

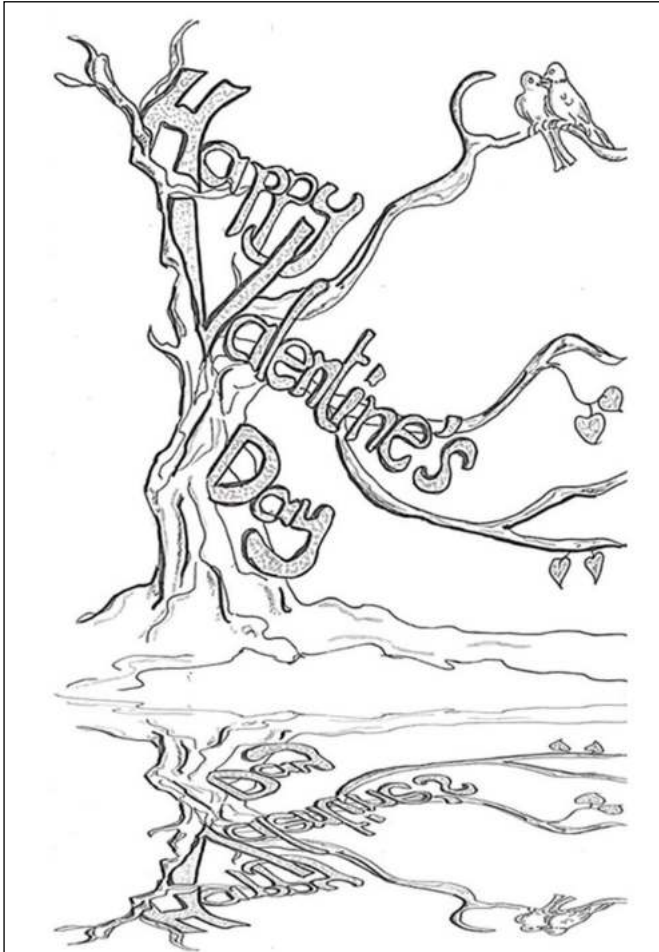
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# The Hellifield Herald

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February 2025

Free to everyone in Hellifield



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The Hellifield Herald can be read in colour at:

[hellifieldherald.org.uk](http://hellifieldherald.org.uk)

The deadline for contributions to the March edition is the 8th of February

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## Editorial

When I wrote my last editorial, back in April 2024, I reported on the fact that my son, Peter, who has Down's syndrome, had just moved into his own place in Hellifield. Having spent most of last year assisting him to entertain his family and friends, I am pleased to say that he is now well and truly settled and the house must be roasting after all those house-warming parties (12 in all)!

My husband, Andy and I are gradually getting used to the fact that we now have some free time again and are cautiously doing a bit of travelling. It's been a while since we ventured overseas, so our first trip abroad, to Belgium, in October, was something of an adventure! Belgium was lovely – I only wish I could say the same about the airports :-/

However, despite our intention to travel a little more, we are still very involved in the many excellent activities that take place in the village. The Christmas play is already being written and will hopefully be as enjoyable as last year's "Spies and Socialites", which went down a treat and brought some new talent to Helliplayers.

And I am sure that the Hellisingers will be entertaining the village again before too long, after the successful Christmas concert, which was held in St. Aidan's church.

So, do keep checking the magazine for forthcoming events and I hope to see you at one of them, at least!

All the best for the coming year.

Yvonne x



P.S. I am rather dismayed at the amount of rubbish collecting around the underpass. It would be good to get a small group together to tidy this area. It's in need of sweeping and, possibly, a bit of weeding. Please contact [magazinehellifield@gmail.com](mailto:magazinehellifield@gmail.com) if you'd like to take part.

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# The railway memories of Audrey Walker Daykin

Audrey, who now resides in Settle, lived in Hellifield from 1942 and has sent more memories from her childhood days. Her father was the 'Shed Master' at Hellifield Engine Shed, and Audrey shares her memories of life in the village when Hellifield was an important and busy railway station.

"People keep asking me about my dad and his work as 'Shed Master' at Hellifield Station. He came from Derbyshire, from a long line of blacksmiths and shoemakers in the village of Spondon. He was known by the surname 'Walker' but somewhere along the line Smith got tacked on. Looking back through church records I came across a baby named 'Walker Smith'. This dated back to 1840, but I could not find any further info ie: marriage details. If there is a connection, and how the hyphen came to be added I do not know. My father served a long apprenticeship to become an engine fitter in Derby. He then moved slowly up the ladder via York and Leeds until at Hellifield he attained management status. I can recall just how much it meant to both him and my mother in a domestic sense. Superannuation, sickness and holiday benefits etc would have been much appreciated.

As manager of the Shed he was responsible for the roadworthiness of every steam engine which left the shed. He was also a 'hirer and firer' in terms of the competence and reliability of the men under his charge. My father was a hard, quick-tempered man. He had to be when you consider his responsibilities. When he was an old man, he stayed with me in Essex and I remember him talking about the engines coming in looking like blocks of

ice, with only the turning wheels and pistons free. Snow had to be dug out from underneath the tender by hand and open fires were lit in the engine shed pits to thaw out the oil service. If there was snow up the line, they would get out the snow ploughs. It took about one and a half hours to fasten them on to the engine.

