

AIRE VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

July/August 2019

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It feels like touch and go with summer so far... Has it arrived? Is the weather going to settle? Shall I plan a barbecue? Can I wear my linen shorts? I don't know why I torture myself every year with the same inane questions. We live in England. And those linen shorts really don't do anything for me. Enough said.

I quite fancy open air cinema. I grew up going to Drive-in movies at the beaches of New England. We would 'drive in' to a sandy lot with the designated bays and hang the speakers on the car door. The screen looked colossal and the sound was ropey. Sometimes we'd bring a picnic and chairs but mostly we'd arrive in our pyjamas and sleeping bags and stay in the car. Invariably my siblings and I would fall asleep before the end of the film. It didn't matter, we'd been to the Drive-in! Good times. Get yourself off to Bolton Abbey and let me know how the Open Air Cinema goes. Of course, there is lots more to do and see this summer. Take a peek inside.  Enjoy & see you in September. *Liz* Editor Liz Barker



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Davies Lettings wins 'Best in County' title at The ESTAS, the most prestigious estate & letting agent awards in the UK



Phil Spencer announces top agents in the UK.

The Keighley based agency received the 'Best in County' title for Yorkshire at the prestigious ESTAS 2019 scooping the gold award nominated by their tenants and the silver award nominated by their landlords. The award was announced by Phil Spencer, the TV property expert at a lavish luncheon & ceremony at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London attended by 1,000 of the UK's top property professionals.

The awards, celebrating their 16th year determine the best estate and letting agents in the UK based purely on feedback from customers who are asked a series of questions about the service they have received from their agent. Over 45,000 surveys were completed by customers during the competition.

Phil Spencer, who has hosted the ESTAS every year since their inception in 2003 said "The ESTAS encapsulates what your typical agent is trying to do, which is to provide honest, transparent service for their clients. These awards are special because shortlisted and winning firms are selected purely on the service they deliver. Real feedback from real customers experiencing real service, I don't think there can be a greater honour in the industry than to receive an award based on that mantra."

Estate and letting agents were recognised in counties around the UK.

Jason Davies director of Davies Lettings said "We are absolutely thrilled to be recognised at this year's ESTAS. It means so



much to us, as we know it's our customers who have judged our performance. Our company motto is, "**Big enough to cope, small enough to care!**" We take our levels of customer service very seriously, because we know clients have a choice. We have always been very proud of providing a personal service and this proves we are delivering what we promise."

If you are thinking of letting a property call in to Davies Lettings in Keighley and speak to Jason or Catherine.

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The winning team from Bronte Bars & Events celebrate with Harry Gration at the Keighley & Airedale Business Awards.

When it comes to putting on a bar for a special event, Kath Thornton is a local lass with a strong network and a flair for pulling out all the stops. Beer festivals, gin experiences, hand crafted cocktail bars, wedding receptions, they all come under Kath's scrutiny. And it is Kath's eye for detail in the hospitality sector that has landed her business, Bronte Bars & Events, a prestigious accolade at the recent Keighley & Airedale Business Awards. "My team and I have worked very hard to build a trusted and unique service; it is all about relationships, listening to the client, nurturing solid supplier links, and not being frightened to think differently. We want everyone to be delighted with the outcome and we'll go to great lengths to make occasions special and memorable," Kath emphasised after winning the Hospitality Business of the Year Award 2019 in Victoria Hall in Keighley, where Bronte Bars & Events was responsible for creating the reception cocktail menu. Kath started putting on events back in



2012 with an acorn of an idea. Kath noticed very few women were operating in the sector and she could see that there was an opportunity to add certain creative touches and an attention to detail that others were not providing.

"I found my niche and began crafting experiences like the Gin Express, utilising the unique features and assets of the Worth Valley by partnering with the local steam railway."

The Haworth Beer Festival is a firm favourite in the calendar for both corporate and individual enthusiasts. Kath was one of the first to recognise that not everyone is a beer drinker; she added gin, prosecco, and rum cocktail options to broaden the appeal of the event. The Sausage & Cider Festival is another annual event that doesn't disappoint.

Over 20 ciders to choose from and handmade sausages from Marsh Top Farm, Oxenhope.

