

BOSTON SPA PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2024
59TH EDITION

THE PARISH COUNCIL

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Keith Blake (Chairman) | 16 Clarendon Road, Boston Spa, LS23 6NG | keith.blake@bostonspapc.org.uk |
| Gail Bowen (Vice Chair) | 3 Beeches End, Boston Spa LS23 6HL | gail.bowen@bostonspapc.org.uk |
| Marina Heum | Old Laundry, Clifford Moor Road, Boston Spa, LS23 6NZ | marina.heum@bostonspapc.org.uk |
| Kevin Alderson | 301B High Street, Boston Spa LS23 6AL | kevin.alderson@bostonspapc.org.uk |
| Scott Courts | 74 High Street, Clifford, LS23 6HJ | scott.courts@bostonspapc.org.uk |
| Penny Stables | Address in Boston Spa | penny.stables@bostonspapc.org.uk |
| David Taylor | Southlands, 68 Church Street Boston Spa, LS23 6DN | david.taylor@bostonspapc.org.uk |
| Emily Alderson | Address in Boston Spa | emily.alderson@bostonspapc.org.uk |
| Deborah Marshall (Clerk) | Village Hall, 199 High Street, Boston Spa. LS23 6AA | clerk@bostonspapc.org.uk 07864 649565 |

WARD COUNCILLORS

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Alan Lamb | Conservative Group Office, 2nd Floor East, Civic Hall, Leeds. LS1 1UR | alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk |
| Norma Harrington | Conservative Group Office, 2nd Floor East, Civic Hall, Leeds. LS1 1UR | norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk |
| Penny Stables | Group Support Office, 3rd Floor East, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR | penny.stables@leeds.gov.uk |

Disclaimer

All the articles in this newsletter are produced by the organisations concerned and whilst every reasonable care is taken to try and ensure their correctness and accuracy, we can only apologise for any errors that might appear. The Parish Council cannot take responsibility for any comments/opinions made by individual organisations in the newsletter.

Welcome to the Annual Newsletter of 2024

Chairman's Report from Councillor Keith Blake

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support over the last twelve months. During that time Sara King who supported the Stables Lane Working Group has resigned but we have been able to welcome David Taylor and Emily Alderson as new councillors. We still have vacancies for two councillors so if you are interested, please contact the Clerk or give me a call for a chat. The Parish Council also works with the Ward Councillors on many issues, and we appreciate their continuing support.

The work on the Village Centre project was completed early in 2023 and it did cause some disruption with the contractors having to close off footpaths and part of the road at times, but the changes are designed to enhance the Village Centre making it better for all. New trees have been planted with new planters installed and the Parish Council are very grateful to Boston Spa in Bloom for taking on the new planters. Some minor remedial work is still outstanding, and we have also identified some faults with the car park entrance. Leeds City Council Highways are aware of the faults and are dealing with the contractors to resolve the problems.

An incident with a long lorry coming over the bridge and not being able to turn right at the top of Bridge Road without removing recently installed street furniture did highlight the issue of HGV's in Boston Spa. The Parish Council have asked if the signage can be reviewed.

As part of the Village Centre Project a number of Traffic Regulation Orders were put in place to enhance parking restrictions to improve parking in Bridge Close, Bridge Road, Church Mews and Westwood Way. With the exception of Westwood Way, the TRO's are in the process of being implemented. Westwood Way has been delayed for review with the Ward Councillors and Highways.

Stables Lane Park continues to be very well used and the PC is very grateful to the volunteers who do the litter picking and the working group that manages the maintenance of the park and its facilities. If you feel able to help with any of these working groups, please get in touch with the Clerk. Sara King was the Chairman of the Friends of Stables Lane Working Group and David Taylor has now stepped in. Our thanks go to Sara for managing the group and to David for taking over. Changes have been made to the park entrance to improve access and a new defibrillator has been installed next to the tennis courts. Due to the overall increase in usage some of the high wear areas around the play equipment had

worn with the surface sinking and becoming muddy and compacted. Early in 2024 we arranged for a new safety matting to be laid in high wear areas. This is a type of rubber mulch that provides a protective surface as well as a softer landing area. Further areas could be done if the need arises. The state of the car park has been of concern for some time and Kevin Alderson has led a project to have it improved. I am pleased to report that the budget has been approved and a contractor appointed to start the work. This will involve new drainage, surface treatment, marked parking bays and provision for an overflow area. Work will be starting soon, and details will be in the Parish Council e-newsletter.

Once again, last year's annual festival made good use of Stables Lane Park as well as the facilities in the Millennium Gardens and the Village Hall. The Saturday was not the best of days weather-wise, but Sunday saw the sunshine return with a good attendance and great family atmosphere.

