

MENSTON NEWS

MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 142

www.menston.org

Summer 2025



**WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF MENSTON NEWS,
THE NEWSLETTER OF
MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**



We have an exciting summer coming up in the village! This edition is packed full of updates and news of the latest events including fundraisers, concerts, a village garden party and the annual Menston Village Show.

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MENSTON NEWS

After such an extended period of beautiful weather, we can only hope it continues so we can all make the most of the host of Menston activities and events coming up.

We don't normally look back on events that have happened but I could not resist mentioning the VE Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration. We had such a fantastic time! About 150 residents attended, including children from the Railway Children Preschool and Nursery, St Mary's Academy and Menston Primary School. A formal commemorative service was held and this was followed by 1940s refreshments - beef dripping, spam sandwiches and homemade jam tarts all made an appearance. Many thanks to the Parish Council for jointly supporting this event with Menston Community Association (MCA).

More exciting news - thanks to a donation and funds raised through the Menston Community Lottery, the MCA are in the process of purchasing some new outdoor event furniture. We should have new chairs, tables and gazebos in time for our summer event on **Sunday 8th June: Cream Tea, Crafts, Gardens & Games.**

It looks like we are in for another summer of fabulous events and activities. Enjoy!

Cheryl Thornton, Chair of Menston Community Association

Cream Tea, Crafts, Gardens & Games Presented by the Menston Community Association Sunday 8th June, 1pm to 4pm

Yes folks, by popular demand we are bringing back the famous Menston Cream Tea and this time we are combining it with a garden wander.

As well as having the chance to enjoy the blooms in three beautiful local gardens, each garden will host an activity:

Main Street: Cream tea and refreshments

Cleasby Road: Children's games and activities

Park Road: Craft stalls

It promises to be a fabulous event for all.

Entrance fee for all three gardens (including the cream tea, refreshments and activities) is just £2.50. Children under 12 go free!

Check out the Menston Community Association Facebook page for more information.



Over the forthcoming summer, the Parish Council is continuing to support local initiatives. Recent and ongoing funding has been allocated towards many organisations which benefit local residents including: Menston Community Association, Menston Kirklands Trust, Menston Village Show, Menston in Bloom, Menston

Cares, Menston Bowling Club, Menston Thespians, Ilkley Community Transport, the Heritage Trail, Menston Friends and Family Hub, Menston Library and the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, to name just a few, and many more valuable causes. Our sincere thanks go to the many leaders and organisers of these initiatives which make our community such a thriving and caring place to live and work.

With the warmer weather, use of the refurbished play areas in the park are proving very popular. Bradford MDC are aware of the issues under the tree rope climber and work will be undertaken to resolve these.

Plans for a circuit path in the park and for the "Garden in the Park" are progressing as well as the Memorial for Peter Finlay.

Ongoing work towards local highways safety improvements and the Neighbourhood Plan are progressing well. A Design Code for the village is in an advanced stage and, when approved, this will shape the way Menston evolves.

Following on from concerns raised previously about encroachment of hedges restricting access to pavements and roads, a further reminder is issued to encourage residents to keep a check on overgrowing hedges and trees, and to arrange trimming where they overgrow.

The Parish Council meets on the last Thursday of every month, in Kirklands Community Centre, when there is always a time to raise issues important to you. Dates of the next meetings, and contact details for your parish councillors, are available on the www.menston.org website.

Philip Moore, Chair of Menston Parish Council

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

We've had a meaningful time wondering and hoping with lots of you this Easter. From donkeys, singing and cartwheels, to times of quiet, chocolate eggs and messy crafts! I wonder if you joined us? Or if you noticed us out and about?

We are your church and we are committed to being here for you. In the spring sunshine I am feeling very thankful to be in Menston, and I thank God for all he offers us here. But life is not always sunshine and please do know we are here for you come rain or shine, through life's joys and its challenges. You are not alone.



Jesus rode a donkey just like these guys. Arriving on a donkey rather than a war horse was a sign that he came in peace.

From donkey rides to funerals and everything in between, we want this village to know it is loved and cared for. **The church is open during the day Monday to Saturday for private prayer or just a space away from it all.**

We also gather every Sunday morning. At 9.30am we have an informal service with contemporary music called Zest, and at 11am we have a traditional service with organ music. We also have monthly "Core" afternoons for kids aged 7-11 and occasional Eco-Days.

We run a Stay and Play @ St John's group for babies, toddlers and their grown ups, Friday mornings in term time, with the occasional big Stay and Play in school holidays where older siblings in KS1 can come along and join in the fun.

Over summer we have got a board games afternoon coming up, as well as a Brick Church event for any creative LEGO builders who want to come and help us get creative. Look out for more information in due course.

If you have any ideas about how we might bless the village do be in touch via our website or Facebook Page. We would love to hear what this village needs from its parish church.

To get in touch, please email office@stjohnmenston.org.uk or call 01943 872433.

**With every blessing,
Rev Jo, and all at St John's**

Music in the Air

Join us for a concert in St John's Church, Burley Lane, on **Saturday 21st June from 3 to 5pm.**

A variety of popular classics performed by local people of various ages. Do come along to hear the local talent!

Tickets are £5 for adults and children are free. Refreshments are included. Tickets from the Parish Office.

Email office@stjohnmenston.org.uk, text 07440289248 or leave a message at 01943 872433. In aid of church funds.

MENSTON 2025 HERITAGE GROUP

The Menston Heritage Trail has now been published and is available from various outlets in the village and will be online soon. It is a short walk through the village giving information about people and places. Do give it a go and find out about Sooty, a swimming pool and Lassie!

In July we will be hosting a group from Bradford to do the trail and the walk is being promoted through Bradford City of Culture 2025.

