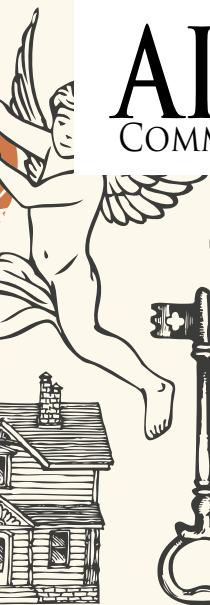
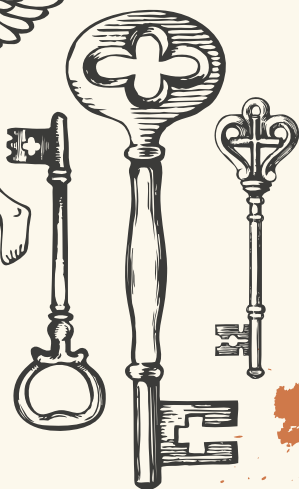


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COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

February 2022

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Welcome to 2022 and the first edition of the Aire Valley Mag of the new year.

If fitness and fun are on your 'to do' list, Keighley Table Tennis is a venue for fun family activity. Every Saturday afternoon they have a drop in session for all ages and abilities. (See p15)

Keighley Healthy Living is featured on the Treacle page (p21) where you will find numerous classes and groups that will help and support your wellness goals.

For foodies who are looking forward to enjoying a meal out or are planning a special celebration like Valentine's Day or Mother's Day, Ashmount House is featured in this month's mag, see page 4

Meet the new Interim Principle of Keighley College, Kevin O'Hare, who is keen to highlight his aspirations for the college and community, p13.

Have a great February!

Liz



Liz Barker, Editor

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**New Keighley College leader keen to highlight world of opportunity**

Education and training are vital tools when it comes to offering people the chance to secure life-changing opportunities. That is one of the key messages Kevin O’Hare will be promoting in his new role as Interim Principal of Keighley College, where he succeeds former Principal Steve Kelly. Mr O’Hare, who was previously Head of Leeds City College’s Visual and Digital Arts department, is also keen to build on Keighley College’s strong community links - and make more people realise what an asset they have on their doorstep. Keighley College, like Leeds City College, is part of Luminate Education Group and Mr O’Hare is excited to be beginning a new leadership journey. He said: “Coming from a predominantly creative arts background at Quarry Hill campus, in Leeds, I was already aware of the breadth and range of Keighley’s curriculum offer, and that’s the first challenge that excited me. “It’s like a microcosm of the entire Luminate Education Group’s further education provision consolidated into a single college building. “The second great challenge lies within the community of Keighley and the surrounding areas. This region has some of the most deprived and least deprived groups in the UK, and that gap needs to be closed. “For me, education and training are the primary ways to narrow this gap.” A broad curriculum with exciting options Keighley College’s educational offer is an increasingly wide one and includes everything from further education courses for 16-18 year olds and apprenticeships to adult courses and, through its University Centre, Foundation Degrees. The college has also embraced T Levels, the new two-year technical qualifications for 16 to 19 year olds that involve a mixture



**New Interim Principal of Keighley College, Kevin O’Hare**

of classroom studies and on-the-job experience, with each one equivalent to three A levels. Mr O’Hare added: “We are in an exciting period for Keighley College. We are running T Levels in Health and Social Care and have other new subject areas, such as Digital and Engineering, in development. “I’m also proud of our new A level provision and developments in higher education and, of course, would like to see some creative arts curriculum back in Keighley - there’s a lot of local talent to develop and nurture out there!” He is also committed to working closely with local businesses, organisations and residents to maximise the benefits they can all enjoy through their relationship with the college. He added: “I want the people of Keighley and the surrounding areas to realise what a gem they have at the heart of this town: our college is a gateway to all kinds of opportunities. “Keighley is a college for its community. Without the advice of the local people and the steering of employers we can’t help our students progress into the jobs out there.”

For more details about the courses available at Keighley College visit: [www.keighleycollege.ac.uk](http://www.keighleycollege.ac.uk) .

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As we journey into 2022 it's great to be able to look forward to a full programme of events, especially after a very challenging couple of years. **We have trains running every weekend and daily during half term (19th-27th February), and our popular Wednesday railcar services recommence on 9th March.** We then welcome back the Steam Extravaganza 11th-13th March. Bookings will open shortly for the ever-popular Haworth Haddock fish and chip supper specials that are running 23rd

April and 28th May, and we are looking forward to supporting the return of the 1940s Weekend in Haworth 21st-22nd May. Further ahead we are very excited to be part of Keighley's Transport Festival, when there will be events across the town celebrating all things transport-related on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June, coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee holiday. With so much planned, we are always very keen to welcome new volunteers, so do please consider joining the team as one of your new year resolutions. We have roles in the operational departments as well as behind the scenes in engineering, business administration and all the areas needed to keep a 150+ year old railway running. We provide full training and assessment, and would welcome as much or as little time as you can offer.

I'll finish by thanking you all once again for your support, which has been especially welcome during this very trying period, and we look forward to welcoming you on board soon. **Matt Stroh Chairman KWVR**



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# COMMUNITY PAGE

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**Every Thursday from 1.30pm Time For Me Bereavement Support Group meet at The Golden Fleece Inn, Oakworth.** A mutual support group for those who have lost someone dear, recently or a long time ago. Grief can be a lonely journey. You don't have to cope on your own.

