ago is never without its challenges. Much of what our visitors enjoy today is built on historic equipment we regularly operate a steam locomotive dating from 1899, while much of our carriage fleet dates from the 1950s. Keeping these vehicles in service takes a tremendous amount of effort.

Behind the scenes, our teams at Haworth and Oxenhope work year-round to maintain and overhaul both locomotives and carriages. It is skilled, often painstaking work, requiring specialist knowledge and components that are increasingly difficult to source. In many cases, parts now have to be manufactured in-house. The time, expertise and cost involved in keeping the railway operational are significant.

As those costs continue to rise, attracting visitors is more important than ever not only to support the railway, but also the wider Worth Valley community. Our March Steam Gala was a great success, drawing visitors from across the country and providing a welcome boost to local businesses.

In May, we look forward to the return of our KWVR 1940s Weekend. Following the departure of the previous Haworth organising group after 2023, the railway has taken on the event and will spread activities along the full length of the line. This allows us to recreate the atmosphere of the era across all our stations, while easing the pressure on Haworth itself.

Visitors to the village may also have noticed renewed activity at the foot of Mill Hey, where volunteers have been working hard to reopen The Royal Oak. This much-loved pub, long associated with the railway, will reopen at the end of April as a community-run venture once again providing a welcoming space for locals, visitors and enthusiasts alike.

There is a great deal happening across the railway, and none of it would be possible without the continued support of our volunteers and visitors. We look forward to welcoming you on board soon and, perhaps, to welcoming you into our volunteer family.

~ **Matt Stroh**

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Chairman

## STEP BACK TO THE 1940S RIGHT HERE IN THE WORTH VALLEY



### 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> MAY ALONG THE RAILWAY!

The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway comes alive once more for a full weekend of wartime nostalgia, as steam trains, swing music and the spirit of the 1940s take over the line. From the moment you arrive, you'll be transported back in time. Expect live music, reenactments, vintage displays and plenty of atmosphere across all six stations – each with its own slice of the era to discover.

**Two steam trains in action all weekend**

- **Battle of Britain Memorial Flypast** – Saturday & Sunday (times tbc)
- **Friday Night Dance at Oxenhope** – swing the night away in style
- **Haworth Station** – bar, food and dancing all weekend
- **The Royal Oak** – open just across from Haworth Station

Hop on and off along the five-mile line, explore five unique stations, and soak up the sights, sounds and stories of wartime Britain as you go.

**BOOK ONLINE AT [1940SWEEKEND.CO.UK](http://1940SWEEKEND.CO.UK)**

This is one of the highlights of the year and it gets busy. We strongly recommend booking in advance to secure your place.

# Discover your SMILE again

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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.**

However, replacing your teeth is more than trusting someone with your smile. Your appearance and the way people perceive you is also at stake.

**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 prosthesis.

**Everybody has the right to smile!**

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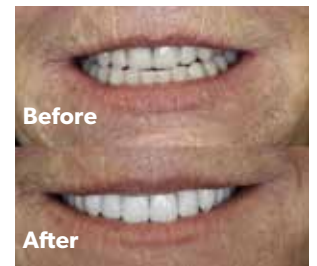


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# BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

This month marks 180 years since the Brontë sisters' became published writers for the very first time with the publication of their first collection of poetry.



Poems was published by Aylott and Jones of London, however the cost of publishing fell to the authors themselves. They paid £35 18s. 3d. which was more than the yearly wage of a governess at the time, and in 2026 would roughly be over £5000! The sisters had received an inheritance from their Aunt Branwell, and it was from this inheritance that they were able to pay such a large sum. To protect their privacy the sisters' decided to create pseudonyms to publish their work under, they chose the surname of Bell and Charlotte became Currer, Emily became Ellis, and Anne became Acton.

Despite their best efforts, Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell was not an immediate success. They famously only sold two copies, though many more were sent to writers and poets

that the sisters' admired such as William Wordsworth and Thomas De Quincy. However that wasn't the end for Poems, following Charlotte's success with Jane Eyre, the collection was redistributed by her publisher Smith, Elder & Co, and all remaining copies were sold. Charlotte received a small amount of royalties at the end of 1848, although unfortunately the amount she received didn't cover her initial cost.