We lived up near the top of Midland Terrace and I remember one particular morning seeing a man running towards the station shouting 'The Emerald Isle is failing. They need a driver urgently!' That man was Mr Shorrocks - Brian Shorrocks's father. Mr Shorrocks had been quietly occupying himself in his garden when he was accosted by a man who had been sent by my father to search the village and find a driver who could help with the struggling Emerald Isle. Keighley had phoned ahead to say the train was coping, but would only get as far as Hellifield. Meanwhile my father and his team were busy preparing another engine for instant use when the ailing Emerald Isle reached Hellifield. Mr Shorrocks arrived, albeit breathless and the train limped into the station. The engines were swapped around and believe it or not, Mr Shorrocks drove that train to Heysham in time to catch the Ferry Boat to Ireland.

In those days the drivers were the 'creme de la creme' and with dad being an experienced engine fitter, the two of

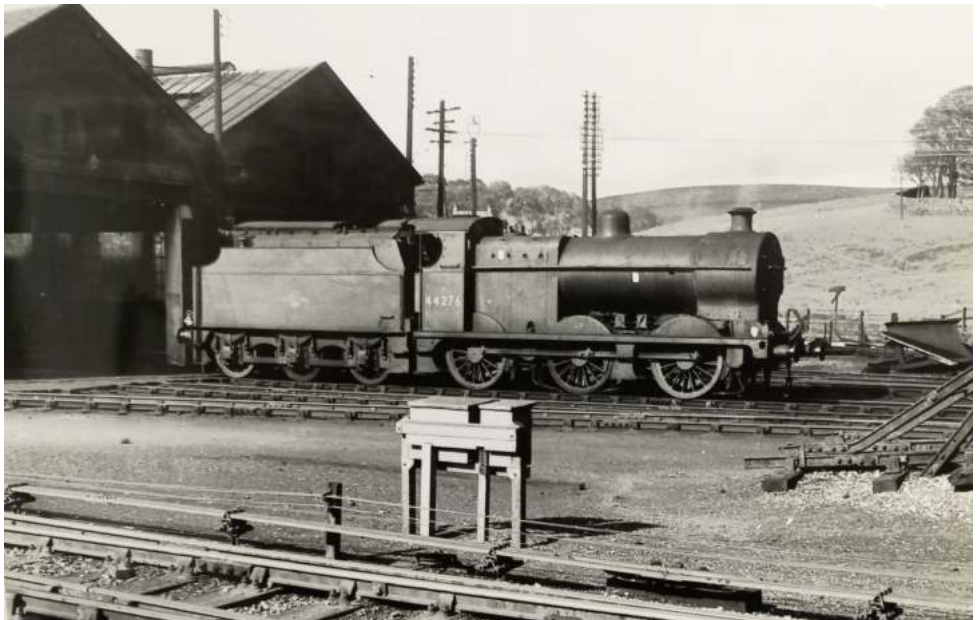
them just got on with it. In my opinion these men are a testament to our industrial heritage. In my father's case there was no question of pushing responsibility on to someone else. What teamwork! Hellifield was an important junction in those days and how those men rose to the challenge of dealing with any emergency. Brian and I are still here, and we are both very proud of our parents.

A very unusual occurrence occurred when work was going on at the turntable which was located next to the shed. I was only about 14 at the time but I remember they blasted some rocks out of the ground, and when the rock was split there was a hollow which contained a few very small frog-like creatures. There was no apparent way these creatures could have got in from the outside. They were alive. But how long had they been there? How old was the rock? What was to be done? Well, they found a box and put them

onto the next train for Leeds and addressed the box to Leeds University.

Good thinking for ordinary working men don't you think? So far so good, but the story ends there because I have not found any other mention of this. Only what I saw. A girl aged 14 being yelled at to get out of the way. I do not even know whether the box found its way to the University, let alone what conclusions they came to. Now, years later, I realise they must have been 'Anaerobic' as they died soon after they were found. Anaerobic organisms do not require oxygen to grow and may even die if oxygen is present. Despite many hours sat reading 'The History of Hellifield' in Settle Library, which is packed with information about the area, the mystery to me remained unsolved. Perhaps there is someone out there who might be able to shed some light on my memories of our prehistoric frogs!"

Ken Leak



# St Aidan's Church - February 2025

*A new year has begun, but we continue to welcome everyone to St Aidan's, every Sunday at 9.30am . In our relaxed, traditional worship we thank God for his goodness, and pray for the needs of our village, our nation and our world: please do come and join us.*

*Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March, and we'll be marking this, as always, with a service that day at 7pm.*

*Any queries? Please contact Revd. James Rodley on 01729-851709, or [jwerodley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jwerodley@yahoo.co.uk)*

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# View from the Vicarage

Did you make any New Year's Resolutions? And, as February begins, have you kept them up?

No need to let me know the details (!) but I do hope that, resolutions or not, 2025 has started as well as possible for our readers. I've never been in the habit of making New Year resolutions, although the familiar ones would be very appropriate in my case: eat less, drink less, have more exercise, not get cross at the news, etc. But I wonder if any of those seemingly very modern concerns were part of the ancient Babylonian practice of "new year's resolutions", around 4,000 years ago? That culture is thought to be the first to observe special behaviour at the New Year: A long 12-day religious festival called Akitu saw them reaffirm their loyalty to the new reigning king crowned that year. Debts were also promised to be paid to gods and borrowed objects returned.

Borrowed objects returned? I must give back the book I borrowed from a parishioner- in Bournemouth, 15 years ago.