Anti-social behaviour and vandalism continue to cause some problems at the park and the Leeds ASB team have been involved. However, I would urge anyone observing bad behaviour to report it to the Police on 101 or better still, the West Yorkshire Police website to ensure it's logged. Police & Communities Together (PACT) meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm in the Methodist Church in Wetherby. Details can be found on the WYP website and members of the public are welcome to attend to talk directly to the police.

The Parish Council continues to support the Village Hall and recent work has included upgrades to the Jubilee Room with improved lighting and insulation.

It was disappointing to hear that our application for Bathing Water Status was rejected by DEFRA and we understand that the criteria did not favour the situation in Boston Spa.

New contracts were placed for the maintenance of the green spaces in Boston Spa with three contractors. Unfortunately, the contractor for Church Fields did not meet expectations and the decision was made to re-advertise the contract and a new contractor familiar to Boston Spa has been appointed. Some work has already started on the Church Fields hedge and grassed areas and Mike Gadd is working with the contractor on the areas to be done. Mike and his team of volunteers are busy with hedge work as part of a longer-term project to reduce shading and make the area more ecologically sound. The Parish Council is very grateful to Mike and his team and if anyone would like to get involved, please get in touch with the Clerk.

The Parish Council commissioned a survey of the trees in woodland areas owned by us. The survey reported a large number of trees that are potentially at risk. The total figure is about 80 trees, but the majority are suffering from ash dieback so are not immediately at risk. The Parish Council has engaged with a contractor to look at trees close to the footpaths. About 20 have been identified which need to be removed or reduced to Eco Poles. Leeds Tree Services have approved the work, and this was started at the end of February. As the tree work was identified after the 2023-24 Parish Council budget was set for the year, we have had to increase 2024-25's budget to accommodate this.

After quite a long process to get the various permissions for the new bus shelter at St Mary's Church, it was installed in late summer 2023 with a refurbished bench and wheelchair space.

In regard to planning, the Parish Council has made representation to the LCC planners and the developers about creating a wildlife corridor between the planned Church Street development and Stables Lane Park to help provide an ecological area where wildlife can continue to flourish. The Boston Spa Neighbourhood Plan is now under review with Cllr Gail Bowen leading the working group consisting of councillors, local public members and representatives from Leeds City Council. In order to gauge opinion, two public sessions have been held to gather feedback. One at the Village Hall and the other at Deepdale Community Centre. Both were well attended and a total of 288 comments were made that the group will consider. Contact is being made with schools, local traders and other interested parties for further comments. Information on the ongoing process will be in the Parish Council minutes and newsletters and further public meetings will be held as the plan develops.

In Christmas 2023 the Parish Council commissioned Leeds Lights to install a series of LED based motifs and spiral lights on the lamp posts along the High Street and car park. We hope these new lights helped to enhance the village over Christmas. As part of the new light installation, three Tommy soldier motifs were installed around the war memorial in time for Remembrance Day. The Parish Council would welcome any feedback from residents on the new display.

As mentioned earlier, the Parish Council has two vacancies and anyone wishing to join should contact the Clerk. Members of the public are invited to join us at the monthly PC meetings on the third Monday of every month at 7.00pm. The first 20 minutes are set aside for the public questions and concerns.

THE
BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 15th MAY at 7.00PM
IN
THE LANTERN ROOM, BOSTON SPA VILLAGE HALL

ALL BOSTON SPA RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND IN ORDER THAT THE WISHES OF THE PARISH MAY BE
KNOWN TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

**Looking for a venue
or a room for your
event/meeting/get together?**



Venue
Hire

Oasis is a beautiful centre for coaching and training in Boston Spa with lovely meeting and conference rooms to hire. Free parking onsite and a range of room sizes available from 2-36 people. Tea, coffee and catering options available, and very reasonable prices. Contact us for a quote, or to arrange a viewing.

Oasis Human Relations | Hall Mews | Clifford Road | Boston Spa | LS23 6DT

oasishumanrelations.org.uk
centre@oasishumanrelations.org.uk
(+44)1937 541700

Boston Spa Parish Council
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 2024

As the material for the Newsletter is prepared before the end of the financial year, any income received, or payments made after the Newsletter went to press will not be shown on this statement.