It feels very fitting that this month here at the Parsonage we'll be celebrating the work of another Bradford-born poet, Emma Conally-Barklem. **On Thursday 7 May you're invited to come along to the Museum shop where Emma Conally-Barklem will be giving a live reading of her latest collection of poems The High Flight: 50 Poems Inspired by Emily Brontë's Hawk.** Tickets for this special event are very limited so, if you would like to come along, we recommend booking in advance at [bronte.org.uk](http://bronte.org.uk). See you there!

# BOOK LAUNCH

Thursday 7 May, 7pm | £6

Emma Conally-Barklem's  
The High Flight:  
50 Poems Inspired by  
Emily Brontë's Hawk



Brontë Parsonage  
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## Manorlands PaintRush 2026

Sunday 14 June 2026 at 1:00pm  
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Keighley BD20 0EH

Add colour to your summer - run, jog or walk this fun family colour run with paint stations and obstacles.

For more information visit:  
[sue Ryder.org/paintrush](http://sue Ryder.org/paintrush)



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# 26<sup>th</sup> BRONTE GATHERING

# Saturday & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

In Support of Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice

B6144 Haworth Road, Cullingworth,  
Bradford, BD13 5EE Starts 10am

Arena displays from: **THE STANNAGE STUNT TEAM**



PLUS: FAST Dog Agility and Flyball Club, Fire Engine Challenge & SMJ Falconry

**Attractions include:** Kids fun farm section, Fairground, Bouncy Castle / Slides, Ferret Racing, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Beer Tent and Food Stands, Craft Marquee, Trade Stands.

**Exhibits include:** Cars, Commercials, Military, Miniature Steam, Motorcycles, Organs, Steamers, Stationary Engines & Tractors.

Friday Night at the Gathering in the Beer Tent **£10 ticket only**  
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## Where in the Aire Valley? COMPETITION

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

This month's prize is generously donated by The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway: (Day Rover Pass)

Email your answer along with your name & address to:

[mail@worthvalleymag.co.uk](mailto:mail@worthvalleymag.co.uk)

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



The location of last month's competition was Crosshills and Glusburn Allotments and the winner was Andrew Stringer from Sutton.



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# COMMUNITY PAGES

**River Worth Friends** – litter picking and conservation tasks **Volunteers wanted Tuesdays, 10am–12** 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.

**East Morton Playgroup. Sessions; Tuesdays & Fridays 9.30- 11am** term time. Find us on facebook Lots of toys, singing & snack

**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**

**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 7.30pm Airedale Male Voice Choir at Steeton Methodist Church, Skipton Road, Steeton.** No audition all welcome or call Roy 07944 092883

**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 Weds Morning 7.30am FREE NHS Health Walk** a approx 2 miles - gentle pace meet at Cliffe Castle Park outside the Avery.

**Every Wednesday 10am - 1pm Dementia drop in -Sangat Community Association Marlborough Street Keighley 01535 610263** A drop in for people living with dementia and people who feel they they may have dementia Families and carers also welcome to the session Games, puzzles, Arts & crafts

**Every Wednesday 11 am - 2pm Keighley Dementia Advice at Keighley Library** Whether you need advice, a listening ear, or guidance through the challenges dementia can bring. Contact 07961 537888

**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 11 am to 1 pm 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, **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 **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.

**Sat 9th & Sun 10th May 10am - 5pm -Bronte Vintage Gathering** Manorland Fields, Haworth Road, Cullingworth, BD13 5EH great family day out and support Sue Ryder at the Bronte Gathering 2026. Stannage Stunt Show will entertain the crowds when this part-steam rally, part-country show

**Sat 16th May 11am - 3pm Woofts Dog Show Cliffe Castle Keighley** - fun dog show along with Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Stalls etc - Aireworth Dogs in Need.

**Thurs 21st May & 18th June Bingley Writers** meet once a month in the little house in Bingley town centre. We welcome anyone with an interest in writing. For details please contact Corinne on corinnepollard181@gmail.com **Sat 16th & 17th May 1940's**

**Weekend on the KWVR** Enjoy steam train rides, live wartime music, vintage stalls, military vehicle displays, and costumed re-enactments across the scenic Keighley & Worth Valley Railway line. Stations from Keighley to Oxenhope—including Haworth and Oakworth—transform into nostalgic hubs of entertainment, history, and community.