The archive room in the library is now the base for our collection of various documents/photos etc and work is starting on cataloguing them. If you are interested in being involved, contact Marilyn on 874220.

Marilyn Banister

CLIMATE ACTION MENSTON

Reduce, re-use, repair.

The theme of the May meeting of Climate Action Menston was share and/or repair, as we heard from Ilkley Thingery which lends out useful items that you use rarely and do not need to own yourself; and also from Otley Repair Cafe and Maker Space, who shared their experience of encouraging people to learn how to repair a wide variety of items. As it was the Annual General meeting, reports were given from the working groups and highlighting our involvement with Science Week at the school - making Air Pollution Catchers.

We next meet on Tuesday 10th June at 7.30pm in Kirklands.

This coincides with Great Big Green Week for which the theme is swapping stuff, knowledge and expertise to show support for a safer, greener, fairer future. If you have a story or expertise to share, do get in touch. For further information about CAM as well as how to join and to support what we do, please go to <https://climateactionmenston.org.uk/enquiries/> or ring 01943 874220.

Marilyn Banister

MENSTON METHODIST CHURCH

You are welcome to our morning service on Sundays at 10.30am.

First and third Sundays are in the main hall, café style - relaxed and informal worship. Sun Club for young people meets on second, fourth and fifth Sundays during term time.

Thank you if you supported our Easter Fayre in April. We raised over £670 which is split between the Church, Christians Against Poverty and local food banks. Christian Aid week ran from 11th to 17th May and we thank those who donated to the work of Christian Aid.

If you would like to hang a heart on our Tree of Remembrance (in the Church garden in front of Cornerstone) in memory of a loved one, or to renew a heart previously hung, they are available in the church foyer and Cornerstone.

Friday Friendship Group (fortnightly 2pm) and Wednesday Group (monthly 2pm) meetings will resume in September.

The Friday lunchtime organ music recitals will also resume after the summer. The Tuesday morning prayer group continues to meet on Tuesdays at 9.30am in Room 1.

Friday Club (7 to 13 years) and Friday Live (13 to 16 years) meet on the last Friday of the month with a variety of activities. Vivace Youth Choir rehearse on Thursdays at 6.15pm during term time.

If you are looking for something different, Breathe is held monthly in Cornerstone on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, for those with or without faith.

If you are curious about faith and would like to learn more, please contact Jo Dixon and ask about Alpha jodixonmethodistchurch@gmail.com.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in our community.

If you need someone to talk to or pray with, please contact our Minister, Rev Cameron Stirk (thestirks@tiscali.co.uk). This is in strict confidence. Details of our activities are on the Church noticeboard, Church Facebook page and website: www.menstonmethodist.org.uk.

Jalna Jenkins

FAIRFAX CLUB

We are proud to have recently won the prestigious Club of the Year award from Bradford CAMRA, recognising our quality and ever-changing selection of real ales and vibrant community offering.

We continue to thrive as a cornerstone of community life in Menston, combining historical roots with a modern, welcoming social space. Pop down and see for yourself. Our fantastic team are always on hand for any questions or a bit of a tour. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all of the latest news.

Ollie, Club President

LADIES PLEASE CHOIR

Ladies Please Choir are currently celebrating twenty years of singing together and raising money for charities both here and overseas.

We are presenting a Gala Concert entitled "20 Songs for 20 Years" on Saturday 14th June in the Menston Methodist Church Hall at 2pm.

As with all birthdays, there will be cake! And perhaps balloons!

We hope you will come and help us celebrate our double decade of music and fun, and the over £20,000 we have raised in that time.

Tickets are priced at £7.50 and a raffle will be held in aid of the Bradford Baby Bank.

If you like to sing in a relaxed and friendly group, we are always looking for new ladies to join us (sorry guys!).

We welcome all abilities and ages so if you think you would like to join us in this special year, please come along to see what we have planned.

We meet every Tuesday in Menston Library at 7.15pm or text Dorrie on 07970 726988 for more details.

Elizabeth Sharp & Sue Saul

WHARFEDALE WI

We are now firmly established in Menston following our move from Askwith and our change of name. We've welcomed a number of new members in the past year.

We have a varied and interesting selection of speakers and our summer 2025 programme includes Peter from Nell Bank Outdoor Activity Centre in Ilkley which runs outdoor activity days for thousands of children every year, a talk on pelvic floor fitness encouraging us to keep healthy for life, and a talk from local sheep farmer and successful author, Steph Shields. As usual we are also planning trips this year including a private visit to a stunning local garden, and in August we all meet for lunch.

If you think it might be for you why not come along to our next meeting and find out more?

We always welcome visitors and new members and, apart from August when we'll be enjoying lunch together, **we meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at Kirklands Community Centre.**

If you'd like any more information you can phone Hazel on 07544 948893 or Andrea on 07899 798573.

Sue Appleyard

MENSTON SCOUTS AND GUIDES

Scouts & Guides, and all the younger sections too, meet every week in term time, and even go on camps and adventures in school holidays and on weekends. All of it is facilitated by tireless and dedicated volunteer leaders. We always need new adult volunteers to join the regular leader team, or to help with governance by coming onto the Trustee Board. We are looking for an assistant Treasurer to work with our very capable existing Treasurer with tasks related to the fundraising efforts. We also seek someone to help us with our communications, particularly keeping the website up to date. If this sounds like something you could do, please get in touch. Volunteering is great for your mental health and can expand your skills and experience. If your talents are more suited to leading, having fun and coaching then we need you too! We have a role to suit whatever your availability and interests.