With Kath's mobile license and flexible kit, she is really hard pressed to find a location where she can't set up her mobile bar. "I have yet to be stumped by a request. We recently set up our bar in a grand teepee in the wilds of Stanbury. It was a lovely wedding."

When asked, after all this success, what is next for Bronte Bars & Events? Kath replied, "More of the same really, and we are now the Bronte Liqueur global brand ambassador." Watch this space!

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The winner will be selected from all correct answers received by 15th August 2019.



Last month's location was Shimla Spice and the winner was Linda Royston from Eastburn.

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SLOW DOWN... FUN AND NOSTALGIA AHEAD!

It's that busy time of year on the Railway when we operate trains seven days per week, and during the week we play host to the vintage 'bus service that my 3 year old grandson absolutely loves (as well as the ride on the train itself, of course!).



We run right through to the first week of September, so please do put us on the summer holiday visit list, and if you are looking for an extra treat you can upgrade to a Cream Tea special. There are full details on the website of the Cream Tea upgrade, as well as the 'Strawberries & Prosecco' that you can enjoy during our Vintage Train Sundays.

What makes the Railway's operation sustainable is the 700+ volunteers who devote their time so willingly and freely to operate, maintain and manage the Railway's activities. We also need to make sure that



maximise revenue-generating opportunities for the Charity, and so have enhanced our carriage hire options, as well as operating the luxury services during the summer and on the Vintage Train Sundays. We are also working to make sure that we make the most of grant-funding opportunities, not least because we need support both to maintain the historic infrastructure and vehicles on the line, but also to maintain the skills and knowledge that our volunteers have built over our five decades of operation, and I am very encouraged that we have been able to continue work in partnership with the Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust to welcome several apprentices to the Railway. As you will appreciate, we are always keen to welcome new support, whether financial through tickets purchase or donations, as well as offers of time as a volunteer, so if you are able to help, please do visit the website for further details. As ever, I look forward to welcoming you on board, whether as a passenger or volunteer.

Matt Stroh KWVR Chairman

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The team at Airedale Enterprise Services couldn't be more excited to be recognised within the **Digital Enterprise Top 100** special report and were delighted to have attended the celebratory event that took place on 27th June 2019 at The Everyman Cinema in Leeds.

The Digital Enterprise Top 100 is a major initiative to identify those companies that are setting an example for others to follow within the world of digital transformation.

The campaign profiles and celebrates 100 of Leeds City Region's most innovative, digitally mature and transformational digital businesses; sharing their stories, not just across Yorkshire and the North but the UK and internationally.



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MAYBE IT'S JUST ME by Beth Cunningham



Soon I hope to zoom off in clouds of dust - saying beep beep - like that cartoon bird

Road Runner. And on the day that I pick up my bus pass, my pension is due to be paid in. So there will be a couple of celebratory beep beeps from my bank manager too.

Have I a pearl of wisdom to pass on to the next generation? Yes. Never return from the pub late at night and start ironing in the nude. (This was years ago, but the scar remains.)

My mother tried to give me advice. But when she put on her Welsh bardic voice I drifted off to lie on the bed wondering when Davy Jones of the Monkees was going to turn up at school, in the middle of a science lesson, to declare undying love for me in front of my classmates.

Talking of dying, when retirement beckons, so will the Grim Reaper at some point. So I have been to Crossroads to organise my funeral (date to be announced).

The first question I had to answer was did I want an open coffin? This took me back to Red Square, in the 1980s, when I waited my turn to enter Lenin's tomb. A workmate who had recently done the same trip warned me of a rumour that his ear had just dropped off. Lenin's, not my workmates.

It was dark in there. It was cold. There was a soldier at each corner, ready to shoot anybody who whispered - or who leaned too close, trying to see where parts had been glued back on.

Having seen the real thing, I need never

queue outside Madame Tussaud's again. But unless I seal myself inside a Keighley and Worth Valley Railway carriage - emerging in Haworth to start a revolution - I intend to keep the lid on when I go.

Next I was asked if embalming would be required. Why wait? I already look in the mirror of a morning and shout: 'Tutankhamun's granny!' Cheaper, though, to keep slapping on the budget moisturiser, a tip I must pass on to President Putin, if he is going along the Lenin route.

