

# WORTH VALLEY MAG

COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Oakworth & Oldfield Edition

December 2006



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*Seasons Greetings,* and welcome to the second issue of your free community news and local business directory. We would like to wish you and your family a *Merry Christmas* and a holiday season full of fun, laughter, and peace.

It was an exciting moment when, after six months of painstaking planning and preparation, the first issue of the Worth Valley Mag finally dropped through letterboxes throughout Oakworth, Oldfield, Haworth and Stanbury in the beginning of November. We hope you enjoyed our first issue and have found it a useful resource for finding out about local businesses and community events. You can read the magazine on-line and get details about advertising at [www.worthvalleymag.co.uk](http://www.worthvalleymag.co.uk). Monthly information about local non-profit groups and activities are included in our FREE Community Pages - please contact us on [info@worthvalleymag.co.uk](mailto:info@worthvalleymag.co.uk) to have your listing included (space permitting).

Our plan is to grow and develop over the next months. We will extend the distribution to households in Cross Roads and Oxenhope in 2007. You can pick up the magazine in The Co-Op and Spar as well as the Tourist Information Centre in Haworth, The Worth Valley Railway, and other shops in the area. Your feedback has been very encouraging and we hope you continue to find the magazine interesting, thought-provoking, informative and enjoyable.

**Elizabeth Barker & Karen Davidson, Editors**

*"I've kept my mag because it's full of useful information about local businesses and events. I've particularly enjoyed reading about local people and businesses that I didn't know anything about. It's so much nicer to keep an attractive colourful magazine around the house than a newspaper."*  
Claire Dale from Haworth.

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# Brontë Weaving Shed

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Over 18 Years Experience

In my experience magical things happen through and around food. Basil can be used to incite passion, sorrel to soothe, lemon balm to encourage female ardor, rosemary male; cinnamon has aphrodisiacal properties, lovage clears the mind; the pomegranate has links with fertility and the apple is representative of the Goddess. The link between food and the stirring of the senses has long been documented and used as inspiration for many popular works of fiction. The way that food is produced, presented and the effect that it has upon those who eat it seeps into almost every aspect of daily life, a point brilliantly illustrated by author Laura Esquivel in her novel "Like Water For Chocolate", whose heroine "Tita" creates dishes which have a profound effect upon all who consume them.

The richness, texture and variety of flavour provided in today's food, especially in Britain, has been hijacked by methods of mass production and replaced with sugar, salt and chemical substitutes. Modern society has skimmed the curves not only from our bodies but from life itself; who therefore, could be blamed for detaching from the sensual world of food and its enjoyment? Ruskin famously stated that "there is no wealth but life" and for me, being alive is all about stimulating the senses, breathing life into them, and I would urge you to re-



claim what is rightfully yours.

The kitchen can and should be a place of alchemy, an area where instinct and intuition rule supreme and where restriction is an unwelcome guest. Formal instruction should be used as a guide but not as an absolute authority. If a recipe has been passed down from generation to generation never changing ad infinitum and you actually believe it to be slightly lacking, then change it. Never stay with the same old thing just because it is tried and tested; learn to play and experiment. The great painters would grind pigment to see how it was constructed and to discover its properties and textures. Handling food, cutting and chopping fresh herbs, buying whole nutmegs instead of ready ground and breathing in their aromatic fragrance as you work will help you to develop a

real empathy for food; you can choose to create a culinary Vermeer of your own. It is like cupping a beautiful rose in your hand and breathing in its perfume; the fragrances exuded during the preparation of a meal will prepare your taste buds for the treat they are about to receive and your first taste should be like a kiss to the senses.

The festive season is upon us and is a time for bringing light into the darkest part of the year. Right now my kitchen shelves are festooned with jars full of fruits plump with the brandy they have absorbed over the past couple of weeks. To me they are a source of wonderment and lifting the lids to breathe in their heady scent brings forth the excitement of all that is to come.

A sense of occasion is also an important part of every eating experience no matter how humble; the senses becoming dulled and the expectations lowered if the setting is poor. Dining of any kind should be an experience to be savoured. Tea at the Ritz has become an experience to covet, not just because the food is good but because of its sense of occasion. This year forget shopping for things you don't need; when it comes to food buy the best that you can and create your own magical kingdom; light dozens of candles and sprinkle a little sparkle over the senses.

Claire Smith



## Christmas ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Christmas Shopping. Love it or loathe it, most of us will find ourselves making lists and pondering what to get our nearest and dearest this year. Instead of aimlessly wandering the High Streets with droves of panic stricken shoppers, we've combed the Worth Valley and come up with our own list for you to consider. You won't have to drive for more than 5 miles, parking is plentiful, and interesting gifts abound in our region.