We are continuing to raise funds for a HQ that will take us into the next century. See the website for more details about the project:

www.menstonscoutsandguides.uk/hq-project/

We are incredibly grateful for all the support we have been getting, and continue to receive, from our fellow Menstonians and the business community here. The Spindles held a coffee morning to raise funds for the HQ project. The Primary School encouraged all Scouters and Guiders to wear their uniform to school for the day and held a bake sale. The Menston Methodist congregation hold a regular collection for the rebuild project and the Menston Craft Group continue to support our cause by selling their gorgeous creations.

Last year's Fundraiser Jumble Sale was a resounding success, making a profit of £979.64 and we want a repeat of that this year - perhaps even to break £1k, so please save your preloved items and bring them along to Kirklands Main Hall on the morning of July 5th ready for the Jumble Sale in the afternoon.



MENSTON SCOUTING & GUIDING

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2025

DOORS OPEN 2PM - 50P ENTRANCE FEE

Stop by our cafe area for tea, coffee, cake and baked goods

KIRKLANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

If you would like to bring donations for the sale please drop off at Kirklands between 11am and 12 noon.

All will be invited to attend our Annual General Meeting in the summer, look on the website for more details nearer the time.

More dates for your diary:

October 17th: Adult Disco - exciting guest DJ - more details will be released soon

November 1st: Halloween Disco for kids upstairs at the Fairfax club

November 7th: Bonfire in the park

Naomi McMorn, Group Lead Volunteer

FRIENDS & FAMILY HUB

The Friends and Family Hubs are part of Thinking BIG, a Community Interest Company. We support family carers of young people aged 0-25 with SEND/additional needs, with or without a diagnosis. We meet monthly in Bradford, in the heart of Menston at Kirklands Community Centre, and in Keighley, on three successive days.

Our summer sessions for Menston are 11th June and 9th July. July's will be a look back at all the sessions we've done in the last year, with updates and discussions of what we want to talk about next - plus a delicious afternoon tea! And because our families deserve a great day out, we will also be having an amazing **Summer Social in Bradford on 20th August**, with fun activities and sweet treats.

We start each session with a presentation from an individual or service that members will find useful and interesting. We recently had a session on puberty, as children with disabilities often need extra support, and one on sleep. We provide lunch, then we have an afternoon session to talk about the presentation and any issues

members are having. We are a very supportive group, and the Hub Facilitators and members have a wealth of experience.

We have an online Padlet, with useful information from previous sessions, and a lively WhatsApp group where our members can chat, share information and ask for advice. We can also signpost members to other services where appropriate.

Some members come to every session, some come to one a year: we're there when they need us! Thanks to support from The National Lottery and Menston Parish Council, we are free to join and free to attend.

For further information or to join the Hub, please email me (I'm the Hub Coordinator): friendsandfamily@thinkingbiguk.org



Shain Wells



Menston Yarnbombers have been very busy, as always. We were pleased to bring two new toppers to the postboxes for World Book Day, and we are planning on expanding this next year. In breaking news, you can be involved next year by knitting or crocheting any character from a book, which we can then include in March 2026. Please contact us if you would like more information, and watch out for the Menston Show's Yarnbombers' Challenge!

In June, we would love to see some of you at a couple of events. We hope to be displaying some of our toppers at the **MCA event on 8th June**. We will also be joining in with

Worldwide Knit in Public Day in the park on Saturday 14th June, weather permitting. This will be a low key event, just sitting knitting, but please come along if you can knit (and crocheters please join in too) and contribute something to one of our planned community projects. More info coming nearer the time.

We were pleased to contribute a woolly walker to the FOMPS walk for fundraising, and also honoured to knit woolly jumpers for reading bears for Reception and KS1 classes at Menston Primary School.



We have been busy creating a group of Menstonians who will be appearing across Menston in the coming months. They are going to be very busy villagers, having a lovely time at various events and activities. For the summer months, we hope to present a range of bright, cheerful toppers to brighten up everyone's day. Watch out for some off-piste yarnbombing.

Thanks to Cygnet yarns, to people who have helped with yarn donations, and our structural engineer.

Did you know...it takes up to 200 hours, and six or seven knitters to make a postbox topper?

You can contact us at menstonyarnbombers@hotmail.com and via Facebook.

Anne Lomas

SUMMER DALESBUS SERVICES FROM MENSTON



With the summer season quickly approaching, it is good to know that there are car-free opportunities of reaching the Dales from the village. Indeed, this year there are five services calling at Menston Main Road (A65) stops near the traffic lights and opposite Sainsburys on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. The buses serve Hawes, Aysgarth, Kettlewell, Grassington,

Malham, Pateley Bridge and Scar House – and all from the village!

The services provide excellent opportunities for a linear walk and a visit to one of the many fine hostelries and tea rooms the Dales has to offer in a more sustainable way and avoiding car parking.

The government-sponsored £3 fare cap applies until the end of December and English concessionary bus passes are accepted on all local journeys. Also, weekly or longer M cards are accepted for journeys starting in West Yorkshire. Services are fully accessible and the buses to Hawes normally operated with double deck vehicles providing excellent viewing possibilities.

The DalesBus services are managed and fundraised by a small team of local volunteers who, having started from modest beginnings under the vision of local writer, Colin Speakman, have created a network of services now covering the entire Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale National Landscape areas. The group recently passed the 500,000 passenger milestone.

Summer services run until 19th October and full timetable details can be found at www.dalesbus.org or by picking up one of the timetable booklets in the station or library. However, a brief summary of the services is as follows:

820 to Fewston and Swinsty Reservoirs - departs **1105**

821 to Scar House and Pateley Bridge via Fewston - departs **1005**

864 to Malham via Ilkley and Skipton - departs **0953**

875 to Hawes calling at Ilkley, Grassington, Kettlewell, and Buckden (*for Bolton Abbey and Burnsall change to the 874 at Ilkley*) - departs **0957**

876 to Hawes calling at Ilkley, Grassington, Kettlewell, and Buckden - departs **1057**

In addition, the **Saturday 74** service to **Grassington** operates from Otley (0952) and Ilkley (1020) bus stations.