Perhaps in that ancient, and no doubt rough and hungry (for ordinary folk, at any rate) society, needing to lose weight etc. wasn't exactly a day-to-day worry. And the concept of paying "debts to gods" is intriguing too- as a commentator has written, it was religiously important the Babylonians kept to their resolutions, as they believed that falling short of doing so would place them at risk of falling out of their gods' favour. Christians, though with a profoundly different understanding of our relationship to God - not least that we are forgiven if we make a profound confession to God of our wrongdoings - nonetheless keep their own time of self-reflection and

"putting things right" with God and our neighbour- it's called Lent. And more of Lent next month!

But back to our modern concept of New Year's resolutions. A quick online search on the BBC website came up with the five resolutions thought popular enough over the last 70 years to deserve a broadcast devoted to them: they were (in no particular order): to lose weight (1971), exercise more (1982), read more books (1982), be more adventurous (1960 – that was allowed in those far-off days!), and to learn a new language (1955). All of which are good and reasonable things to do, though my long-standing intention to learn Welsh looks likely to be deferred to 2026 or beyond...

Notice, though, that these resolutions are all about ourselves! There's no sense here that a New Year resolution might be, for example, to spend time with people who are lonely, give more to good causes or maybe get involved with a community group. Good as it is to lose weight and exercise more, could we not resolve each New Year to offer something new to others, whether our near neighbours or much further away? There isn't exactly a lack of need, and just think what a difference it would make if every one of us offered, each New Year, a little extra "something" to folk who weren't ourselves or our immediate family?

In the meantime, I must try and resist the lure of comfort food in a cold winter week!

Please contact Revd James Rodley on 01729-851709 or [jwerodley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jwerodley@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Where's the Tooth Fairy when you need her?

Hubby's tooth has been playing up  
on his recent trip to Spain.  
The filling came out before he left  
and now it's causing him pain.

A visit to the dentist became the next plan,  
so that morning bright and sunny,  
he was off to town in the trusty old van,  
with his wallet full of money.

At the dentist his teeth were Xrayed  
to see what was going on.  
Bad news! She couldn't do a filling,  
and she'd found there was more than one.  
Those poor old teeth could not be saved,  
both of them too far gone!

She found two more that she needed to fill,  
and proceeded to poke around.  
Just one more up at the top,  
and then.... "Phew", no more were found.

So out came the "dodgy" ones,  
just three left to skilfully fill.  
The pain of the lost fillings gone,  
but to come, the pain of the BILL!

Now I know why he asked me to sit down,  
when he rang to tell me the news  
of the mistake of ignoring a lost filling  
when embarking on a stay in the EU.

He showed his health card at reception.  
Which she accepted and said "Yes that ok"  
Well! It didn't have the expected reduction  
on the amount that he would have to pay.

So now, he's paying in instalments,  
after each little job is complete.  
To lessen the strain on his wallet,  
and to leave him enough money to eat.

It has cost him a "pretty penny"  
but the trauma has not been in vain,  
'cos the amount of work he's had done  
means he won't need a dentist again!

Kate Clegg

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## The Victorian photograph

**Him:** “Oh dear, here we are posed on the hottest day of the year in all our paraphernalia and best clothes. I am wearing three layers of tops with my best woollen coat. Very uncomfy let me tell you, and to top it all, we are posed next to a pot-bellied stove that is on!! For the last four months I have tried to grow a moustache, but hair just will not sprout above my lip!

My sister is so fed up. She is so hot that her bonnet keeps on sliding down due to the perspiration on her forehead. This usually occurs as the photographer is about to take the photograph, and she has hay fever, so that doesn't help with the bonnet!”



**Her:** “Oh please hurry up, surely this photographer could be a bit quicker. I'm sweltering here, I'm so uncomfortably hot. On no, he's got the flash bar in the air again and I'm going to sneeze!”

Helliscribes Challenge – If We Could Read Their Minds

Alison Jane Taylor



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## November's village walk and annual dinner

What a great conclusion to a fabulous year of village walks! 21 Helli-walkers enjoyed a hike from Horton-in-Ribblesdale and a good many more gathered at The Craven Arms in the evening for our annual dinner party.

The walk headed up the Pennine Way by The Crown pub and joined the 3-Peaks link path over to the impressive Hull Pot for a picnic lunch. Hull Pot is a collapsed cavern, and on the surface looks like a pretty big hole – apparently, measuring 300 feet long by 60 feet wide.

We then returned along a different Pennine Way track leading back into Horton. We were rewarded along the way with splendid views, especially of Pen-y-ghent which got ever closer before we turned back along the lane to Horton.

After working up an appetite, we had a wonderful evening of delicious food and happy chit-chat.

For our walking group, we are having a break in December and January, resuming on 16th February and from thereon, on the 3rd Sunday of the month (10am from the village car park).

If you would like to join us, email [rebgooch@gmail.com](mailto:rebgooch@gmail.com) or text / call Rebecca on 07443 493169, then I will send out more information about each walk a week or so in advance.



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## **Dragons in the pipes**

Dragons live in our water pipes  
They roar with all their might  
They make their noise all through the day  
And sometimes into the night

When I have to turn the taps on  
I'm always very wary  
Granny says they're harmless  
But Grandad says they're scary

They can't be very large ones  
'Cos the pipes are only small  
The baby dragons will fit inside  
But their parents will be too tall

They must live in the garden  
In the pipes that run underground  
I listen when I'm playing outside  
But I've never heard a sound

One day I hope to see one  
When the water's running fast  
It'll whoosh into the bathtub  
And I'll have my wish at last!