### Gifts for Little Darlings

**Fairy Dresses**, £16 in a selection of colours; and matching dresses for dolls £3. Felt butterfly **Hair ties** £3. **Juggling Balls** £2.20 each. **Dream Catchers** from £1.50. All of above at **Sonia's Smile** on Main St. Haworth. Next door is **Oates & Wiles** where you will find Padraig Cottage **Booties and Slippers** lined in soft sheepskin. from £15. A fun novelty item, "**Springs**", are playful creatures that bounce up and down on a spring, from £3. **Coldspring Mill**, Haworth Road, Cullingworth has a wide selection of **Weird Fish** branded clothing for kids and adults. You will find quality **Teddy Bears**, each individually named, from £3.55 at **Hartley's Books** at the top of Haworth Main St, and discounted **books** in a variety of subjects. Across the cobbled street **Heathland of Haworth** sells **travel games and puzzles** from £1.50 and a wide selection of personalised items from **pens to fridge magnets** from 99p. For creative ones, try a **Cobbles & Clay Ceramic Gift Hamper** from £12. It includes everything you need; Bring the piece back to C&C and they will glaze it!

### Gifts for a Special Lady

A good selection of dress **jewellery** from £8.50- £50 and silver jewellery from £4.50, all gift boxed at **The Tanning Station**, Station Rd, Oakworth. Beautiful **leather gloves** from £20 and **Baker Boy Caps** only £10 at **Firth's** of Haworth. Pamper her at **The Chill Out Zone** in Oakworth, **Gift Vouchers** in any denomination. **Themed Gift Baskets** from £15 are available from **San Soucis**, Oakworth, 07870942776. **Amethyst and fresh water pearl necklace** £20 at **Oh La La**, Haworth. **Material Worth** in Cross Roads has **silk paintings** from £59 and **The Tanneri** down the road has luxurious organza wrapped "**Fake Bake**" gift boxes from £30 and **Gift Vouchers** beautifully presented to impress.

### Gifts for His Lordship

**Handmade Clocks** from £18, **Christine Cummings Ceramic Dogs** from £60, both at Oates & Wiles. **Bingley Antiques** near the Flappit in Haworth can give an old window a new lease of life with new or refferbished **stained glass** made to your own design from £28 per sq.ft. The Old Apothecary, **Rose & Co.** in Haworth has old fashioned **shaving brushes** and **af-tershave** from around £10. **The Food and Beer Cookbook with Richard Fox** will keep your man in the kitchen; **Hartley's Books**.

### Gifts for Everyone

Foodies will adore a handmade cake from **No.10 The Coffee House** in Haworth, (call early Dec. to order it though!) Also **Coffee & Tea Hampers** from £12. **Divine Chocolate & Organic Coffee Hampers** from around £10 at **Sonia's Smile**. Have a look at Oakworth on-line business at **www.purplemountain-designs.co.uk** for beautifully **Hand-crafted Christmas Cards** from £1.50.



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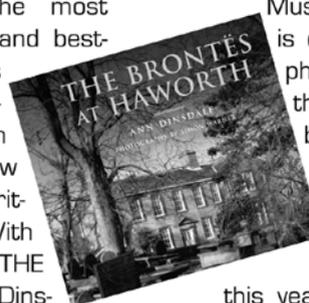
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It is impossible to live in the Worth Valley and not have some inkling about the Brontës. Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë wrote some of the most memorable and beloved novels in the English language. The popularity of a recent BBC adaptation of Jane Eyre shows us just how admired the Brontë sisters' writing still is in the 21st century. With the publication of her new book, **THE BRONTËS AT HAWORTH**, Ann Dinsdale provides us with a comprehensive look at the Brontë family and life in Haworth in the 19th century. It goes on to consider the Brontës' poetry and novels in their so-



## Season's Greetings

**What do sheep say to Santa?**  
Seasons bleatings!

**What's Scrooge's favourite Christmas game?**

Mean-opoly.

**What did Dracula say at the Christmas party?**

Fancy a bite?

**Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Party?**

He had no body to go with!

**What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?**

It's Christmas, Eve!

**What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve?**

Black mail !

cio-historical context, including the critical reception they received, and the developments since their deaths that have led to Haworth becoming a world-famous literary shrine. The book is illustrated with rarely seen images from the Brontë Parsonage Museum archive and the text is complemented by evocative photographs of Haworth and the surrounding countryside by local photographer and video artist, Simon Warner, of Stanbury.