John Carey

KIRKLANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Let us entertain you at Kirklands this summer!

We have a variety of events organised by many local charities. There's something for everyone.

Saturday 7th June: Menstonbury. A popular musical event to raise funds for Menston Pre-School

Saturday 21st June: Get Me Home. A show from Menston Thespians which has been created, stars and is produced by junior members

Saturday 5th July: Jumble Sale. Fundraiser for the Scouts and Guides

Saturday 12th July: Ceilidh. Angels for Children charity event

Wednesday 16th July: Bridge Drive. Fundraising for the NSPCC

Sunday 27th July: The Gelatos. Music and a choir in aid of Guiseley Memories Café

Saturday 6th September: Menston Show. Annual showcase for the creativity of Menston residents in the garden and in the home

Sunday 7th September: Craft and Gift Fair. Charity event for Yorkshire Cancer Research

Saturday 13th September: Jumble Sale. Fundraising for the NSPCC

To find out more about these events look out for posters in Kirklands, Facebook posts and on our website.

Contact us on 01943 874335, kirklandsct@gmail.com or through our website kirklandsmenston.org

Heather Norreys, Centre Manager

MERCURY MOVIE MAKERS

We are a local group of amateur film makers always looking for new members. Some of our members make films whilst others simply enjoy the social atmosphere of the club. For many years we have given film shows to several Menston clubs such as Menston Cares, Menston Townswomen's Guild, Menston WI, Menston Arts Club.

The programme for our meetings is varied and can include film shows by guests from other clubs or societies, help for beginners, competitions that are held each year, practical evenings discussing, exploring and experimenting with new techniques or filmmaking equipment and social get-togethers with other similar film-making groups to watch the latest films.

We meet on most Thursday evenings between 7.30pm and 10pm at the Guiseley and Rawdon Conservative Club. Refreshments are

available during a 30 minute break. The easiest way to get in touch is to fill in the contact form on our website (www.mercurymoviemakers.co.uk) or simply phone our secretary Bob Rowley on 07793 383 600. There is no charge for the first three visits.

Vince Herke, Publicity Secretary

"The Ozark Mountains" by Benjamin Heinig

Take a trip to the Ozark Mountains
Where the water flows clear like paradise fountains
Take a trip to the Ozark mountains, Missouri, USA
Where the organic grass grows naturally green every day
Take a trip to the Ozark mountains
Where the pagan dances, Permaculture land
Have calm, cool and collected without demand
Take a trip to the Ozark mountains
Where the bee hives are and where the honey is so naturally produced
Has the energy and power to flow as wonderful as the rivers, streams
and Becks in the Ozark mountains
Where friends and family cook on the open camp fires
Where they grow their own organic fruit and veg
When the nature of this wonderful place
Will make the space for the future to be like paradise.

MENSTON THESPIANS

We are delighted to announce 'Get Me Home', a family holiday fiasco, written, directed, produced and performed by our under 18 members!

21st June 2025, 7pm at Kirklands Community Centre.

Come fly with us on this ill-fated holiday, full of music, dance and hilarity!

Tickets are on sale
at menstonthespians.co.uk/tickets
or telephone 07764 753731.

See you at the airport!

Olive, Menston Thespians





About Menston's community lottery

Since the lottery was established, it has given the Menston Community Association the means to be able to invest in a range of new equipment and to either arrange or take part in numerous community events.

This includes:

- The MCA Community and Family Day
- Menston Christmas Lights
- Fashion Clothes Swap (with Climate Action Menston)
- Sponsorship for Menston Village Show
- Support to Menston Yarnbombers
- Purchase of new display boards and banners

Prizes won to date: **£1600+**

Funds raised to date: **£3500+**

Please help us continue to support Menston and its organisations and groups.

- Tickets are just **£1 PER WEEK**
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to **MENSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**
- Win prizes up to £25,000



PLAY NOW:

Scan this QR code or go to:

www.onelottery.co.uk

and search for: **Menston Community**

or ring **01865 678 679** for more information



MENSTON IN BLOOM

After approval from Bradford Council, Menston in Bloom has made fantastic progress with the 'Garden in Park', our 20th anniversary year project. The grant to support the planting of the 28m lavender hedge from Shipley Area Committee Community Chest Fund has been completed and we are now seeing the benefits to insects and the scent as we walk along Farnley Road.

Two new flower beds have been sown with wildflower seed which will be supplemented with sunflowers grown by Menston Primary School and other annual flowers. In the autumn we plan to replace this annual mix with perennial plants, creating a colourful and scented garden. This 'Garden in the Park' will complement the other opportunities that Menston Park offers. In the March we planted four 'Sheerwater Seedling' Rowan trees which bring spring flowers, autumn berries and colour.

We have replaced the two life-expired flower planters by the two benches on Farnley Road complementing the 'Garden in the Park'. These have been planted, along with the others around the village with summer bedding. The much-appreciated flower bed developed last year at Westbourne Drive has once again been sown with a mix of wildflower and annual flowers. We have started planting this area with perennial plants which will continue in the autumn, to have a mixture of perennial and annual plants in future years.

The wildflower meadows will be mown in September and bird boxes checked and cleaned, all supporting our local wildlife.

We would love to see you when we meet Wednesday mornings and monthly Saturdays for our garden sessions.

Our garden sessions and other news are publicised either through our email list (email menstoninbloom@gmail.com), the Village News Calendar (Menston.org) or by visiting our Facebook page.