| | Actual 2022-2023 £ | Projected 2023-24 £ | Budget 2024-2025 £ |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Leeds City Council precept | 54,991 | 60,413 | 74,150 |
| Council Tax Support Grant | 1,475 | 1,554 | 1,632 |
| CIL Monies | 19,725 | 0 | 0 |
| Grants & Donations | 13,682 | 6,171 | 0 |
| Stables Lane Hire | 1,082 | 1,235 | 1,225 |
| Festival Pitch Fees | 0 | 310 | 0 |
| Allotment Rents | 838 | 961 | 945 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 91,793 | 70,644 | 77,952 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Stables Lane Park & Skate Park | 4,028 | 5,092 | 5,610 |
| Village Hall | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Open Spaces/Riverside | 14,179 | 20,542 | 26,007 |
| Admin costs | 15,454 | 16,513 | 19,713 |
| Community Events & Support | 11,837 | 3,338 | 2,335 |
| Defibrillators | 0 | 289 | 200 |
| Audit | 650 | 665 | 700 |
| Insurances | 1,786 | 1,118 | 1,207 |
| Allotments | 102 | 766 | 704 |
| Bus Shelter | 915 | 2,866 | 0 |
| Christmas Lights | 0 | 13,159 | 6,226 |
| NON-RECURRING COSTS | | | |
| Improvements - Stables Lane Park | 2,092 | 13,389 | 11,750 |
| Improvements - Village Hall | 0 | 7,483 | 0 |
| War Memorial | 2,700 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 60,243 | 88,720 | 77,952 |
| NET INCOME | 31,550 | -18,076 | 0 |

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2024

| | | | |
|--------|------|-----------|------|
| Monday | 15th | January | 2024 |
| Monday | 19th | February | 2024 |
| Monday | 18th | March | 2024 |
| Monday | 15th | April | 2024 |
| Monday | 20th | May | 2024 |
| Monday | 17th | June | 2024 |
| Monday | 15th | July | 2024 |
| Monday | 19th | August | 2024 |
| Monday | 16th | September | 2024 |
| Monday | 21st | October | 2024 |
| Monday | 18th | November | 2024 |
| Monday | 16th | December | 2024 |



DOUGLAS YEADON HARDWARE

169 High Street, Boston Spa, West Yorks

WWW.DOUGLASYEADONHARDWARE.CO.UK

Tel: 01937 842338

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BOSTON SPA DAFFODILS

There are many new residents in Boston Spa who may be interested in knowing who planted the daffodil bulbs and enjoy a little bit of village history.

The planting first started during autumn 2006 on both sides of the road from the roundabout at Moor End. Leeds City Council supplied the bulbs and a few volunteers in the village, who were organised by Boston Spa in Bloom, planted over half a tonne of bulbs during 2006. The bulb planting continued each year alongside Clifford Moor Road, Primrose Lane, and then anywhere else in the village along the roadsides wherever planting was practicable. The planting continued for about 5 years and was done by village residents with the majority of the bulbs supplied by Leeds City Council. Bob Sergeant has sent the below photographs taken between 2006 and 2009 when the daffodils were planted by village residents.



BOSTON SPA ANGLING CLUB

Club membership is open to residents of Boston Spa & surrounding villages living within three miles of the post office in Boston Spa. We have several miles of excellent river fishing offering a variety of challenging angling for the experienced or the beginner alike. There is general coarse fishing for a range of species including chub, barbel, pike, dace etc, or if you prefer, we have many keen fly-fishing members who cast for trout which we stock into the river in spring on an annual basis.

We have several work parties each year to keep the river in top condition and if you are a new member, it's a great way to pick the brains of the other members for info and tips on the best areas or baits. There is also a match (competition) section within the club who run regular fixtures throughout the year. One of the problems of fishing and working on a river like the Wharfe is the regular flooding which incurs more and more as the years go by. We've always endured winter floods but 2023 was exceptional to say the least! We are regularly down on the river constantly removing debris left by the receding flood waters deposited from miles & miles upstream, and to fill four large refuse sacks containing all manner of trash each time is sadly the norm.



If you are interested in joining, please contact the club secretary, Andrew Robson at carp-face@hotmail.co.uk

BOSTON SPA ACCESSIBILITY GROUP

We are the Boston Spa Accessibility Group and we have been running a Facebook Page for a while now. A range of issues have been raised by members. We held the first group meeting recently, kindly hosted by Box Tree Court. We had three councillors, a representative from Boston Spa surgery and most importantly lots of interested local residents.

We spoke about access issues to shops and found out that Cohens Chemist now has a mobile ramp and grab rail. Andrew Morgan Opticians also has a mobile ramp. We want to see more improvements in this area, so more people can access their community.

We discussed disability parking, pavement parking and the problems it brings, as well as wheelie bins being left blocking paths. We talked about making sure the review of the Boston Spa Neighbourhood Plan takes accessibility into account and makes it a priority.

Lots of ideas were put forward about sharing information about cafes/restaurants that are accessible, shops becoming more accessible and encouraging shops to support the sunflower lanyard campaign and forget me not schemes.

Some of our group attended the February Parish Council meeting to highlight concerns about the pavement parking in front of Costcutter in particular. The PC has indicated additional measures will be considered to reduce this including additional planters which are fixed in position, bollards and signage.