**Every Weds at Morton Institute Morton meet and tiny feet 2.30-4.30pm For tea and biscuits .** All ages welcome . Bring the children after school Relax with friends whilst the children let off some steam .

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**Every Thursday 1 - 3pm Digital Health Hub** at Sue Belcher Centre, Keighley.

**Every Thursday 9.30 - 12 noon is Games Cafe** at KHL 13 Scott Street, Keighley. Free, just drop in. **Keighley Mens' Forum** Thursday 10.00 until 11.30am , October till April, at the Keighley Playhouse, entrance on the corner of Devonshire Street and Scott Street. Annual sub is £5 with £2 a week to cover coffee, biscuits, a speaker and great company. For further details please contact Martin 07581 575749.

**Wellbeing Cafe at Central Hall Keighley is held third Monday of each month from 1.30pm - 3.30pm** Providing support to older people to help build friendships and combat feelings of isolation. Enjoy afternoon tea with entertainment support and advice.

**Jan - March 2022 Among our Mills and Hills at Cliffe Castle Museum** free exhibition Photographs by Bingley Camera Club.

**Sat 19th until Sun 27th Feb Keighley & Worth alley Railway Half Term Happiness.**

**Fri 4th - Sun 6th March Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Steam Gala Sun 6th March 10am to 4 pm**

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## BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

It's a Tuesday in January and even though we are closed to visitors, the Museum is bustling with activity. Rooms are being prepared for decorating, electrical appliances are being PAT-tested, new exhibition graphics are being installed and BBC Look North's Paul Hudson is here filming a piece about the influence of the Yorkshire weather on the Brontës' writing. January is a time of looking ahead. After two years of uncertainty, restrictions and changes driven by the pandemic, we are mindful of Charlotte Brontë's words, 'hope elastic springs'

and are starting to look forward to the future with optimism. We have plenty to look forward to in 2022, so sit back and read on!

In a new initiative, the Museum opened at weekends during January instead of being closed all month. It's been a great experience welcoming people into the Parsonage on a Saturday and

Sunday and then spending the rest of the week busy cleaning the collection or preparing the new displays. **The Museum will revert to opening five days a week from Wednesday 2 February and we are pleased to announce that we have introduced a new concessionary rate for residents of postcode areas BD20, BD21 and BD22.** We hope you will make use of this offer, particularly if you've never visited the Museum before. You'll just need to bring proof of address along with you. And don't forget that tickets are valid for 12 months, so you will be able to visit as often as you like after paying once.

We are really excited about our new exhibition, 'Defying Expectations: Inside Charlotte Brontë's Wardrobe' which also opens on

Wednesday 2 February. Our curators have been working with costume historian Eleanor Houghton to exhibit some of the remarkable garments and accessories worn by Charlotte Brontë. The result is a display of brightly coloured, fashionable, even exotic items that boldly challenge the idea that Charlotte's clothing was plain or drab. The centrepiece of this new exhibition is a dress worn by Charlotte that has never been on display before and we are very excited to share this with our visitors for the first time. We'll be running a series of events

alongside the exhibition, so look out for the **Big Brontë Clothes Swap** coming soon!

Later in the spring, we will be welcoming home a treasure trove of Brontë material that has not been seen in for almost eighty years. The items, which include letters, poetry

manuscripts and important 'little books' are part of the Blavatnik Honresfield Library which was saved for the nation by the Friends of the National Libraries in December. Seeing these items return to the place they were written and being able to display them will be a very special and moving occasion and one which all our staff are looking forward to.

There will be more to tell you next time, but in the meantime, on behalf of everyone at the Brontë Parsonage Museum, we'd like to wish readers a happy and healthy 2022 and hope to see you soon.

Rebecca Yorke, Interim Director  
Brontë Parsonage Museum



Rebecca Yorke and Paul Hudson at Brontë Parsonage Museum

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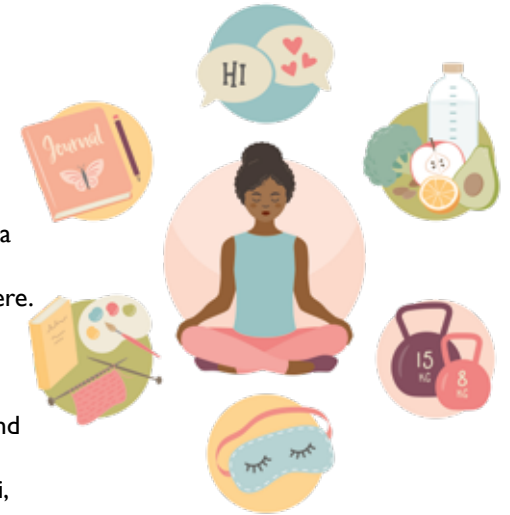
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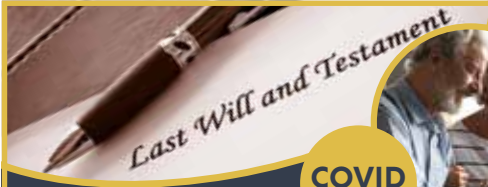
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