Geoff Lomas



MENSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Hello from Menston Primary School! We wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some fantastic work which has been taking place in our setting. We have always worked hard to support children with their mental health and wellbeing. We strive to provide a rich curriculum which supports children in developing their own ways of thriving in the modern world while arming them with the appropriate knowledge and understanding to be able to do so. We use the CORAM Scarf PSHE resources which provides the children with an understanding of what makes them unique, ways to maintain our physical and emotional health and how to be our very best selves. This curriculum also supports our teaching of relationships education. Something which we feel is increasingly more important for children in the digital age.

We are passionate about helping to shape well-rounded, happy young people who achieve well academically but who also experience childhood in its fullest. Following the pandemic, children's mental health continues to be a prominent topic in the media. At MPS, we have been determined to take a proactive approach. Thanks to the amazing fundraising efforts of FOMPS (Friends of Menston Primary School), in October 2023, we bought into the MyHappyMind programme.



This is an NHS backed programme of lessons and resources for all children right from Early Years to Year 6. We have weekly lessons where we practice strategies to support our mental wellbeing, discuss character strengths and develop an attitude of gratitude! What makes this even more special is that the children also learn the science about what is happening in their brains when they feel different emotions. Even children as young as four in our school can tell you about the hippocampus, the pre-frontal cortex and the amygdala – known to us as 'Team H-A-P!' The impact of this programme has been incredible. We have received wonderful feedback from our parents and families including how the techniques have been 'a gamechanger' for them at home. This year, we have been able



to keep the programme going thanks to an extremely generous grant from Menston Parish Council. The children, staff and families at MPS are so grateful for this support. More recently, we have submitted evidence to successfully acquire the silver accreditation for MyHappyMind which again highlights our passion for embedding this learning throughout the curriculum and everyday school life.



As well as MyHappyMind, the Parish Council grant helped us to procure training for a therapy dog in school! Bonnie now visits the children regularly throughout the school week. She helps both individual children and groups of children, providing invaluable support for children's social, emotional and mental health needs.

On top of all of this, we continue to use our amazing outdoor space to take learning out of the classroom wherever possible, again enriching the children's experiences and providing much-needed fresh air and connection to nature.

We utilised this space even further for a recent fundraising event for World Down Syndrome Day. We were able to raise over £3,000 to support the Down Syndrome Training and Support Centre in Bingley. Children completed sponsored walks, runs and skips as well as an incredible 'bring and buy' sale.

We always welcome visitors to school so if you are interested in seeing any of our work in action or feel you have further ideas you could share with school around supporting our children's wellbeing, please do get in touch via the school office office@menston.mlt.co.uk.



Menston Primary School

MENSTON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

This is our Summer Season Programme.

June 18th: Mercury Movies entertain us with a Mystery Movie to delight.

July 16th: Mobile Police Museum. David Hardcastle shows memorabilia and recounts tales from times past with a light hearted feel. No-one with a dubious past needs to feel anxious.

August 20th: Ian Howe. A well known Menston resident and raconteur makes us smile again with his talk 'How did we end up here?'

In addition to our Wednesday monthly meetings in Kirklands at 2.30pm, some members meet in the library to play Scrabble, join the reading group, and sample the food delights of local pubs **on the fourth**

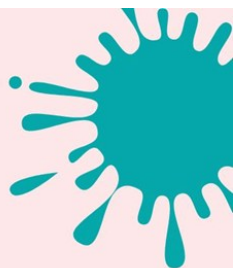
Wednesday of every month at 12 noon. Theatre visits and outings also take place.

If you have any queries, please telephone Laura Moorhouse 07582842589.

Laura Moorhouse

Interested in

Art?



Then why not try
Menston Arts Club?

Our next **exhibition** is on Sat
& Sun 22 & 23 November
2025 at Kirklands, Menston

Annual membership is £70 and
we meet in Kirklands on Monday
evenings for **demonstrations**,
workshops and **talks**.

See our syllabus at
menstonac.blogspot.com
or contact Ian on 01943 877555
or ianhobsonuk@yahoo.com



MENSTON CRICKET CLUB

The 2025 cricket season is now in full swing at our Fox and High Royds grounds, having benefitted this year from the excellent weather in April which helped preparations enormously. We hope to see as many visitors as possible come down to the Fox ground to support our various teams and enjoy the atmosphere and facilities.

This year our men's 1st XI is competing in the second tier of the Aire-Wharfe League, but there is plenty of other cricket to see, including junior matches on Wednesday and Friday evenings and Sunday mornings, and two women's teams usually playing on Sunday afternoons alternating with the men's 3rd XI. The club is also participating in a new T20 competition to be held on Thursday evenings in June and July. We are hoping to organise some summer holiday activities for younger juniors - please check social media for details. A couple of diary dates for later in the summer:

Sunday 3rd August: Craven League Cup Final at the Fox ground

Sunday 24th August: T20 day including annual match v Ilkley RUFC

Social membership is available via the website

menston.play-cricket.com or at the bar for only £10, which entitles members to 10% off prices. This season we have a new selection of quality wines available from a local merchant.

For any enquiries about the club please contact the

secretary: secretary@menstoncc.org or use the form on the website.

Mike Pratt

NSPCC

Many thanks for all your support for our recent fundraising events in the village. Calls to Childline and NSPCC are still on the increase, so all monies raised enables more staff and volunteer training to help vulnerable children.

Our forthcoming events are as follows:

16th July: Bridge Drive at Kirklands with Afternoon Tea – tickets available

25th September: Fashion Show – Burley Social Club – tickets available soon

We will also be present at Burley Festival Community Event in August with children's books, and to showcase the work done by NSPCC.

Please put these dates in your diary and come along to support us.

If you need any details please contact Jane Hughes on 01943 875999.