So it is more or less arranged. I keep forgetting I will not be there. Or will I?

I would trust the Reverend Chris Upton, of West Lane Baptist, Haworth, with my life. Had to, when he submerged me in near-freezing water for my baptism a few winters ago. (To be fair, he did get in there with me, which says much about his ministry.) But will he slip in one of those newfangled, wishy-washy hymns nobody knows the tune to when I want something nice and old-fashioned and warlike?

I plan to float around for a while, ready to put a spectral hand on his dog collar and make whoo whoo noises. No. Beep beep.

Let us hope that he can say in his eulogy that when I went I was still holding on to my bus pass - with both ears firmly attached.



Beth Cunningham was brought up in Rawdon. She left Yorkshire to work for newspapers and magazines on Merseyside and in Wales, the Middle East and London, where she also wrote and performed stand-up comedy.

She now lives in Haworth, is a life member of the Bronte Society and writes short stories.

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Our Contemporary Arts Programme

As someone who loves poetry and art, I'm excited to work on the contemporary arts programme at a museum that holds so much inspiration. We have some excellent writers and artists working with us in 2019 to contribute to an amazing year for the Parsonage.

When I first stepped into Brontë Parsonage Museum I got the feeling that this was somewhere where special things happen. In the last 200 years, since the Brontës moved here, some of the greatest literature in the English language has been written in the Parsonage. It's here that Patrick Brontë campaigned for social justice and better living standards for the people of Haworth, and where the Brontë children imagined amazing worlds. This museum is a place to remember the creativity and ambition of an incredible Yorkshire family, and to inspire the artists and writers of today.

The Parsonage is the perfect place for poetry. Zaffar Kunial, our writer-in-residence, is interested in the Irishness of the Brontës and has invited two of the most exciting contemporary Irish writers to read at our 'Crossings' event on 20 July. Nicole Flattery's short story collection *Show Them a Good Time* was published this year and she has been celebrated for her darkly funny, award-winning work. We're also excited to welcome Colette Bryce, a poet whose work has been described as 'sensuous, smart and snappy'.

Frank Cottrell-Boyce, writer of *Goodbye Christopher Robin* and other Hollywood films, is our creative partner for 2019. Frank



is working with us to create an enchanting experience that explores Patrick Brontë's memories and thoughts as he spent weeks in darkness, recovering from a cataract operation. Look out for that in August.

I'm also thrilled with our lineup for our Brontë Festival of Women's Writing, which has been guest programmed by Kit de Waal. I'm particularly looking forward to working with Clare Shaw, our festival writer-in-residence. She will be writing new work inspired by the festival and thinking of exciting ways for the audience to give their own creative responses.

It seems to me that the perfect way to celebrate such a great literary and artistic family is to work with the most imaginative artists and writers today. Using the power of poetry and art to ask questions, to prompt reflection, and to inspire, we can find new ways that the Brontës' lives work can be relevant and impactful in 2019 and beyond.

Harry Jelly
Audience Development Officer,
Contemporary Arts Commissions

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Perfect Meringues



can be used for all sorts. There's a slight chickpea flavour while it's raw but this is broken down during the cooking process making it perfect for brownies, meringues, mousses, mayos, marshmallows, pavlovas/ Eton mess (do not confuse these two) and more.

Makes 60+ small meringues. Hand or electric mixer essential. Happy baking!

Ingredients

- 6 tbsp Aquafaba (liquid from a can of chickpeas)
- 1/4 tsp cream of tartar
- 100g white sugar (granulated is best)
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Method

To make these you just take some of the water from a can of chickpeas and place it in your electric mixer (hand mixer is fine) with the cream of tartar.

Begin to mix, slowly building speed up until it starts to get creamy and shiny. Slowly add the sugar, keep mixing. Once all the sugar has been incorporated, add the vanilla and whip until you have glossy stiff peaks.

Pipe (or spoon) out onto a parchment-lined tray and bake at 250°F (121°C) for 45 minutes. Then switch off the oven but don't open it for another hour while it finishes baking.