It is an exciting time to join our Facebook group and get your voices heard. If you or someone you know is interested, please join us. We are interested to hear from those with lived experience and also those who want to be allies to our whole community.

Thank you so much to everyone for all their support and trying to make Boston Spa a more inclusive community.

Visit our Facebook page: Boston Spa & Wetherby Disability Support and Campaign Group. Email: BostonSpaaccessgroup@hotmail.com

WETHERBY U3A PAINTING GROUPS



The University of the Third Age is a UK-wide movement which brings together people in their 'third age' to develop their interests and continue their learning in a friendly and informal environment. Members have finished working full-time or raising their families and now have the time to pursue their interests. There are no qualifications to pass – activities are just for pleasure. For further information about Wetherby u3a, membership details and activities, please see <https://wetherbyu3a.org.uk/>

There are three painting groups under the umbrella of Wetherby u3a. Although we are unable to provide any tuition, members are happy to help and share materials and information. Prospective members may find it useful if they have had some painting experience (even if it was only at school many years ago!). The meetings are informal sessions giving the opportunity to make the time to come along and work in any medium, in a sociable setting. Information about local events such as art demonstrations, workshops or exhibitions hosted by local artists or art clubs, are circulated to the group.

The three groups meet at Deepdale Community Centre in Boston Spa.

Mondays 10-12:00 noon on the second and fourth Monday of the month (Beech Room).

Tuesdays 2-4:00 pm on the first and third Tuesday of the month (Rudgate Room).

Thursdays 2-4:00 pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month (Rudgate Room).

If you would like further information about any of the painting groups, please get in touch. Up to date information about meeting dates can be found in the entry on the relevant u3a Activities page <https://wetherbyu3a.org.uk/a-to-z-activity-list/>

Contact Barbara Duncan email: barbmicbed@btinternet.com tel: 01937 584318

BOSTON SPA ART & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

The Boston Spa Art and craft festival was held in October once again and was a great success. The festival featured around 50 local artists and crafts people. Artworks on display included painting, collage, photography, textiles, jewellery, glass, ceramics, print, metal and wood crafts.

Refreshments were served in the village hall cafe by the Boston Spa Village Hall CIO volunteers and proved very popular with visitors.

The Boston Spa Art & Craft Festival is a not-for-profit organisation. Our aims are to celebrate and promote the talents of local artists and craftspeople whilst giving them a platform to sell their work. The committee also raises valuable funds for the village hall and the ongoing improvements to the building.

The festival will be held again on Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th October 2024 in the Boston Spa Village Hall. For more information about the event, visit www.bostonspavillagehall.co.uk/arts-festival

To enquire about an application to exhibit please email art.fest@yahoo.co.uk. Applications will be open from April 2024. We always welcome new volunteers in the lead up to the event, so please email if interested.



BOSTON SPA ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE GROUP

Our fieldwork over the last 24 years has included excavation, field work, archaeobotany, and field walking. We have found evidence locally from Mesolithic (9000-4000 BC) through to modern times, including a prehistoric flint site with pit-alignments containing ceremonial deposits.

At the request of West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service, we drew up a list of Local Heritage Assets which people value in the area, including archaeology, ecology, history and geology. This was agreed by Boston Spa Parish Council and included in its Neighbourhood Plan. Copies can be found on our website and the Parish Council's.

Since Covid, monthly talks and most fieldwork have ceased. However, we keep a folder in Boston Spa and Wetherby Libraries where people can view reports of our work and discoveries. Our website now operates as an archive of articles and reports for those interested in the area. For more information contact Malcolm Barnes Tel. 01937 844115. www.bostonspaheritage.co.uk

BOSTON SPA WEEKEND FESTIVAL

Scarecrow Trail

Mon 8th – Sun 14th July 2024

Festival

Fri 12th, Sat 13th & Sun 14th July 2024

The week before the Festival Weekend the Scarecrow Trail will be held with characters appearing in residents' gardens and shop premises. In April the theme will be announced, and builders invited to participate. The Trail Maps will be produced in May.



Over the 3 days of the weekend 12th, 13th and 14th more than 30 family orientated events are being planned by various groups in the village using Church Fields, Millennium Gardens, Stables Lane Park, the Village Hall and St Mary's and the Methodist Church.

The events range from music, open gardens, exercise classes, a classic car rally, art, sports, the Wimbledon Finals on a big screen and a "Party in the Park" on Stables

Lane. The Festival Programme will be produced in late May. Look out for updates on Facebook: [bostonspafestival](#).

Want to help or provide sponsorship for the Trail or Festival? Please contact Jeff Newton: mob 077 64 76 96 16 or jeff.newtonbspa@gmail.com.

BOSTON SPA GALA

With the fate of the much-loved Boston Spa village gala in jeopardy, we are pleased to announce that a new team has been found and plans are in motion for 2024.