We think this will make a splendid gift for Christmas this year; better still, Go on...treat yourself! £20. You will find **THE BRONTËS AT HAWORTH** at The Brontë Parsonage Museum gift shop in Haworth.

(photo above, Ann Dinsdale at the launch of her new book.)



# HEALTH & WELLBEING

BY KATHRYN THORNTON (IHHT)

## Shape up for Christmas!

Recent statistics show that England has the highest obesity rate in Europe – and did you know YORKSHIRE

is the worst offender in Britain? Children from the age of two to ten are tipping the scales with a shocking 16% categorised as obese. Adults are modelling the way with a shameful 23% obesity rate in the population. And the situation is getting worse every year. I have been in the fitness industry for over 13 years. I started as a personal trainer, teaching exercise classes both in and outside the pool, and advanced to regional management of health clubs. Even these statistics shock me. My community sport leader's accreditation enables me to teach, coach and develop young people in all areas of health and fitness. I am committed to making a difference to the health and well being of individuals in the community and doing my bit to help pull these statistics down.

With Christmas coming up why wait until the New Year to make resolutions? It's all about adopting a sensible long-term approach to eating and exercise. Unfortunately, as a nation, our lifestyle has become more sedentary than in days gone by. If we are to reverse the fat trends we will need to take action. **So Let's party and beat the bulge!** The problem with party and buffet food is the variety – there are so many flavours and textures to tickle our tastebuds; we can end up eating more than if we sat down to a cooked meal.

### Top Tips:

Avoid going back for more.  
Cover two thirds of your plate with undressed salad and starchy carbs that don't have many calories for their bulk.  
Avoid pastry or breaded bites – go for marinated or grilled items or opt for filo pastry.  
DON'T starve yourself before the party! You'll end up eating more.

**Christmas Party Drinks** Having a drink in your hand seems part of the deal at Christmas; watch out for those liqueurs and cocktails, they will add inches to your hips.

### Top Swaps

White wine spritzer (83 Calories, 0g fat).  
Gin & Diet Tonic (70 Calories, 0g fat).  
Malibu & Diet Coke (100 Calories, 0g fat).  
Small Shot of Brandy (56 Calories, 0g fat).

### Top Tips:

If it's a party with no food – Eat before you go out and it will save on those late night takeaway temptations.  
Drink as much water as alcohol to minimise your chance of getting tipsy and reduce the amount of calories you consume.

### The Fitness Burn!

Get an exercise buddy over Christmas; you can help to motivate each other. Pledge to walk for the same amount of time you normally watch TV. If you do watch TV, do some on the spot jogging during the adverts; you'll burn around 50 calories in two commercial breaks!  
Go Swimming...this is a great all round workout and excellent for relieving stress. You can do all of the fitness burn with your family over the festive season...and a nice long walk after the Christmas dinner will keep you on track. Enjoy.

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# Discover Christmas Past

How many times have you heard someone say, "Christmas isn't like it used to be - we've lost the meaning of Christmas"; and in some ways they may be right. For many people the season brings tension and stress. For families with young children, the pressure of an ever longer list of "must haves" to be opened on Christmas day and forgotten about long before the dreaded credit card statements drop on the doormat in January, puts a real damper on the spirit of the season.

How different from the way local folks would have celebrated the season of goodwill in the days when the Brontes lived in Haworth.

For most people back in Victorian times, the festivities would begin on Christmas eve, at around six in the evening, at the time the first star appeared in the frosty winter sky, as the peals of bells from the churches would announce the end of abstinences, and the busy housewives would begin to prepare the 'furmentry' (also known as furment and frumenty), a wheat dish which would feature in the main Christmas eve meal. During the course of the afternoon the wood fire in the grate would have been allowed to die down to just a few glowing embers, and as the excited family gath-



ered around the table, the fire would be rekindled with the new yuletide log. As the fire crackled back into life and filled the fireplace with dancing flames, the youngest girl of the house would light the Christmas candle from the log, and it would be placed at the centre of the table as all the other lights in the room were extinguished and the first meal of Christmas began. The main course was the freshly baked furmenty, which was often followed by apple pie, then yule cake, spiced ginger cake or gingerbread. A large round cheese would have pride of place upon the table, which in even earlier times would have previously been blessed at the church. The father of

the family would traditionally cut a cross in to the cheese and say another blessing over it as he cut a large chunk of it for each member of the family. For any who were absent on this special night, a slice was wrapped in oiled cloth to be presented to them on their return, symbolizing the reuniting of the family. The cheese would be eaten with the fruit pie or spiced cake whilst liquid refreshment was provided by the was-sail bowl, or sometimes a hot posset was made with warmed milk and spiced ale and was served just before bedtime.