Yvonne Crabtree

## **Easter Painting Competition moved to Christmas**

Just to let our younger residents know, we have decided not to do an Easter competition this year, but instead, hopefully, we will do a Christmas one where the winning entries will be made into Christmas cards. We will try and give you plenty of notice, so you can get your entries in well in time for the winning pictures to be turned into cards. Please watch out for more information later in the year. Carol & Audrey

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me at [piploucarr@gmail.com](mailto:piploucarr@gmail.com)  
or 07722072939

## **Messy Church goes outdoors**



Join us as we take our Messy Church  
outdoors into the wonderful grounds  
of St Aidan's Church, Hellifield, on

## **February 23rd**

Meet at 10:45 for 11:00 start.

Activities centered around exploring nature, fun & games,  
a story, a prayer and a simple shared meal/snack.

Further info contact [james.atkinson72@outlook.com](mailto:james.atkinson72@outlook.com) [07849673214](tel:07849673214)

## The fight between the sisters

The fight between the sisters had always existed, from the time that the youngest existed. This howling, toothless, purple little being took a lot of Mother's time away from her sibling.

So how could she get her mother back? "I know, I'll keep weeing on the doormat!"

Then came the day that the older girl always remembers as she tied her little sister to a tree. Her excuse – "Well she was playing cowboys and Indians with me!"

In their primary school life, the youngest girl got bullied so the older sister made sure no one else was hurting her. She said to any bullies -

"Come here and give me a fight,  
picking on my sister just ain't right!"

Sisterly fights, for years the youngest lost, but this one day she had had enough, today she would be tough, she kept hitting her older sister until there were bruises and now she never loses those physical sisterly fights.

Alison Jayne Taylor

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## Financial help for the ill or immobile

I am the Hellifield representative on the Settle and District Aid in Sickness Fund. Its purpose is to help people with costs that come with illness or immobility. The Fund makes one-off gifts to those applicants from Settle Parish and the parishes round Settle, including Hellifield.

Examples of the kind of help available are towards the cost of:

- travel to hospital both for patient appointments and for family visits
- winter fuel bills for the housebound or immobile
- equipment to help with immobility
- domestic help

The Charity aims to help those who are less well off, but there are no formal means tests. Applications are handled in the strictest confidence, there are no age limits and no complicated

procedures or forms to be filled out.

The amount of each gift is at the discretion of the Trustees, except the rules say there can be no commitment to recurring gifts.

If you think the Fund can help you or someone you know, give me a ring or send me an email.

Bob Moore

Trustee

07976215646

bmoore68.bm@gmail.com

# Hellifield Methodist Chapel and Wesley Centre

## February 2025

- Our Sunday services are held every week at 2pm
- Family Lego Church at 10.30am on 9th February
- Our monthly Hour of Prayer for the Village Community is on Sunday 2nd at 4pm
- Welcome Mat meets Mondays 3rd and 17th, 2.30pm
- Strong and Steady on Mondays 10th and 24th, 3pm
- Hellitots meets on Tuesdays, term-time, at 9.30am
- Wellbeing Café, Wednesday 12th at 10.30am
- WARM SPACE on MONDAYS from 11am until 2pm, with free Soup and Sandwiches from 12 until 1.30pm - What's not to like!!

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# North Yorkshire councillor feedback

I am Simon Myers, sitting on North Yorkshire Council, representing the residents of Mid Craven. I have lived in Hellifield for 25 years and prior to the new Council I was Deputy Leader of Craven District Council.

I am also the Executive Member for Culture, Arts, Leisure and Housing, Libraries and major Venues. I am responsible for a wide variety of things from Council Houses to Knaresborough Castle. I thought readers of the Hellifield Herald may find it useful to learn of some important issues I have been involved with (including good news) currently being discussed within the Council that may affect your household.

**Finances:** One of the main items is the government budget and the effect on the Council's finances. On the upside, it does seem there will be more money for Housing, Social Housing and Retrofitting (the process of making substantial changes to an existing building, usually to improve its eco-friendliness). Also, more money for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability), which is desperately needed. There will also be more money for pot holes. On the downside, the increase in Employers National Insurance contribution will undoubtedly have a big effect because (a) the Government will not cover all the direct cost and (b) this does not extend to our agency staff, i.e. in Social Care and of course the cost to our suppliers will be passed on. We will have a better picture of this soon and of course the question is how much of the extra funding comes to North Yorkshire Council. Budget discussions and savings targets are very much under discussion and I will keep you posted.

In an unwelcome blow before

Christmas the Government abolished the Rural Services Delivery Grant, which cost NY Council £14.5 million a year. Currently it looks as though the various changes, helpful in some areas but less so in others, will leave NY £6.5 million a year worse off. The reality is that residents in North Yorkshire pay more in Council Tax than those in urban areas and receive much less per capita in funding from Central Government. It is simply not fair and we continue to make representations about this.

**Homes, Adaptations and Disabled Facilities Grant Scheme:** This is very helpful for anyone who needs minor or major adaptations to make living in their own home easier. This is not means tested for grants up to £7,000 and grants can be made up to £30,000 and on occasion even more. If anyone has any queries about this please contact me.

**Community Led Housing:** The Council is putting £1 million a year into this scheme which will help bring forward some of the stalled developments and build up a pipeline of new projects, particularly in rural areas. Almost uniquely in the UK, NYC is spending all of the money raised by the Council Tax Premium (between £12 million and £18 million (we will know in April) on Second Homes on Housing, rather than diverting it to propping up the Revenue Budget.