This year's gala is to take place on Saturday 8th June from 12.30pm until 4.30 pm at St John's School for the Deaf on Church Street. Entry is £3 on the gate and under 16's get in free. There will be over 50 stalls selling all manner of exciting things, a fun fair and a licenced bar. Multiple food vendors will also be there. Well behaved dogs are welcome. Over 2000 programmes will be distributed to schools, shops and at the gala itself and anyone wishing to advertise with us should contact us using the details below.

We have a brand-new addition to the gala this year, a main stage! We are currently looking for talented people from the local area and would love to hear from you or someone you know who might be interested in performing at the gala? Maybe you play a musical instrument, sing or perform magic tricks? Whatever it is, please send us details of your talent using the e-mail address below to be considered.

We are also now inviting local organisations and charities to request donations from the funds we will generate from this year's gala. To request a fund application form please send an email to bostonspagala@gmail.com and submit the completed form before the 1st May 2024.

Please visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/bostonspagala/ for more information.

Thanks

Gala 2024 Team

bostonspagala@gmail.com

BOSTON SPA BOWLING CLUB

It has been another enjoyable year for the members of the Crown Green Bowling Club whether playing in competitive league matches or the friendly social bowling sessions which are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The green is open from the beginning of April until well into October when we close for the winter.

We welcome new members whether you are keen to learn and play in the leagues or would just enjoy social bowling; it is up to you and for most members it is a mixture of both. There are no matches on Sundays which is when we organise fun days for members with the occasional BBQ thrown in. If you wish to see competitive bowling come along on pretty well any afternoon in the season when one of our teams will be in action. We field 11 teams in various local leagues with our furthest opponents being from Pateley Bridge. You can even get refreshments from our pavilion!

If you want to give the game a go the Club will provide bowls which you can borrow, just make sure you wear flat heeled shoes such as trainers. You could come along on Mon, Wed or Fri before 10 am when the members would make you welcome. For the first 2 visits there would be no charge. The annual subs payable in April are a modest £60 per annum so it is not an expensive sport. We always have an open day on the Sunday of the Boston Spa Festival in Jul, so if you cannot get before come along then.

For further information contact the Club Secretary Geoff Shaw on 07913635652 or email address shawgeoff43@gmail.com or visit our website www.bostonspabowlingclub.co.uk



BOSTON SPA TENNIS CLUB

We are a friendly, thriving club with diverse membership of varying ages and ability. We provide opportunities for social tennis on Tuesday & Thursday mornings on a turn up and play basis which is organised by members of the group. We have mens ladies and mixed doubles teams in the Leeds, York, Harrogate and Barkston Ash leagues. We also have 2 teams in a local social winter league.

The all-weather courts allow play all year round as we have 3 courts that have newly installed LED floodlights which really enhances the experience. Coaching is available for all members, juniors are encouraged and supported through ACTC. Courts 3 & 4 are to be rejuvenated this year ready for the 2024 season. We provide excellent facilities and are very competitively priced throughout the area for our membership. We are always looking to recruit new members of all ages and ability for social play, competitive league matches and some social friendly leagues. We look forward to welcoming you and your families to our friendly, supportive tennis club.

For further information please visit our website

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/bostonspatennisclub> or contact the Chairperson, Pete Smith on 01937 845927 or email smithy472@sky.com.

THE TERRACE LAWN TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB

Lawn tennis, croquet and boules, all set in beautiful tree-lined surroundings in Boston Spa. Our club is open to all, from new members to visitors wishing to have a look or give it a try. We have a great social atmosphere, enjoying Saturday afternoon teas, monthly Saturday evening barbecues, supper nights in April and December and social events.

We have participated in the July Boston Spa Festival and plan to do so again this year. Our theme has always been refreshment-based, fun, family and games for adults and kids.

Membership packages include over 18's, under 18's and family memberships. Tennis coaching sessions can be arranged and our croquet section runs coaching / introduction sessions during our season which is 1st May to 30th September. Added to that, keen gardeners can get involved in our pre-season working parties!

I first played lawn tennis at college in my late teens and loved it. I first played croquet in my mid 20's and loved it. I like a game of boules now and again. I'm fortunate that I can now do all three on my doorstep!

So, have a think and get in touch if you'd like to do something different. We're hidden away behind historic walls, trees and hedges, so you may not have noticed us driving down the High Street. You can look at us on our website or Facebook or contact me. Here's hoping for a great Summer!