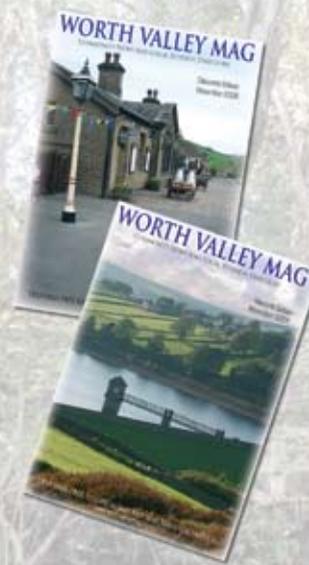
The way that many of our ancestors would have begun their festivities all those years ago sounds very simple and rustic today. I have to admit, I sometimes wonder if these simple customs reflected more the true meaning of Christmas. And how much happier are we than they, when the postman calls in January?

Philip Lister

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# WORTH VALLEY MAG

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**Alfie Walker, Highfield Motors** - *"I never thought I really needed to advertise but loads of people have said they've seen my ad and hadn't realised I'd started doing car sales as well as repairs"*

## CONTACT

Elizabeth Barker or Karen Davidson on **01535 462848**

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or visit our website at [www.worthvalleymag.co.uk](http://www.worthvalleymag.co.uk)

Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

**KEIGHLEY & WORTH VALLEY RAILWAY**  
Keighley - Ingrow - Damems - Oakworth - Haworth - Oxenhope

Step back in time and enjoy a train ride through the heart of Bronte country. In addition to steam trains the railway also operates deisel railcar services for the local community, which many people use to do their shopping in Keighley.

The steep gradient up the Worth Valley from the Keighley terminus has been a challenge for locomotives ever since the line opened on 15th April 1867. The sound of a steam engine tackling this climb echoes from the steep sides of the valley, while great clouds of steam and smoke add drama to the scene. Many of the woollen mills that once stood close to the line have been demolished, but a few remain as reminders that the textile industry was the reason why the line was built. Like the railway, the mills relied on coal, and the trains were able to bring hundreds of tons up the valley each week to keep the looms working by steam power. The five mile journey is a powerful reminder of our



industrial heritage, as well as being a unique way of enjoying the beautiful countryside immortalised by Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte.

When British Railways closed the line in 1962, local people and railway enthusiasts joined forces to try and save it. A Preservation Society was formed and, after

many years of volunteer struggle, the line finally re-opened to passenger traffic in 1968.

Society members decided to recreate the atmosphere of a country branch line of the 1950s. This has been hugely popular, not least with film-makers and TV producers, and the railway provides a working background for any period from Victorian times up to the present day. Over the years, the Railway has appeared in many TV and film productions including Yanks, Sherlock Holmes, Treasure Hunt, Poirot, Born and Bred, The Royal, Where The Heart Is, A Touch Of Frost, Songs Of Praise and many more. The Railway is perhaps most famous for its role in the 1970 film version of Edith



Nesbit's classic story The Railway Children. Information about the making of this classic film, including details of the locations used, pictures showing the film being made, details of the locomotives and coaches used, memories of those involved, and much more, are available on the KWVR website at [www.kwvr.co.uk](http://www.kwvr.co.uk).

The railway is justifiably proud that its painstaking attention to detail pays off so handsomely. It is a railway for all seasons, where winter visitors can see the stations bathed in gaslight and warm themselves in front of the coal fires in the waiting rooms. In summer, the station gardens are alive with blooms. Kingfishers, herons and dippers can be seen in the adjacent streams. Locally brewed real ale provides welcome refreshment in the on-train buffet car.

The railway continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteer staff. Information on becoming a KWVR volunteer is also contained on the website at [www.kwvr.co.uk](http://www.kwvr.co.uk).

Popular special events and attractions of the railway for this time of year include the Santa Steam Specials, the Carol Service Train, and Mince Pie Specials. At other times the railway hosts a Day Out With Thomas, a Beer & Music Week-end and regular Steam Galas, to name but a few.

One new character, the Railway Rabbit, is certainly proving to be popular with

younger visitors. Several excellent stories have been written about his adventures which will hopefully appear in book or DVD form before too long. The Railway Rabbit made his last appearance for a special Halloween Party in October.