**Council Housing:** We are committed to acquiring and building 500 new Council Homes over the next few

# Ahernes

*Of Hellifield*

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years, including the first in Craven for more than 40 years. The unaffordability of Housing for many of our residents and especially the young is a major concern and we must do what we can to provide decent homes for all.

**York and North Yorkshire Housing Partnership:** It is estimated that our various Registered Providers of Social and Affordable Housing have budgeted to spend at least £1 billion on making homes energy efficient over the next 14 years. A real challenge but a real opportunity for people to develop the skills to work in a well-paid sector which has a guaranteed future. Tell the young!

**Kex Gill:** Again - Kex Gill is shut again following a landslip caused by the never-ending rain. Engineers are concerned that this may reoccur and so the road will be shut while further work is carried out. It reinforces the need to have the new road up and running as soon as possible. At the moment work is progressing well.

**North Yorkshire Cultural Strategy:** I launched a new strategy just before Christmas which is very collaborative and inclusive. More money is needed to bring it to fruition and that is being worked on, in recognition that these are difficult times for achieving that.

**The Revised Planning Application for the Flashes:** I convened a Public Meeting in November to listen to the views of Residents and to help identify the main issues which the Planning Officers will have to consider. I would like to thank all those who attended and it was very helpful for me to hear their opinions. I will keep the Parish Council in the loop, as this progresses and when I hear anything new.

If you need more information on any of the above, then do get in touch.

North Yorkshire Councillor Simon Myers

phone: 07801 310126

email:

cllr.simon.myers@northyorks.gov.uk

---

## Hellifield Mothers' Union

Sheila welcomed members to our December meeting and lit a candle to remember absent friends. Joy read the prayers and Sue read out some interesting information about the work of the Mothers' Union.

Our speaker was Denise, from "Away from it all holidays" organised in two caravans on the East Coast by Mothers' Union members from our Diocese. The difference these holidays have made to the families who went there was so heartwarming to hear. Our

Mothers' Union donates regularly to this project. At our January meeting we joined with our Worldwide members to take part in the Wave of Prayer. Part of the meeting was our Annual General Meeting.

Sheila Swinbank and Joy Orwell



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# Hellifield Institute news

2024 finished with a dramatic sensation, a community confirming coffee morning and a pleasing budget surplus. Thanks to everyone in the village who contributes to the upkeep of the building via ticket sales, 200 Club membership, club fees, hire charges or donations. Each year there are inevitable changes in the village population that mean we gain and lose supporters. It is always sad to say farewell to friends but lovely to welcome new faces to the Institute. We hope to see many more of you at some point in 2025.

The Christmas Show, 'Socialites and Spies', was a good example of drawing in new faces and we were delighted to welcome over 200 villagers to watch or participate. The generosity of the players and the audiences meant that we raised more than £1800 – a fantastic amount that matched the quality of the Show.

Audrey Edwards wrote and produced an amazing piece of comedic drama that was a loose parody of 'Pride and Prejudice' but was much more with its nod to European history as well as international and local politics. The Institute stage and space is very limited but props, screens, lights, curtains and 'Tour Guides' were used skilfully to convey Georgian Hellifield. Members of the cast had funded their own costumes, which were perfect for the period, definitely transporting us back to the early 1800's.

A master stroke was the casting of a resident from Long Preston; his supporters in the audience provided the necessary 'boo and hiss' factor as village rivalry raised its head in the proceedings.

Every cast member is to be congratulated for their long-term effort, commitment, enthusiasm and enchanting performance but hopefully, none of them will mind a mention of Bob Moore's delivery of the delightful

'Cess Pool'- he truly reflected the name!

The Institute was used for lots of celebrations in December, including Christmas lunches, children's parties, family get-togethers and a lovely Christmas Coffee Morning, where the Trustees welcomed 70 villagers for bacon rolls, cakes, a Secret Santa Raffle and a round of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' led by the Hellisingers. A happy ending to the year and exactly how the building should be used.

January has already hosted two musical evenings, four coffee mornings and a relaxation evening, along with the start of all the regular clubs and meetings. We are pleased that Messy Monkeys and the Little Beauty Parlour are continuing to use our facilities for their business purposes and hope to encourage others to give us a try for training events or small meetings.

Why not pop into a Saturday coffee morning, have a chat and a look around? We would love to welcome you!

Ann Taylor  
Chair of Trustees

# Hellifield Motive Power Depot during LMS days

A selection of views around Hellifield MPD from around the 1930s/40s during the London Midland and Scottish Railway company period (1923-1948).



1. The ex-Midland Railway four road engine shed. To the right can be seen the water tower and also the "sheer legs" which was a hoist used to lift locomotives for wheel removal. During the 1940s a new workshop was built at the rear of the shed that included a

specialised wheel drop pit.

2. A line up of locomotives on the coaling stage road, the locomotive second from the right is an ex-London and North-Western Railway 0-8-0 Super D. This class of locomotives were very rare visitors to Hellifield. The





class 4F nearest the camera has been fitted with back cab protection for use on snow plough duties.

3. Ex-Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway 0-6-0 Aspinall loco No. 12157 tops up with water after coming off the coaling stage. Many Ex LYR- locomotives were moved to the former Midland shed after the LYR shed was closed in 1927. This locomotive was built in 1892 and withdrawn in 1953,

giving a service life of just over 60 years.

4, Ex Midland Railway Johnson 0-6-0 No.3192 stands on the turntable road, possibly taken post 1948, as the loco carries LMS on its tender but British Railways shed code 20G on its smokebox. This locomotive came into service in 1888 and was withdrawn in 1959 after almost 71 years in service.