Jane Hughes

Menston Library opening hours

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm

Saturday: 10am-1pm

Telephone: 01943 876539

Email: menston.library@gmail.com

What's new in the library?

After school on Wednesdays a group of our younger members have been enjoying a new LEGO club. Open to all, just come along and get building. Many thanks to Bruno for this great initiative and to all those who have donated their surplus LEGO. We now have more than enough thank you! New for Wednesdays, are you struggling with IT and modern technology? If in doubt, ask a teenager. Come along to our weekly drop in at 3.30pm on Wednesdays and ask Chris and Charlie to help solve your problems. Our Saturday morning games club continues to thrive. They meet every Saturday at 11am and have a large selection of table top games to choose from. Suitable for aged 5 upwards. Many thanks to Annabelle, Isobel and Emilia for facilitating this activity.

As I write this it already feels like summer but here are some dates to save for our summer activities. All activities must be pre-booked and children must be accompanied. These are all in support of the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors. The challenge is for all 4 to 11 year olds to share or read six books during the summer holidays. The library will give you a recording sheet and little incentives to encourage you on your way.

25th July at 11am: Painting Garden Gnomes

7th August at 11am: Paper Art, Books into Flowers!

14th August at 11am: Painting and Drawing Insects and Bugs in Menston with Lisa from Menston Art Club

21st August at 11am: Painting Pebbles

We will also be holding our annual Teddy Bear's picnic in Menston Park, based at the scout hut, from **11am until 1pm on 29th August**. Please bring your favourite bear and a picnic. There will be stories, craft activities, rhymes, face painting and a visit from Bookstart Bear. No need to book, just turn up.

Please note Thursday afternoon story times will be taking a break for the school summer holidays but our Thursday morning rhymetimes at 10.30am will continue as usual.

Thank you to all the library volunteers without whom our busy community space would not be possible. If you love books and have some time to spare please consider joining our friendly team - just call in to find out more.

Other regular activities:

Alternate Wednesdays at 2pm: Canasta

Thursdays at 10am: Craft Group

Thursdays at 2pm: Scrabble

Alternate Saturdays at 10.30am: Writers on the Wharfe

First Saturday of the month at 10.30am: Councillor's Surgery

Second Saturday of the month at 10.15am: Fridge Chat coffee morning

Jill Cooke

MENSTON CRAFT GROUP

We would like to thank all those who supported the Craft Group by purchasing Easter treats from the library to raise funds for the Scouts and Guides Hut rebuild. Over 400 Easter chicks, lambs, spring flowers and monsters with their Cadbury Creme Eggs were sold. Thank you. We continue our fundraising for the Scouts and Guides by selling upcycled denim handbags, messenger bags and totes. Amazingly we have seen some of these for sale at £70 but ours are more realistically priced starting at just £19.

Most are fully lined with internal pockets (some zipped), with loops to attach keys and purses to for extra security and some with Sachiko (Japanese embroidery) and of course many with the original labels and denim exterior pockets.



One of our members has created beautiful bracelets from donated beads and pearls which we are selling upwards of £2 for children and from £4 for adults although the chunkier styles will cost more.



On the kitchen front our members are busy crocheting and knitting tea cosies, some with wooden bases to protect work surfaces. These bright cute cosies will make a lovely splash of colour. To protect clothes we are making aprons for adults and children.

We will also be making soft beautiful baby cardigans to wrap our youngest villagers in.

On 10th June we will be having a stall at the MCA Open Gardens with all of the above items available to raise funds for the Scouts and Guides. All of our items are produced from donated, upcycled and recycled materials.

These goods are also available to buy from the library (Mon, Wed and Thurs 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm and Sat 10am to 1pm).

Contact menstoncraftgroup@gmail.com or the library for any more information.

Anne Gadd

MENSTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

As my business continues to go from strength to strength, it's been exciting to see more travellers moving away from the traditional 'bucket and spade' holiday in search of something more meaningful. Looking ahead to the summer, there's been a notable shift in mindset. More and more customers are recognising the value of long-haul travel over short-haul options. With the rising cost of European holidays, many are starting to question whether paying premium prices for destinations like Spain and Greece truly delivers value for money.

In response, consumers are increasingly turning to long-haul destinations that offer greater value for money, unique cultural experiences, and higher service standards. This shift reflects a broader trend: holidaymakers are seeking to make their travel spend go further, opting for more enriching and memorable escapes.



Countries in Southeast Asia, parts of Africa, and Latin America are becoming more appealing, especially with favourable exchange rates and a sense of adventure.

For more information, visit www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/mell.islip or email mell.islip@travelcounsellors.com.

Mell Islip

MENSTON RETIRED MEN'S FORUM

Menston Retired Men's Forum meet every first and third Wednesday morning at 10am in Kirklands, Room 17, where we welcome speakers with their various talks and illustrations.

Our Group doesn't meet over the summer months, but we re-commence on 17th September.

If you are young at heart and wish to join us you will be made most welcome – come and give us a try!

If you need any details please give me a call on 01943 875999.

Mike Hughes

THE MENSTONE

Many Menston residents may already be aware of The Menstone Club on Farnley Road, but some newer residents may not know about it and its long history. Indeed The Menstone has only relatively recently celebrated its Centenary in 2018, having been established on the site in 1918 following the Great War of 1914-18. The Menstone Club has always been non-affiliated and is non-political – and was established as a community wide haven for survivors of the Great War and their families and generally for the benefit of all Menston residents.

By way of brief history, the area of land in the vicinity of the Club and amounting to 2 acres was purchased for the princely sum of £60 from the Fattorini family – who many will know have been established jewellers in Bradford for many, many years. This land was used for army training purposes and the original Club building was little more than a Nissen Hut. Some of the land was sold off in the 50s to provide funds to maintain the Club building, and a further portion was sold in the 1970s to expand and refurbish the Clubhouse – and that sold area is now known as Coultas Close. That Clubhouse served very well until around 2010 when it became obvious that it would not last much longer and rising energy costs exposed its energy efficiency limitations.