Don't forget - Steam Trains run every day from Boxing Day through to the New Year so stuff the turkey and get steamed up at the Worth Valley Railway! Enjoy a pint of real ale at the award winning bar.

**For more information contact KWVR on 01535 645214**

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# Mine!

Transforming images into art, Mine! opened in Crossroads in September 2006. Art isn't the only thing to be transformed. Clarky's bike premises is now a sleek and chic shop and studio.

This dynamic business was formed by Colleen Aird following a life change made

after she was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in November 2005.

Mine! provides customers with a number of services: you take your own photograph along and have it turned into a piece of



WELLIES 2006

artwork. Even a poor quality picture can have amazing results. The Mine! Team can advise you. Alternatively the in-house photographer can take some shots for you. Whether it's a family portrait at the studio or your classic car at home in the garage Mine! can oblige.

Alongside this is a framing service. If you are into creativity there is some lovely paper craft sold in packs from £2.99.

The Mine! design service, which is free, is very bespoke and personalised; the team work with clients to produce exactly what they want, and clients have their own image viewing. Mine! can match the colours in your home, produce something to fit in that awkward space, even fill a wall 20ft high. Mine! is about giving you something unique.

Customers receive advice on size of print, print mediums (e.g. canvas, acrylic, block) and Mine! are happy to work to a budget. Mine! artwork starts from £20.

Mine! is more of an experience than a shop.

Gifting is a key element of the business and Mine! have vouchers which are perfect for that hard-to-buy-for person. Capturing an image of your children to then gift to your parents on their wedding anniversary is priceless. Mine! can provide the total service.



MINE! STUDIO

## Transform your images into art!

Colleen says: 'I want Mine! to inspire people to hang on their walls their own art, something that means something to them; an image that evokes



DAN CLARK BY MINE!

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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**BRAND  
NEW  
ANALOGUES**

Take three Keighley lads, some seriously good rhythms, strong melody lines, an addictive grunge rock sound – and there you have it (well almost!) – Brand New Analogues.

With their unique mix of classic rock riffs and uplifting beats Brand New Analogues seriously rock! They have power, energy and great entertainment value, as I recently found out at the Great Northern, Halifax Road, Keighley. Combining strong melodic vocals with thumping bass lines, hard hitting guitar and memorable songs, Brand New Analogues are definitely going places. They are acclaimed by [www.LeedsMusicScene.net](http://www.LeedsMusicScene.net) to be “currently spearheading the heavy rock music scene throughout the north of England.”

One minute the catchiness of Supergrass comes to mind; then the classic riffs of Deep Purple; mixed with a Nirvana grunge; with some in-your-face attitude Sex Pistols style thrown in. Throughout the gig BNA focussed largely on their own material but when they launched into their unique version of Thin Lizzy’s Jailbreak they easily cemented the approval of the Great Northern regulars.



BNA’s material is written by lead singer and guitarist, Phil Swale from Oakworth. Phil met drummer, Gary Marshall while playing in ‘Soulfish’, a soul super group of 10 talented members known nationwide. Phil and Gary left to form their own band. Josh Tildesley (formerly of ‘Honeypot’) adds his unique backing vocals and bass guitar to the current line up. The band have recently signed to

**GIG REVIEW**

independent record label, Valve Records. Not surprisingly, BNA have a loyal fan-base throughout West Yorkshire and their hook-heavy compositions must surely see their appeal spread further afield before too long.

With just 3 members BNA manage to produce a massive sound and give an impressive performance. The dry-witted



banter between the guys made me wonder at times whether this was a live band or stand-up comedy trio, making for an all round excellent night out! There was a great atmosphere and by the end of the night the crowd was buzzing and shouting for more. The next day I found certain songs, particularly the band’s catchy new