John Percy



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# Hellifield Flashes

There is currently an application in to build up to 79 wooden lodges on some of the Flashes fields. It is the latest in a long line of applications and it is useful to outline briefly the history of attempts to build on this area.

Back in the 1990s, there was a plan to build a by-pass around villages along the A65, which included Gargrave, Hellifield and Long Preston. With this in mind, some ideas were put forward for a Rural Environment Centre and a regeneration of the railway station.

Craven Herald in 2006:

[cravenherald.co.uk/news/1026096.end-of-the-road-for-a65-bypass/](http://cravenherald.co.uk/news/1026096.end-of-the-road-for-a65-bypass/)

described Carl Lis, then Leader of Craven District Council, as “devastated”. He added “levels of traffic



Both were seen as unobtrusive ways of attracting low level tourism and bringing people into the area to appreciate what we have to offer. Plans were passed without much opposition and some of the agreements are still being used in the current application. A Tourist Development Commitment was included in the 1991 Local Plan, which was also based on the assumption of a by-pass.

The by-pass was cancelled when the A65 was “de-trunked”. Plans for the road were shelved in 1997 and finally discarded in 2006. A report in the

through the middle of Gargrave, Hellifield and Long Preston are completely unacceptable and have a serious impact on quality of life.”

However, some outline planning permissions, based on the assumption of a by-pass, were granted in 2000 and renewed in 2002. They included a hotel, a new road, car parking and a manager’s house. See:

[thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/8081334.new-concerns-raised-over-environmental-centre/](http://thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/8081334.new-concerns-raised-over-environmental-centre/)

The house and the road were built.

Waterside Lane was created by North Yorkshire Highways with some money from the European Fund. It was originally intended to run up to the railway station so that traffic would be moved away from an already busy Station Road. A blunder by Craven District Council meant that they failed to ensure the land was available, so the 'Road to Nowhere' was created instead. The permission for a hotel and car park remains as do some for buildings which were to have formed the Environment Centre.

Nothing more was done for many years after a trench was dug on one side of Waterside Lane to show "work had

and a green field opposite, where deer used often to be seen. Locals were puzzled. Was the old permission for a hotel and car park being activated? The Council kept saying that the owners were within their rights to be tipping vast quantities of waste on the area earmarked for a car park. Various agencies were contacted including the Environment Agency, but no-one was inclined to stop the damage that was happening. A large hole was dug on the hotel site and waste tipped into it and covered over. It was around this time that some men tried to stop people walking or driving along Waterside Lane, saying it was a private



begun". Metal fencing was erected which is still there and rusty. In 2016 an enormous set of plans landed asking for permission to build 300 wooden holiday lodges and associated support buildings. This was eventually refused by Craven District Council in 2019 after huge local opposition. 'Save Our Craven Countryside' was instrumental in leading the fight against this application.

Soon after this application was rejected, work began on the main Flash

road. Five years ago, an application for the road to be made a Public Right of Way was submitted to North Yorkshire with a lot of evidence supplied by local people.

The main flash was dug out so the ephemeral nature of the water and the important habitat for rare birds was destroyed. It now has steep sides so waders who forage in the shallow mud around a flash no longer come to breed. The Flash does not dry out in summer now, the water remains all



year. All this despite repeated assurances that the ephemeral nature of the main Flash would always be maintained. Needless to say, the activity and noise scared the birds away and many have not returned, although some have come back to use the two smaller flashes.

In March 2020 another application was put in to build 99 wooden lodges and this current “amended” application appeared in 2022 for up to 73 lodges. These are proposed to be on part of the land which is still a considerable size, currently grazed by sheep and stretching across two fields from the woodland alongside the A65. It also includes an access road to run at right angles to Waterside Lane, alongside the beck. Now that Craven District Council has ceased to exist, we have a different local Councillor, Simon Myers, and different planners looking at the application. The hope is that a complete reassessment can be done of the area and of the out-of-date permissions.

More than 90 individual objections to the current plans have been logged and can be looked at online on the North Yorkshire Planning Portal. There is still time to submit your views if you wish to. An excellent collection of organisations has also outlined reasons why these plans should not go ahead, including CPRE, Friends of the Dales, SOCC, East Lancashire Ornithologists Club, and others.

There have been several very well attended public meetings around this issue and a community walk along Waterside Lane to establish that it is not a private road. Feelings in the village are clear – these plans are not wanted. The Flashes serve a number of purposes and are not for developers to build on indiscriminately. Perhaps there can be a positive way forward in the future, but the current ideas are not it.

Angie Pedley

---

## **Air Ambulance thank you**

On behalf of Yorkshire Air Ambulance, I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who came along to the village hall coffee morning on Saturday 30th November. Thanks also go to others who provided cakes and raffle prizes.

Your generous contributions made this a very successful event which raised £522.29 for this amazing lifesaving charity. I would also like to say a very big thank you to those members of the village hall committee who enabled this busy event to run smoothly.

A note for your 2025 diary - we have booked the hall again for Saturday 29th March next year. We hope to see you there!

Anne Brennand (YAA volunteer)

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# Hellifield WI

May I take this opportunity of saying I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas followed by a great New Year celebration. In December, those members who were able to attend enjoyed a lovely meal followed by games hosted by Sheila Kershaw. January brought back our own favourite Ken Leak with slides of Hellifield when he was growing up here. Always an entertaining evening even in the bleak January weather.