The Club was very much at a crossroads with rising costs and falling membership therefore a drastic solution was needed. This led to a Joint Venture with a local residential property developer to construct a new purpose-built air-conditioned Club house in exchange for the remaining surplus land and this resulted in the new and current Clubhouse building directly off Farnley Rd, and the small housing estate on Bill Bowes Court. This building was completed in early 2014 and the Club fully opened for “business” in April 2014.

For those who haven't visited – the building provides three snooker tables and a bar billiards table located on the first floor, a Ground Floor lounge, and separate dedicated Sports Bar all served with a wide range of drinks, wines, lagers and local “Real Ales”.

The Club will be undergoing a new facelift this May, with a relaunch around the Spring Bank Holiday. Special events will include a BBQ, speed dating evening and quiz, and various special drink offers and Happy Hour at reduced prices.

The Club also hosts many local social groups including craft classes, acoustic music evenings, art groups, reading groups and the Snooker section currently has seven league teams in the Otley, Leeds and Aireborough Leagues.

We are now also looking to establish a Darts league team

Annual membership is only £20 for a year and members get significant savings on all drinks with discounted member only prices.

Check out our Club Website or Facebook page for latest events, functions and opening hours.

Andrew Wightman

MENSTON AREA NATURE TRUST

For all events, please check <https://mant.org.uk/> or the MANT noticeboard at Miss Porritt's field for details or changes.

Bird Walks: Andrew Kelly will again run occasional bird walks, depending on the weather.

Working Parties: These are a great way to get out in nature, meet new people and make a difference!

Sunday 8th June and 13th July 2-4pm: Balsam Bashing. Meet at corner of Menston Park and Menston Drive.

Sunday 10th August 2-4pm: Dry Hedge building in Weston Woods. Meet at big Beech by track. What3Words [///roadways.bunny.overlaid](https://www.what3words.com/roadways.bunny.overlaid)

Sunday 14th September 2-4pm: Wildflower seed collection in High Royds. Meet in field next to Guiseley Drive.

What3Words [///overheat.fakes.ramble](https://www.what3words.com/overheat.fakes.ramble)

Mammal trapping in Miss Porritt's Field: Date to be decided.

Weston Woods Visit: Spring has sprung in the woods, and the bluebells and wild garlic were splendid. Birds are busy nesting, and deer and hares have been spotted. We will be running a tour of the woods for anyone who is interested on **Saturday 19th July starting 9am**. Meet at St David's Road, Otley – What3words [///flashing.ironic.performed](https://www.what3words.com/flashing.ironic.performed). Duration 2 hours.

Menston Biodiversity Plan: Thank you for your sightings of wildlife, which have been fed into the Menston Biodiversity Plan, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan being compiled by the Parish Council. We worked with the West Yorkshire Ecology Service to identify important habitats, and potential wildlife corridors across the village. If you know of any secret wild areas or bodies of water around the village, please contact us, and keep sharing your wildlife sightings.

Volunteers & Members: MANT carries out various activities in the village and in Weston Woods, running working parties to improve habitats. If you would like to be involved in any way, please get in touch at info@mant.org.uk.

Francesca Bridgewater

Celebrate Yorkshire Day on 1st August

Yorkshire Day celebrations will be centred in Ilkley this year as Bradford is the City of Culture in 2025. All Saints Church will be the venue for the Civic Service, which will be attended by 170 Mayors from all over Yorkshire. Celebrations will be taking place all over the weekend including a beer festival and markets and a festival of music, poetry, dance and drama taking place on The Grove. Come and join the fun to celebrate all things Yorkshire.

Marilyn Banister

MENSTON CROWN GREEN BOWLING CLUB

Bowls in Crisis?

At the beginning of the year we received some disturbing news that, in order to save £140,000, Leeds Council were intending to close 30 of the 61 Bowling greens that they currently maintain. So concerning was this news that it warranted a slot in the Look North television program.

However, revised consultation arrangements were able to alleviate the immediate concerns regarding the 2025 summer season. A far more concerning statistic revealed by Leeds Council was that "figures show three-quarters of Leeds's existing council-run crown green bowling sites have fewer than 30 members". This is a deplorable situation! This means that, without a major influx of new members, clubs will fold and yet another green space will be re-purposed and lost. Unfortunately this is not just endemic to the Leeds area, but is a general trend throughout the Crown Green Bowling community. However this has been recognised by the British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) and they will be running various publicity events this year in conjunction with local clubs.

Luckily, we at Menston Crown Green Bowls Club are not in the same predicament as the Leeds clubs, but we cannot afford to be complacent. We will be supporting the BCGBA initiative.

Our season runs throughout the summer until September so there is ample opportunity to watch a game on our green behind Kirklands, talk to the members and consider joining the club.

Check out our website at menstonbc.wordpress.com/about then, to arrange a "trial session" contact either Peter Hammond (secretary) on 01943-863417 or Rosie on 07854-245096.

Mike Ripley

MENSTON CARES

Menston Cares AGM is to take place on Tuesday 8th July starting at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Copies of our annual report will be available at this meeting.

Following the short, formal business, tea and cake will be served and there will be a chance to chat! We will then introduce our guest speaker - Louise Le Marquand who is to give us an illustrated talk entitled "A Day in the Falklands." For several years Louise worked on cruise liners and one of the cruises was to the Falklands so she will share her experience with us. All are welcome to attend.