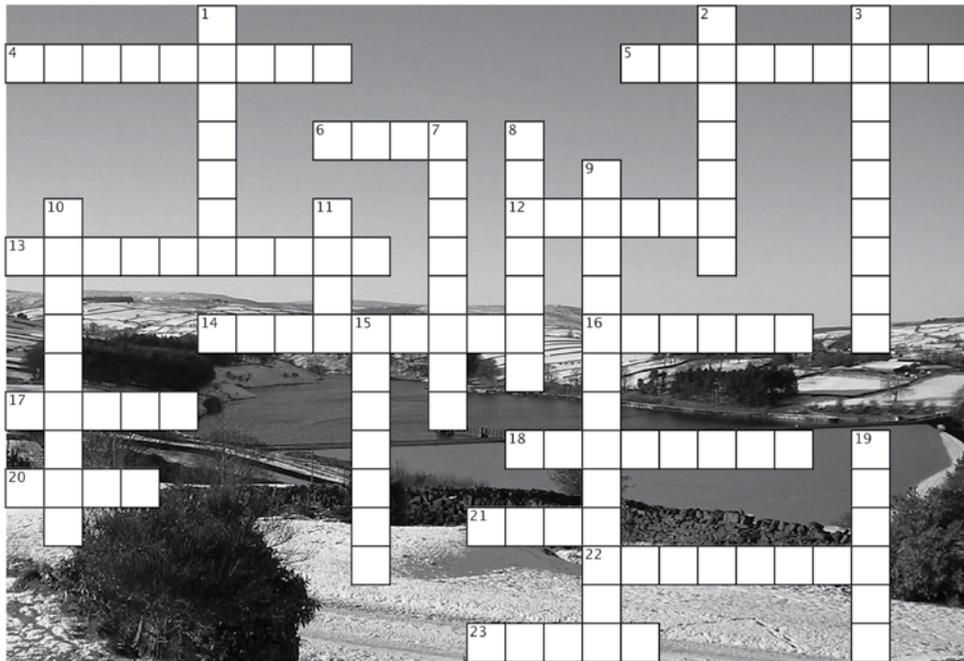
single, “Oh Michelle” had become well and truly embedded in my brain.

This track and others: “Out To Get Me” and “No Resolve” are available free on the band’s Spring Demo. For more details and for future gig dates visit their website on [www.brandnewanalogues.com](http://www.brandnewanalogues.com).

Believe me, BNA are an experience not to be missed!

Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

Worth Valley Mag Xmas Crossword  
A local Xmas crossword for local people!



**Across**

4. Made The Wall on the Railway (4,5)
5. Where our famous sisters used to live
6. Nice at Christmas, but rare.
12. Local castle or pop veteran
13. That film about munchkins again! (6,2,2)
14. Eric on the line from Keighley
16. December's nervous bird
17. Pipes, Bows and .....
18. Singer who scaled new Heights in 78 (4,4)
20. Best gift of the wise men
21. Where to get rid of those unwanted presents
22. Balloonist haunts White Lion (4,4)
23. Found on top of the tree at this time of year.

**Down**

1. Stay too long in Haworth and you might get.....
2. Guaranteed to get pulled this month.
3. Gender swapping xmas tradition
7. The Hitman in Haworth?
8. Holden's invention of the devil.
9. Landlords Best Friend (7,6)
10. Gets used a lot at office parties!
11. Rudolph had a red one
15. Wild cats with egg shaped ball
19. Quiet Night Inn Stanbury

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

**SUDOKU**

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

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As recommended by "New Woman" and "The Wall Street Journal".

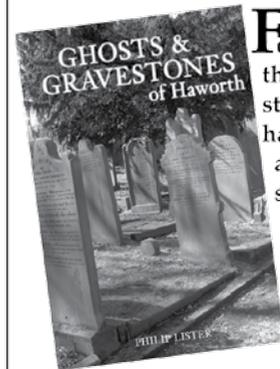
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**Worth A Closer Look:**

**Sat. December 9th**

**Lantern Light Parade,**

Families join together at dusk with their hand crafted lanterns as they process up Haworth Main St.

**Sun. December 10th**

**Torchlight Procession,**

Entertainment throughout the afternoon followed by procession at 5:15pm ending at St. Michael and All Angels Church where all are welcomed in to enjoy the Carols by Candlelight Service at 6pm

**Sat. & Sun. December 16th & 17th**  
**Christmas Cracker Weekend**

A weekend of music and dance, and one last chance to visit Santa's Grotto before Father Christmas leaves for colder climes. Entertainment starts at 11am

**Sat. & Sun. December 23rd & 24th**

**Panto Weekend, Haworth.**

Enter the magical world of pantomime: dress up as your favourite panto character. Parade starts from The Old Registry on Saturday at 3pm. Walk past all the traders dressed in costume to the top of Main Street where costume judging takes place at the church steps.

**Sun. December 31st**

**The Christmas Vintage Tractor Run**

20 mile run around the Worth Valley with tractors, wagons and classic cars all on display. Starting point is outside Colin Appleyard Garage on Halifax Rd. at 9:30 am and finishes up at the Bronte Hotel in Haworth with a pub lunch.