After the hour is up, remove from oven, and serve or save. Keep them in an airtight container and store them in the fridge for the most long-lasting results.



Yorkshire born and bred, Amy Firth lives in the Worth Valley with her partner, 3 kids, Murphy the dog and several rescue hens. A life-long advocate for fairer food and farming,

Amy is always in search of great veggie and vegan recipes which she shares on her Instagram page: @amy_firth78

I have a tense relationship with meringues. Stemming partly from the fact they're tricky to get right, but mostly from an embarrassing dinner party at a friend of a friends' house during which the host (who I didn't know well) proudly served a huge plate of what looked like Eton mess (one of my favourites!). Rather loudly I told her how much I loved Eton mess, only for her to politely point out it was a summer fruits pavlova. Oops.

So, when I heard about aquafaba (a vegan egg white substitute), I didn't rush to make it. I mean, what kind of crazy person would whip up chickpea brine and serve it as dessert? Weird, huh? But actually no weirder than egg whites when you really think about it.

Aquafaba was discovered in 2014 by a vegan French musician Joël Roessel who found that the proteins from the beans leach out into the water (brine) making it a similar consistence to egg whites. I was sceptical at first but, once whipped and worked, it's just like the real thing and

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Morton Meet Every Thursday 2-4pm at Morton War Memorial Hall Drop in for coffee and cakes. Suitable for all ages with toys for the tots.

Pop up Beach (from the 13th July) & **Pop up Beach** (from May) at Bolton Abbey situated outside the Cavendish Pavilion.

Daily until Thurs 12th July Keighley Library **Exhibition of photographs of Anne Frank and family** by Otto Frank.

Every Tuesday & Friday 1.30pm to 3.30pm **Long Lee Chat & Craft Group** meet at the Village Hall.

Every Tuesday 2 - 5pm **Roebuck, Utley** is **Chess Group**. Sets and boards provided all levels welcome. More Info call 07458 996484

Hot Aire & Fresh Aire Concert Bands meet Saturday mornings at Cottingley Village Primary School BD16 1SY. For time and more info www.hotaire.org

Keighley Aglow International Ladies you are invited to join us at **Central Hall, Alice Street, Keighley, BD21 3JD** on the **2nd Monday of each month @ 7pm** for a meal and speaker. Cost is £7 and booking essential. Please contact Yemi on 07962 147667 for more details.

Mondays 1 -3pm Tea Dance at the Civic Hall, Civic Centre Keighley £2.50 inc tea & biscuits. Everyone Welcome.

Long Lee Knit & Natter Group meet on the last Wednesday of each month 1.45 pm to 3.15pm at the Village Hall

Keighley & District Photographic Association meet on the 1st &



3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Riddlesden United Reformed Church, Riddlesden. Visit www.kdpa.co.uk for programme of events.

Long Lee Lego Club 10am to 11.30 am is held on the second Saturday of each month at the Village Hall. All Welcome.

Keighley Model Railway Club, Knowle Mills, South Street, Keighley, BD21 1SY Meeting every Tuesday and Thursday Evenings from 7.00pm until 10.30 Thursday afternoons, 12.45pm until 4.30pm & Saturday afternoons 1.00pm until 5.00pm Everyone is welcome.

Aire Valley Railway Modeller's Club, Melbourne House, Dalton Lane, Keighley, BD21 4LG. Meeting every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday night from 7.00 pm until 11.00 pm and Saturday afternoon from 1.00 pm until 5.00 pm, juniors over the age of 8 years old and accompanied by an adult, are welcome. Entry and exit by stairway only.

Keighley LGBT support group meet every 3rd Saturday of each month. 12 -2pm at Keighley Healthy Living Centre, Scott Street, Keighley (behind the Library).

Keighley Library Knit & Knatter group meet every Wednesday 1pm-3pm. Beginners and experts alike.

Keighley Can Sing 2 - 3.30pm on second Sunday of each month (Term time only) at Central Hall, Alice Street, Keighley BD21 3JD A friendly

singing group open for everyone.