Bob Perry (Chairman)

01937 530359

www.bostonspalawntennis.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388184825174241/>

BOSTON SPA IN BLOOM

Late January 2024 and the planters are showing shoots from the bulbs planted last Autumn. Always an interesting time for gardeners; the hanging baskets for the new season will have to be ordered soon. Last year they were selected to reflect the colours associated with the Coronation. There are usually some 80 baskets in the village – supported by contributions from businesses and from individuals who support us in hopefully contributing to making the village a more attractive place for us all. They are maintained and watered regularly by about 60 volunteers who support the village with their time and involvement.

New volunteer waterers are always very welcome and are so important to continuing the good work.

The Planters outside CostCutter were replaced in the late Spring of 2023 as part of the High Street Scheme from Leeds Highways and the displays again received many appreciative compliments. As part of the identification of the increased pedestrian area and in very similar positions to their predecessors, their presence seems to have taken some drivers by surprise.

Many of the members of Boston Spa in Bloom are also involved with other volunteer organisations in the village and as an organisation we are pleased to support and give assistance to many activities in the village. We are involved with litter collecting, green group activities, the festival and the scarecrows, the gardening club, Deepdale Centre, bulb planting in open spaces and many other ways of contributing to the well-being of our village.

We are supported by sponsorship and support from the village and, as a totally volunteer organisation, the sponsorship of the baskets and the planters and the several flower beds is always not only very welcome but necessary for us to be part of the community – and very much appreciated.

There is a committee of currently 10 people who not only plan the displays and arrange watering teams but are also involved in maintenance of the equipment and the regular watering rota and looking to the future. This includes consideration of eco-friendly management where possible and even to plant varieties which could be less reliant on water. The water bowsers have electric pumps, and the batteries are recharged with solar energy.

There are a range of groups and organisations that contribute to the environment and appearance of Boston Spa and we amongst those are always pleased to have interest from new contacts – they are the way forward. There is a certain pleasure from walking the High Street in early evening in the summer with the watering equipment and having a chat with passers-by. We would be pleased for you to be involved.



BOSTON SPA, WETHERBY & VILLAGES GREEN GROUP



2023 was the year the Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group achieved **Charitable Incorporated Organisation** (CIO) status, ensuring we remain politically unaffiliated and have the capability to access national funding support for some of the big ideas we've got!

The year included many other highlights, thank you so much to all our members and volunteers that have helped deliver some amazing initiatives for our local community.

It began with a follow-up of our very successful **Eco Energy Fair**, with another event in January. Aiming to help share knowledge about home insulation, low carbon technology and other innovative solutions, along with local experts and forums for anyone to ask questions. The event attracted over 200 local people who gave some great feedback about the event. We tried to share as much knowledge learnt in our website pages here <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/news/energy-saving-fair-getting-through-the-energy-crisis/>

We've also continued to work with local organisations across our community with regard reducing the use of avoidable single use plastics, as an important part of helping our community achieve nationally recognised award for **Plastic Free Community** status. We are so close to achieving this award, we need just 2 more community groups and businesses to support the initiative and we can submit our communities application, read more here <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/plastic-free-community/>

July saw the group again support the **Party in the Park** event on Stables Lane, working with all the vendors and the Parish Council to ensure that we didn't use avoidable single use plastic and we minimised the amount of waste that went to landfill, by segregating food/compostable waste and recycling. <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/news/party-in-the-park-boston-spa-goes-eco-friendly-again/>

Throughout the year we've continued to collect unwanted bikes and with the help of some amazing volunteers fixed them and then donated to the underprivileged. At last count we'd donated 600 bikes since the launch of the **Big Bike Fix** scheme! <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/big-bike-fix/>

September saw our journey with Lady Hastings Primary School with their ambition to attain **Eco Schools Green Flag** award this year. We've formed an EcoCouncil of engaged youngsters, completed their environmental review and selected litter, energy & biodiversity as their focus for this school year.

November saw COP28 and us run our first **Community Action forum** (<https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/news/have-your-say-about-a-better-future/>), where we had a variety of speakers talk to the community about other initiatives that have been successful in other local communities. Ideas such as hydro energy creation, community food fridges, community 'library of things' and local growing initiatives. There was then an opportunity for local people to share their ideas with regard various topics, and it will be some of these we hope to explore in the coming year ahead.

The winter season also saw the group get back into the **tree planting** season (working with LCC Woodland Creation team), with more trees planted around the village and at Wattle Syke. As well as working with the Parish Council throughout the year rewilding areas at bottom of Holgate Lane and natural fencing on Churchfields.

By the end of the year, we also became aware of the closure of the Colgate & Walkers **Terracycle** schemes. Thanks to our community partners Yeadon's (Boston Spa) and YBS (Wetherby), we've collected 1000s of used crisp packets, toothpaste tubes and brushes, read more <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/waste-recycling/>. Crisp packets are now collected by local supermarkets and Boots (Wetherby) are collecting hygiene items.