FREE Listing for any non-profit making community based activities

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Fri December 1st 7:30pm**

**Fashion show in aid of Manorlands Hospice**

At the Studio, Mine Creative Ltd., Lees, Crossroads. In association with Ajeno of Haworth and The Green Room of Oxenhope. Drinks and canapés followed by a show of high quality fashion available locally. Tickets cost £12 and are available from Colleen Aird at the Mine Creative studio on 01535 648487.

**Sat December 2nd. 2:30pm**

**Scartop Sunday School Carol Service**

in aid of Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Including Olfield children's choir and a Brass Band. Refreshments served.

**Sun 3rd December 6pm**

Christingle Service, Christchurch, Oakworth

**Wed 6th December, Oakbank School**

Russian Cosmonauts from Space City, nr Moscow, give a lecture. Presentations by the young people. For more details contact Janet Armstrong 01535 642625.

**Fri. December 8th From 7pm**

**Christmas Tree Fayre**

Purchase your christmas tree and quality locally made gift items at The Wuthering Heights in Stanbury. Proceeds go to Manorlands / Sue Ryder.

Raffle, mince pies, mulled wine, and a festive atmosphere for all to enjoy.

**Sat 9th December**

Christmas Fair, Holden Hall, Oakworth

**Sun 10th December 10.30am**

**Carol Service and Christmas lunch,**  
Oakworth Methodist Church.

**Wed 13th December 7.30pm**

**Virgin Vie At Home party in aid of Manorlands.** Games; raffle; treatments etc at The Bay Horse Pub, Oxenhope.

**Fri 15th December 7.30pm** Haworth

Band and Friends are presenting Music for Christmas at Haworth Parish Church.

Tickets £5 and £2.50 at the door. All proceeds donated to Sue Ryder Care, Manorlands Hospice.

**Sat 16th December**

**Christmas Ceilidh in support of**

**Manorlands Hospice** with Music by Phoenix, Holden Hall, Oakworth 7.30pm Bar available. Tickets £6.50 inc supper. To order tickets call Brenda Atkins on 01535 646037

**Sun 17th December 10.30am**

**Christmas Praise Service,** Oakworth Methodist Church

**Sun 17th December**

**Manorlands Hospice Lights of Love Ceremony,**

In the hospice grounds Oxenhope at 4:30pm Call Sharon Link on 01535 640431 for more details.

**Sun 24th December 11.15 pm**

**Christmas Eve Communion Service**

Oakworth Methodist Church.

**Sat 24th Feb 7.30pm Charity Ball in aid of Breakthrough Breastcancer,**

Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley. For details tel. Rebecca Lobley 07841 669399 or email becca.lobley@talk21.com

**NEW MEMBERS!**

**Oakworth Village Morris Men.**

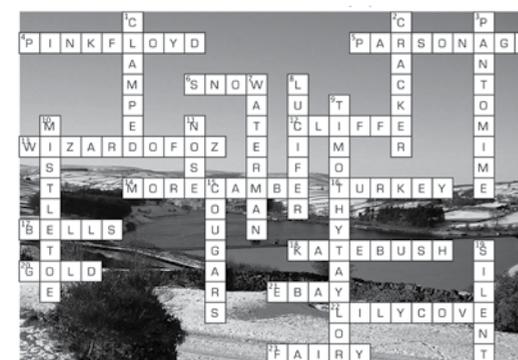
Keep fit, keep active, keep a tradition alive. Interested men learn to Morris Dance; age 18-80! Meet Mon evenings Oakworth Methodist Church. For details call 01535 644635/01484 650532



The Community Pages are generously sponsored by Wyedean Weaving Company Ltd., Haworth.

**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**CROSSWORD**



**SUDOKU**

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

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## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Communication technology is continually evolving at a phenomenal rate, but in the stampede for faster, smaller, higher and cooler a certain sense of fun gets left off the agenda. This month's website fills that gap. Monk E-Mail uses monkeys to speak your emails! If everyone used monkeys to send messages what a brighter place the world would be! It's simple really. Pick a monkey. Dress him up, add some accessories, a wacky background and then choose a silly voice for him.



If that sounds like a lot of kerfuffle just to send an email - don't worry - it isn't! Type your text in and send. The results are guaranteed to bring a smile to the grumpiest of people. It might be a good way to personalise your Christmas cards - especially as there is even an option to record your own voice. You know it makes sense!