Morton WI meet every second Tuesday evening each month Join us for a social evening with refreshments at the Institute in East

Morton from 7.20 pm, Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 am - 2pm **Welcome Place Cafe** at Shared Church Hall, Market Street, Keighley. Good food available to all. Eat Free or pay what you can. Friendship, support & information. Every Wednesday 10.30am **Rest a while drop in Coffee Morning** at Exley Head Methodist Church, Keighley.

First & third Wednesday of a month 10.30am **Coffee Morning & Book Swap** at Laycock Village Hall. Thurs 18th July 1.15pm **Aire & Worth Valley Wanderers 3 -5 mile walk Riddlesden to Cliffe Castle.** Meet at the Canal Swing Bridge on Barr Lane. A fairly level walk that takes in the canal towpath, bridleways, tracks and minor roads.

Sat 20th July **Bingley Show** at Myrtle Park.

Sun 21st July. **Train rides for all the family.** Miniature trains running at Marley sports field approx. 13:30 until approx. 17:00. Steam and electric trains providing trips for all ages. Great family afternoon out. Refreshments available. Details at www.kdmes.org.uk/trains.htm

Sat 27th July until Sun 1st Sept 11.00am - 4pm **Keighley Beach by**

the Sea.

Sun 28th July 1pm **Manorlands Paint Rush** at King George V Fields, Marley Sat 3rd Aug 11 am **Haworth's 2nd Artisan Food & Drink Market** for Manorlands Hospice at Haworth Old School Rooms.

Sat 10th Aug 1pm - 4.30pm **Music for Manorlands** at Cliffe Castle Park. Sat 10th Aug 6.30pm **Proms at the Castle** at Cliffe Castle Park

Thurs 15th Aug 1pm - 3pm **Annual Teddy Bears Picnic** inc Puppet Show, Teddy Bears Disco, Sports Day and lots more at Cliffe Castle Park.

Sun 18th August. **Train rides for all the family.** Miniature trains running at Marley sports field approx. 13:30 until approx. 17:00. Steam and electric trains providing trips for all ages. Great family afternoon out. Refreshments available.

Sun 25th Aug 10am - 4pm **Aire Valley Railway Modeller's Club Summer Open Day** at Melbourne House, Dalton Lane, Keighley.

Sat 7th Sept 9am - 5.30pm **Keighley & District Agricultural & Horticultural Show** at Marley Fields.

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FORGOTTEN WONDERS The Broken Chef by Antony Silson



The 2 i's Coffee Shop was in London and was where Rock N Roll in Britain began.

Something is afoot with the old Last Orders building in Keighley! As the dreadful college building opposite is also gutted and becomes nothing more than an aesthetically challenged memory there is an expectant feeling in the air. More glorious countryside to look up at and the removal of the steel shutters that have given an oppressive atmosphere to North Street.

For our younger readers the former Last Orders was once known as Changers Nite Scene. A name that says as much about it as anywhere called The Roxy or The Peppermint Palace. I never went in as I don't appreciate music pounding my skull so ferociously that I must resort to lip reading and so dark I can't see my own hand in front of my face. I do, however, remember the little robotic chef in the kitchen window.

No matter how hard I've searched I can't find a picture of that chef. It was always lit up in the window of the kitchen where nothing ever went on and was usually motionless or gently rocking backwards and forwards. It was probably a good idea at the planning stage, but quickly became

a symbol of a nightclub that wasn't quite selling the dream it had set out to. Anyway, I would like the help of my dear reader in putting together next months column all about the coffee bars and hip cafes of Keighley that have fallen off the radar. My friend Peter, who is older than I am, remembers either a Milk Bar or Coffee House that existed some time ago somewhere in the vicinity of where Speakes is now? Somewhere where all the hip young creatures of the day would congregate. I have also heard talk of a café called Parkers, and I am sure there much have been at least one called 'Future 77' or The Italiano Coffee Emporium for Beatniks and Hipsters? No squares allowed, obviously Daddio! Please email the mail@worthvalleymag.co.uk with your memories and pictures. Then I can go and investigate further.



Antony Silson adores films and music, lives in Keighley and is married to Julia. His show airs Sunday 5-7p.m. on Drystone Radio: www.drystoneradio.com

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Keighley & District Agricultural Show p15
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Yorkshire Loft Ladders p31

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