As our ambition and our membership has grown, we've also moved our **monthly newsletter** to a platform that makes it more manageable for us. So if you want to be aware of local green ideas, books, recipes, good news green stories and much more read some of our back copies and subscribe here <https://us21.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=45ee074385f09e8d14bd5425f&id=333e67e57a>

We've delivered so much for our local community through our amazing volunteers over the last year, and we have a lot of exciting ideas for 2024. We'll be exploring **local energy, local transport, local air & river pollution and local reuse solutions**. If you want to hear and perhaps do more to support your local community with our

transition to a greener, fairer future for us all, then please get in touch adrian.balcombe@bostongreengroup.co.uk

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels about forthcoming meetings and events <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/>

BOSTON SPA ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRIAL (BEET)

The BEET trial has now gone live in the Boston Spa and Wetherby area.

Homes and businesses across the whole of the UK are currently receiving electricity voltages which are higher than they need to be. This causes higher than necessary consumption and we are all paying for it in our electricity bills. Nobody has told you, but it has been a big waste of energy for decades. Northern Powergrid (previously YEB and NEEB) are a privatised monopoly and they provide the cable into your property and are responsible for maintaining the voltage delivered. The OFGEM regulations are lax and do not challenge them to optimise the voltage, so they have kept the voltage higher than necessary, and we have all been losing out.

Keith Jackson, one of our residents, had a career in the electricity industry and became aware of higher than necessary voltage in his home and realised that he was not alone. He has spent the last 10 years investigating and lobbying the OFGEM regulator and government. They encouraged him to make contact with Northern Powergrid (NPG). Northern Powergrid listened to his findings and warmly accepted the challenge by assembling a project team (including Keith) to investigate voltage optimisation. The breakthrough came when they realised that smart meters send customer voltage details every 30 mins. Never before had real time voltage at the customers' terminals been available to the network company. The BEET project interrogates the far end voltages and sends signals to the control room so that the despatch voltage can be safely trimmed.

The project called BEET (Boston Spa Energy Efficiency Trial) became operational in mid-January 2024. About 15,000 customers in the Collingham, Bramham, Boston Spa, Wetherby, and Tockwith areas are already benefitting. It is anticipated that electricity bills will drop by about 3-4% and the planet will benefit because emissions at the power stations will be reduced too. Once proven, Northern Powergrid plan to roll out the programme across the whole of its franchised area and deliver the benefits to nearly 4 million customers. An explanation with animation and more detail is readily available at www.northerpowergrid/beet

BOSTON SPA RUBBISH TEAM

We are a voluntary litter picking group which meets roughly once a month to litter pick in and around our village. Some members go out independently of the group on a more regular basis, namely at Deepdale and the road up to the A1 and around the central shopping area. We have the full support of the Parish Council and the LCC ward councillors, one of whom picks with us when she is available.

The recent storms with high winds have not helped us lately, having blown litter everywhere, but generally we are heartened that the village is looking reasonably neat and tidy. There have been a few successful changes since our newsletter last year: the two bins on the riverside by the bridge which were continually overflowing with dog waste bags, have been removed and replaced with one round the corner which is accessible by LCC litter truck which enables it to be emptied by LCC instead of us! Thank you LCC for listening to us. The litter problem outside Londis is now better managed with two LCC bins and the yellow plastic recycling bin (although this is a bit of an eyesore). The new bin and litter situation by the bus stop at the top of Clarendon Road is also much improved, although this might be due to less usage of the bus stop, now the buses are only hourly.

There seems to be only one major litter problem within the village that we are currently struggling with, this being the bottle bank and charity clothing bank at the entrance to Deepdale. There are two issues: the cardboard boxes, carrier bags and general packaging that is left there, having deposited your bottles; and relating to the charity bank, the leaving of non-acceptable items (toys, curtains, car seats, and general household goods) which is just dumped around on the floor. Can we stress that this 'stuff' is NEVER taken by the people who empty the metal charity bank, as they only take the stipulated items that are WITHIN the metal bank. The 'stuff' that is dumped around is also exposed to the elements, so becomes wet and dirty. So please don't be lazy - take your cardboard boxes, carrier bags etc home and use for your next load of bottles, and with the unacceptable charity items there are options: take it to the Martin House donation depot on Thorp Arch Trading Estate, take it to either of the two charity shops in the village or if there is a lot of stuff, ring a charity for them to collect from your house. It really is unacceptable that we as volunteer litter pickers should have to clear this mess up, often having to load it up and put in our own bins at home. This is classed as fly tipping, for which you will be fined.

Unfortunately, the environs of Boston Spa continue to keep us busy. The two roundabouts at the top of the village, the slip roads and the A168 Boston Road to Wetherby are always strewn with litter, with the lay-by on the A168 a major unsightly problem. Whilst these areas are obviously not in our village, it does set

the standard for the approach/exit to Boston - it is upsetting to regularly drive past such an unsightly litter strewn area on your doorstep. We want the approach to be welcoming and attractive, just like our village.