In February we are hoping to welcome the Whiteknights Blood Donor Bikers. These chaps go out in all weathers to deliver urgent blood supplies which help save lives. So, please come along and support them. Our February meeting will be held on the 20th in the Village Hall starting at 7.15pm. As always non-members are welcome for a small charge of £4. Should for any reason the Bikers not be able to attend, we have a reserve activity of pie & peas, followed by a quiz and we will also be reminding you about subs due March/April. Thanks to the generosity of the Beer Festival and proceeds from two coffee mornings, we are able to reduce the fee to £38 (cost to wider WI, including Hellifield's share, is £51), so we feel this is a good bargain and if it helps you, we can take payment in instalments privately.

In March we are holding our AGM, as required by the WI regulations. This will determine whether we can continue for a further year. The amount of work needed by the committee to provide speakers, organise refreshments and celebration meals etc outweighs the number of people who benefit at present, and our member numbers are

due to reduce again due to age, ill health or just lack of interest. So, if you would like us to continue for another year, please think about rejoining or think about giving us a try if you are not already part of the WI group. Once I know we can continue, I will plan what I hope will be an interesting list of speakers or demonstrations to take us through the next year, but I cannot do this unless we have enough members. Any ideas for speakers or activities are always welcomed.

The present WI committee members are willing to stand again if there are no new nominations, but if you think you could be part of the committee and introduce innovative ideas then please contact me before the AGM meeting on 07855 191927 or email me at [carolwestonmoore@gmail.com](mailto:carolwestonmoore@gmail.com)

Hope to see you in February.

Carol – Joint Secretary





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# HELLIFIELD WI

Recently celebrated 75 years since the first Hellifield meeting was held.

Since then, where possible, we have continued to run a monthly meeting.

Our present meetings are every third Thursday evening at 7.15pm in the Village Hall. Non-members are always welcome for a small fee of £4 and we aim to have interesting speakers or activities each month.

We have tried to develop a more modern approach to our meetings and focus on getting together as a social group each month (not much Jerusalem and Jam). You will see from the picture attached we like to party.

If you are interested in either joining us or coming as a guest, for more information please contact:

Aileen (President) on 01729 851318 or

Carol (Joint Secretary) on 07855 191927

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**Sat 29th March, 3.30pm**

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Bus times may change during February. Best to double check before travelling - see [klch.co.uk/bus-services](http://klch.co.uk/bus-services), or phone 01524 733 831.

Monday to Friday - to Skipton:

**0810; 0900; 0945; 1045; 1145; 1245; 1345; 1445; 1545; 1800**

**Note:** there isn't a bus to Skipton at 1645 - Ed.

Saturday - to Skipton:

**0810; 0900; 0945; 1145; 1245; 1345; 1545; 1745**

Monday to Friday - to Settle:

**0915; 1010; 1110; 1210; 1310; 1410; 1510; 1610; 1710; 1910**

**Note:** there isn't a bus to Settle at 1810 Monday to Friday - Ed.

Saturday - to Settle:

**0915; 1110; 1210; 1310; 1510; 1710; 1810; 1910**

## Train times in Hellifield

Train times may change during February. Best to double check before travelling - see [www.northernrail.co.uk](http://www.northernrail.co.uk), or phone 0344 811 5111.

To Skipton, Monday to Saturday: **0736; 0745; 1010; 1039; 1142; 1244; 1342; 1513; 1543; 1639; 1807; 1842; 2011; 2126; 2208; 2228**

To Skipton, Sunday: **1113; 1200; 1412; 1440; 1648; 1709; 1742; 1848; 1912; 2100; 2115**

To Settle, Monday to Saturday: **0615; 0840; 1012; 1141; 1411; 1612; 1741; 1910; 2042**

To Settle, Sunday: **1011; 1204; 1323; 1517; 1713; 1945**

To Lancaster, Monday to Saturday: **0537; 0740; 0910; 1111; 1312; 1513; 1824; 2014**

To Lancaster, Sunday: **0931; 1124; 1420; 1623; 1822**

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## Village contacts

### **Police – Emergency 999**

Police – Non emergency 101

### **Badminton Club**

Bob Moore 07976 215646

### **Beavers**

settlebeavers@gmail.com

### **Brownies**

District Commissioner: Carly Halls  
carlyhalls22@gmail.com

### **Community Speed Watch Team**

Paul Emsley  
01729 851659 or 0779 9710891

### **Cubs**

settlecubs@gmail.com

### **Doctors Surgery**

The Old Co-op Hall, Main St, Hellifield  
& Townhead Surgery, Settle 822611

### **First Responders**

Claire Occardi 850509

### **Guides and Rangers**

Helen Cressey  
helen Cressey@aol.com

### **HelliArts / Arts Group**

Audrey Edwards 850351

### **HelliCrafts / Crafts Group**

Val Bedford 01729 850260

### **Hellifield Hotshots (rounders)**

Cathy Damon or Cathy Dakin  
cathydakin@btinternet.com

### **HelliGames**

Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086

### **HelliLineDancers**

Jane Gray 07971 656461

### **HelliReaders / Reading Group**

Audrey Edwards 850351  
Yvonne Crabtree 851806

### **HelliScribes / Writing Group**

Yvonne Crabtree 851806

### **HelliSingers**

Sue Alderson 01729 554149

### **HelliWalkers**

Rebecca Gooch 07443 493169  
rebgooch@gmail.com

### **Indoor Bowls**

Maralyne Cadman 01729 851272

### **Methodist Chapel & Wesley Centre**

Pauline Wright 07931 511652

### **Mothers' Union**

Sue Alderson 554149  
Sheila Swinbank 850458.