Other news - sadly, at the AGM, our secretary, Caroline Brundle is to retire. She has done a wonderful job for the past 10 years and we will miss her. This means that Menston Cares will need another person to act as secretary for us. If there is anyone who would like this voluntary position then please contact me on 01943 876945. This is not an onerous job - taking minutes at our management committee meetings and at our AGM.

We also give thanks to Ian Howe who, for many years, has run the Odd Jobs service for Menston Cares. We wish him well in his retirement.

Jane Pratt

A letter from a well-meaning Menston resident

Dean Windass and his family were well known figures when they lived in Menston during his glory days at Bradford City FC. His public declaration regarding his diagnosis of the early onset of dementia, as reported by the Yorkshire Post on Thursday 10th April, "it would be better not to know" is entirely understandable.

Dementia, arising from Alzheimer's, is one of the many forms of neurological conditions and is proving to be a growing scourge in society.

It may be useful if I passed on a few tips on how to cope, bearing in mind that everyone's experience of the dementia journey of family and friends is different and the rate it progresses appears to be somewhat erratic and unique to the individual.

My friend's husband was diagnosed with "Dementia due to Alzheimer's" in November 2023 and was prescribed a daily pill of donepezil 10mg to delay its effect. I think the pill is working – but I have no idea at what pace I should expect things to develop – I have seen a very rapid deterioration in some of our other friends and neighbours.

Donepezil is a medication used to treat memory loss and confusion (dementia) in people who have Alzheimer disease. It belongs to a class of drugs called cholinesterase inhibitors and works by improving attention, memory, and the ability to engage in daily activities. However, it is not a cure for dementia or Alzheimer disease.

Now, on a daily basis, my friend's husband does have difficulty in understanding or expressing recent events, names and timescales, particularly if he is flustered or tries too hard or is challenged. At other times, in contrast, he recalls events past and present with astonishing accuracy and perception. My friend tries hard not ask direct questions, not to contradict or argue and not to instruct or tell.

She tries hard to suggest or guide, to listen and learn, and to stick to routines (even when he changes things irrationally). At times it can be very difficult.

She tries to bite her tongue – not always succeeding!

The lighter nights and brighter days now means they can get out more and try to pick up friends and events from the "good old days".

It is important that people, and the community, learn to accommodate, tolerate and understand her husband's condition as he may unexpectedly and out-of-character express views of a "surprising or hurtful nature".

Finally, take care of the carer! If they collapse then "society" (which means me and you) takes over and, frankly, it does not bode well for those who need help. Hence these musings.

If you would like to discuss matters in confidence please contact the Editor, who will let me know and I will make contact with you.

A well-meaning Menston resident

Misson Statement of Menston Community Association

To unite the village through community-driven engagement, communications, events and experiences in order to enhance the wellbeing, inclusivity and amenities of the community for its residents.

The Menston News is the Menston Community Association's newsletter. It aims to report and provide updates on all events and activities happening in the village. Should you wish to get in touch with the MCA, please email info@menston-ca.org.

Menston Community Association would like to thank all the volunteer contributors and distributors who give of their time so generously, Menston Parish Council for paying the printing costs of our Newsletter and Tom and Justin of Small Print who work so hard to print and collate the Newsletter. Thanks also to Anne and Jonathan Gadd for their ongoing editorial expertise and support.

You'll find dates, details and contact information for key events happening in Menston in this printed edition of Menston News. An online version and an up-to-date live calendar of local events can be accessed through the village website – menston.org.

Should you wish to contact the Menston News, either to submit an article or to volunteer to become a distributor, please email menstonnews@gmail.com. We welcome articles from the local community and would love to hear about any updates or events happening in the village!

The deadline for the Autumn 2025 edition of the Menston News will be **Thursday 31st July 2025.**

The deadline for the Spring 2026 edition of the Menston News will be **Saturday 31st January 2026.**

The deadline for the Summer 2026 edition of the Menston News will be **Thursday 30th April 2026.**

The content of all articles within this Newsletter is the sole responsibility of the contributor.

Sophie Joelle Venner, Editor

MENSTON VILLAGE SHOW



Join us for the 2025 Menston Village Show
on 6th September at

Kirklands Community Centre!

Open for entries 9.30am to 11am

Show opens 1.30pm to 3.30pm

For more information, visit
menstonvillageshow.co.uk

The Menston Village Show is a community event so many of us look forward to. We're sure many of you are already busy getting your entries ready! There's something for everyone, with adult and junior categories ranging from handicrafts and horticulture right through to home produce and photography. You can check out all 86 classes over on our website menstonvillageshow.co.uk or printed copies of our programme will be available at the library. We have also been working closely with some of our fantastic community organisations to think up some exciting challenges, so make sure to check those out too.

We have been extremely fortunate to be sponsored by so many supportive local businesses, including Power Personal Training Gym, Chevin Tree Surgeons, FMJ Plastering, Shankland Barraclough Estate Agents, Integrated Laboratory Services, Manor Coating Systems, Shipley Glen Tramway and the Menston Community Association. We are so very grateful.

Menston Village Show is a non-profit event, so the money we raise goes straight back to the community. Last year we were able to raise £1,000 which was distributed amongst several local organisations including the Menston Scouts and Guides.

If you haven't been to the show before - or if you have come along to look at the entries but haven't quite dared to enter yourself - I really recommend giving it a go. It's great fun to get the whole family involved. Who knows? You might even bag a trophy!

Entries cost £1 for adults, 50p for children or £5 for unlimited entries. You can register online or simply turn up at Kirklands between 9.30am and 11am on 6th September with your entries. You're also welcome to join us to marvel at the entries when the show opens between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Entry costs £1 for adults, free for accompanied children and show entrants. There'll be a raffle, tombola, tasty refreshments and our ever-popular auction happening at 3.10pm. See you there!

Victoria Taylor, Chairperson