# The Garage Door Upgrade That Adds More Than You Think

Home improvements often focus on kitchens, bathrooms, or gardens - but one upgrade is quietly becoming a favourite across the UK: the roller garage door.

A modern roller door instantly improves the appearance of a property, giving it a clean, streamlined finish that suits both traditional and contemporary homes. However, it's not just about looks. Roller garage doors are designed with practicality in mind. Unlike traditional up-and-over doors, a roller garage door opens vertically and rolls neatly into a compact box above the opening. This clever design allows you to park closer to your garage without worrying about clearance space, while also freeing up valuable room inside for storage or larger vehicles.

Garolla has become one of the UK's leading names in roller garage doors by combining sleek design with impressive durability and security. Their doors are manufactured using strong, hard-wearing aluminium slats and feature robust locking mechanisms to help protect your home and belongings. Many models also include built-in insulation, which can help reduce draughts, minimise outside noise, and keep garages warmer during colder months, especially useful if your garage is attached to your home or used as a workspace.

But it's not just about performance - it's about everyday convenience too. Garolla roller doors are electrically operated as standard, opening smoothly at the touch of a remote control. No heavy lifting. No getting out of the car in bad weather. Just simple, reliable access whenever you need it.



With a wide choice of colours, finishes, and optional extras available, homeowners can select a door that perfectly complements their property. Add in free surveys and professional installation, and it's easy to see why so many people are choosing Garolla for a smarter, safer, and more stylish garage upgrade.

**Don't miss out and book your free survey today at 01535 810 075.**



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The moorlands have been alive this past week, as though a touch of sunshine has stirred everything into motion. It's remarkable what a few brighter mornings can do. After spending months of mornings out on the moors alone with only the chattering grouse, dark foreboding skies and rain for company, I welcome these longer, brighter days.

Most mornings I have had the pleasure of the barn owl for company for the start of my walk, our paths crossing as he is sauntering home to his barn, no doubt after a night of hunting. His natural inbuilt clock perfectly in sync with my routine. He never lingers, of course, but those fleeting crossings are always a privilege.

The sunshine has brought out the hares and I have been spotting them out most mornings, sitting alert or darting across the moor with that effortless speed. They're always there, I know that, but the brighter days make them easier to see, easier to appreciate.

There's been a noticeable shift among the ground-nesting birds. The skies, once filled with their calls, aerial displays, and the urgency of courtship, have grown quieter. As they all settle down in to sitting on nests and parenthood. I wish my feathered friends a successful season.

Out on the open stretches, pairs of geese have made their presence very clear. Territorial and watchful, letting it be known that I am not welcome across some sections so am giving them a wide berth for as long as they are here.

Meanwhile, the pheasants have been full of fire, males clashing and posturing, the air thick with tension and hormones as the males battle it out amongst themselves.

And then, the true highlight, May's unmistakable arrival. The call of the cuckoo has returned,



Kate Haslegrave is a local photographer with a deep passion for nature and the outdoors. Much of her time is spent walking the moors, capturing the ever-changing landscape and the wildlife that calls it home. She is a strong advocate for mental health and wellbeing, believing that time spent in nature can be both grounding and restorative. Through her photography and writing, she hopes to encourage others, to step outside, slow down, and experience the positive impact of the natural world.

**Instagram:** @solo\_she\_hikes bit.ly/4bx8AQF



echoing across the moorlands: cuckoo, cuckoo. It's a sound that stops me in my tracks every time. Usually, I expect him in early May, but this year he's arrived just a touch early, at the very end of April here in Haworth. A small shift, perhaps, but one that feels significant all the same.

The lambs are a plenty and all growing up fast. Little bundles of joy bouncing around the place. Just need the Stanbury cows to be let out now for the summer.

I can't quite put into words my love for this place that I call home. The quiet encounters, the shifting seasons, the sense that the moor is gently turning a page. There's comfort in its rhythm, in knowing that no two mornings are ever quite the same, yet always familiar. It reminds me to slow down, to notice, and to be grateful for these small, fleeting moments. ~ Kate Haslegrave



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