### **North Craven Flower Club**

Liz Palmer 840331

### **North Yorkshire Councillor**

Simon Myers email:  
Cllr.Simon.Myers@northyorks.gov.uk

### **Parish Council**

Chair: Julian Sleath 07736 079135  
Clerk: Julie Sleath  
hellifieldpc@gmail.com

### **Primary School**

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Maddocks  
01729 850215

### **Rainbows**

lottie.longprestonrainbows  
@hotmail.com

### **St Aidan's Parish Church**

Rev James Rodley 01729 851709  
jwerodley@yahoo.co.uk

### **Scouts**

settlescoutgroup@gmail.com

### **Table Tennis Club**

Andy Crabtree 851806

### **Thursday Drop in Centre**

Joy Phillips 850340

### **Village Hall (Institute)**

Heather Leak 07790 042206  
Ken Leak 07837 727268

### **Wesley Centre**

Lettings Manager 850802

### **Women's Institute**

Aileen Alexander 01729 851318

---

## Changes to the magazine calendar

Due to space restrictions and rising costs, the calendar format has changed. It takes up fewer pages, so there is more room for articles and adverts. All activities we know about are listed, but they now appear under the venue where they take place and the dates are shown in the end column. We hope you find this new format easy to follow.

---

## Events in February

### Village Hall / Institute

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Provider/Contact details</b>	<b>Dates in February</b>
Sat	10-11.30am	Coffee Mornings	See Village Hall notice board for details	1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
Mon	7.15-9pm	Table Tennis	Andy Crabtree 01729 851806	3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
Mon	2-4pm	Mothers Union Ripon	Sheila Swinbank 01729 850458	10th
Tue	2-4pm	HelliArts	Audrey Edwards 01729 850351	4th
Tue	6-7&7-9pm	Badminton	Bob Moore 07976 215646	4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
Wed	9-12.30am	Messy Monkeys	Amanda Belt 07398 284126	5th, 12th, 26th
Wed	2-4pm	Mothers' Union	Sheila Swinbank 01729 850458	5th
Wed	2-4pm	HelliGames	Karen Dunwoodie 07756 862086	5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Wed	2-4pm	HelliScribes	Yvonne Crabtree 01729 851806	19th
Thu	10-12 noon	Bowls	Maralyne 01729 851272	6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
Thu	1-4pm	HelliCrafts	Val Bedford 01729 850260	6th
Thu	10-12 noon	Police Surgery	Ken Leak 07837 727268	13th

# Events in February

## Village Hall / Institute

Day Time	Event	Provider/Contact details	Dates in February
Thu 2-4pm	Flower Club	Liz Palmer 01729 840331	13h
Thu 7.30pm	HelliReaders	Audrey Edwards 01729 850351	13th
Thu 7.15-9pm	WI	C Weston Moore 07855 191927	20th
Fri 9.45- 11.15am	HelliSingers	Sue Alderson 01729 554149	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Fri 1-3pm	Helli-Line Dancing *	Jane Gray 07971 656461	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

\* please check the Helli-Linedancing WhatsApp Group for Jane's availability

## Methodist Chapel / Wesley Centre

Day Time	Event	Provider/Contact details	Dates in February
Sun 2pm	Sunday Service	Letting Manager 07931 511652	2nd, 9th, 16th,
Sun 4pm	Hour of Prayer	as above	2nd
Sun 10.30am	Family Lego Church	as above	9th
Sun 2pm	Family Café Church	as above	23rd
Mon 11-2pm	Warm Space	as above	3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
Mon 2.30pm	Welcome Mat	as above	3rd, 17th
Mon 12-1.30pm	Soup & Sandwich	as above	3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
Mon 3pm	Strong & Steady	as above	10th, 24th
Tue 9.30am	Hellitots	as above	4th, 11th, 25th
Wed 10.30- 12noon	Wellbeing Café	as above	12th

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# Events in February

## Methodist Chapel / Wesley Centre

Day	Time	Event	Provider/Contact details	Dates in February
Wed	6-7&7.30-8.30pm	Kettlebells	Josephine Elsmore 07813 792191	5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Thu	12 noon	Drop-in Lunch	Joy Phillips 01729 850340	6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

## Hellifield House Social Club

Day	Time	Event	Provider/Contact details	Dates in February
Mon	7-9pm	Slimming World	Daiva Martinkiene 07591 067861	3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
Tue	2-4pm	Tea/Coffee/ Chat	Margaret Foster	25th
Wed	8.15pm	Quizgo	Cheryl Mitton 01729 850866	5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Sun	6.30pm	Bingo	Cheryl Mitton 01729 850866	2nd, 16th

## St Aidan's Church

Day	Time	Event	Provider/Contact details	Dates in February
Sun	9.30am	Church Service	Rev. James Rodley 018729 851709	2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd
Sun	10.45 for 11am	Messy Church	James Atkinson 07849673214	23rd

## Other events

Day	Time	Event	Provider/Contact details	Dates in February
Sun	10am	HelliWalkers	Rebecca Gooch 07443 493169 Village Car Park	16th

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- *David Jamookeeah*: Distribution Officer
- *John Cuthbert*: Editor
- *Karen Dunwoodie*: Chair
- *Yvonne Crabtree*: Proof-reader

Other members of the village are involved in the production and

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John Cuthbert - Editor

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