[www.careerbuilder.com/monk-e-mail](http://www.careerbuilder.com/monk-e-mail)

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## THE X-MAS FACTOR

**“Never** worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.” (Larry Wilde).

We never had 30 foot Christmas trees when I were a lad, but I remember the real one my dad uprooted and replanted every year until it grew too big to get through the door. We had a real tree for our first Christmas in the Worth Valley. After a couple of years of being bent, bound and bagged our “fake” tree was sentenced to be dragged out the back by its baubles and got shut of. We wanted a ‘classier’ Christmas after being inspired by our first visit to the torch-lit procession in Haworth, its Main Street flanked with beautiful decorations and packed with carol singers bearing flame and bellowing song. We had jostled through the crowds to find a good vantage point outside The Fleece where we drank in the atmosphere as the procession of shivering ruddy faced souls flanked by warbling children marched together in a communal orgy of wholesome festive sentiment.

Splendid stuff... and then we noticed a camera crew shadowing a familiar looking bespectacled figure. He was waving his arms around, encouraging others to join him in song as his thick Brummy accent strangled a tortuous version of Silent Night. Pete “The Hitman” Waterman was in town and at the height of his notoriety as a judge on the new TV talent show “Pop Idol”. Waterman had made a name for himself by

publicly destroying the dreams of hundreds of tone deaf wannabe’s. He could hardly complain if we shuffled off quietly and kept our singing to ourselves, but I was frozen to the spot as I noticed a small lad standing behind him, his flaming torch agonisingly close to Waterman’s head, a slight wind enticing the flames to reach out and lick the grey hair of our celebrity visitor. The thought of the man who had given the world such music as Rick Astley and Jason Donovan bursting into flames was too much to bear. Bradford Council’s Safety Advisors would probably never allow another torch-lit procession again! If they did everyone would have to use battery torches which would look rubbish. Fearing the worst I emptied a full pint of Timmy Taylors over Waterman’s head and Christmas in Haworth was saved. Everyone cheered. Waterman thanked me for saving his life and offered me a recording contract... and then I stopped making this last bit up and watched as he disappeared up the street.

Not since we’d lived in Catalonia, Spain a few years before had we experienced such a communal celebration of Christmas. Over there, the highlight of the season is January 6<sup>th</sup> - or Kings’ Day - which marks the arrival from the East of the Three Kings. How these Kings actually arrive usually depends on the budget and imagination of the town council. At the next village to ours they skied down a mountain carrying torches. In our home town they caught the local train from the stop before. Everyone turned out to welcome them as they emerged from the station throwing sweets out to children who sang

carols and held aloft paper lanterns. Apart from celebrating Christmas in January there are other bizarre cultural differences.

Instead of a Christmas stocking they have a “caga tio”, a small length of tree-trunk with a face painted on the end. Kids leave food and treats for the log to ‘eat’ and on Kings’ Day throw a blanket over it and beat it with sticks whilst singing a rather crude song about poo. When they pull back the blanket, the log has excreted their presents! It gets worse!. Nativity scenes are common in Catalonia, but what makes them unique is the “caganer”. Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century this small figure wearing a traditional Catalan cloth cap has been placed on the fringes of the nativity,



where he is seen squatting down, pants around ankles to answer nature’s call. This tradition has always been tolerated by the Church, but last year Barcelona Council omitted him from their official Christmas display for the first time. They felt it was not in keeping with the city’s attempts to clean up its image.

Wierd eh? But try explaining how a fat man with a beard and reindeers breaks in to your house via the chimney and leaves half of Argos under a Norwegian pine!

Talking of which, I tried replanting the tree. It lasted about as long as my New Year Resolutions...

**Haworth’s Torchlit Procession is on Sunday 10th December at sunset. Careful with those torches!**

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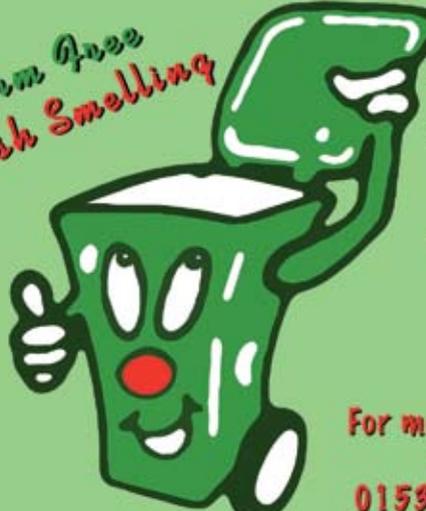
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Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!

# Christmas at

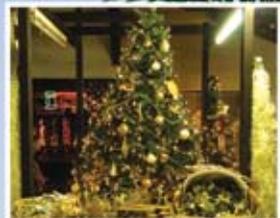
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