Some of our group also undertake tree guard removal on the A168 Boston Road (Wattle Syke roundabout to Wetherby). Since our report here last year, we have made great progress in removing these unsightly objects (both from the trees and picking up from the cycle path and general area) and just have a small remaining stretch to address. One of our team also works on tree guard removal at the top of Winnow Lane by the cycle track and is making good progress there.

Please do your bit to keep our lovely village, and environs, neat and tidy. You can:

- remind and encourage your children to bin it or take it home
- if you're a dog walker - no dog poo bags tied on trees
- pick up the odd piece of litter in the village and bin it
- report fly tipping to LCC

Thank you for your support.



ST MARY'S CHURCH

The past year has seen a growth in numbers and activities at the parish church of Boston Spa. Congregation numbers on Sundays have returned to pre-lockdown levels, and it was wonderful to see the church packed for Remembrance Sunday (with a great showing from the local uniformed organisations) and for the Crib

Service on Christmas Eve in particular. Connections Cafe on Sunday morning has also grown. Led by Jo Davies, this informal "cafe church" offers a drop in to meet and chat, a "pause for thought" reflection on a Bible passage, and some activities for children. A new side-shoot of Connections was launched in the autumn: a monthly Sunday evening service called Flourish where the teaching is conversational and interactive, and the worship combines contemplative videos and music. The Ark, run by the Mothers' Union, continues to offer a friendly fortnightly drop in for parents and carers with their babies and young children, with games and activities available as well as a short act of worship involving singing, actions and prayers. Details of all our services and events may be found at bramhambenefice.org and in our weekly Newsletter which may be found at the back of church as well as on the website's home page. Sunday services are livestreamed for those unable to join us in the flesh on the Bramham Benefice YouTube channel. [worshipwhereveryouare.live/joinus](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Our summer Holiday Club was themed around Creation and featured a dinosaur called Tracy. Many thanks to all the local volunteers who made the magic happen!

The church is frequently used by local schools not only for their end of term and end of year services, but also as a classroom for R.E. and other subjects throughout the year. Concerts and events such as quizzes and a Christmas Cornucopia (involving local stallholders) have also seen the church well used. The Parish Room is also well used by local groups including Beavers, an Italian class, a book club, committee meetings of local organisations, and the Mothers' Union whose ministry at St Mary's continues to thrive.

Our vicar, the Rev'd Nick Morgan celebrated the fifth anniversary of his arrival here in November 2023 and now oversees four village churches in addition to St Mary's: St Peter's, Walton; All Saints', Thorp Arch; St Luke's, Clifford and All Saints', Bramham. Rev'd Nick is also Area Dean, sits on York Diocesan Synod and is a member of the Vocations Team of York Diocese. The staff team also includes the Reverend Trish Anslow and Rev'd Glenda Webb, as well as our Connections Minister, Jo Davies and Emma Hunter our Parish Administrator and PA to the vicar. Home communions and pastoral visits are offered by a team of clergy and members of the congregation.

St Mary's Choir was augmented by many members of the local community for the Carol Service. We are looking for opportunities to involve this larger Community Church Choir in other activities between Christmasses - look out for these events in 2024! We welcome new choir members throughout the year. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

Many thanks to our volunteers who maintain the churchyard in all weathers - such an extensive site requires a lot of hard work, and anyone wishing to join this hardy

team who usually work on Thursday mornings are welcome to enquire via the Parish Office.

One unwelcome development over 2023 was vandalism which repeatedly took place inside church, causing damage to the organ and a risk of fire from misuse of candles. This meant restricting the hours which church remained open for private prayer to those when we could safely staff the site. A CCTV system is due to be installed in 2024 and we look forward to being able to safely keep the village's parish church open to parishioners and visitors alike for longer every day in the near future.

Contact: Parish Office 01937 844402 (open Mon-Thurs 9.30-12.30)

Email: BramhamBenefice@outlook.com Website: bramhambenefice.org

YouTube: [worshipwhereveryouare.live/joinus](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=worshipwhereveryouare.live/joinus)

ST MARY'S CHOIR

The Choir of St Mary's continues to develop and the repertoire is constantly expanding. The Choir sings regularly for services on a Sunday morning and meets weekly to rehearse. It is one of the few four-part church choirs in the area.

It is our aim to lead the congregation in worship, but in addition to this we sing an anthem or worship song during the administration of communion. The repertoire includes music by composers ranging from Bach and Tallis to Rutter and Chilcott.

The Christmas Carol Service was the highlight of the year, where the Choir was augmented by local musicians. This gave us a record total of 40 singers. Carols included: The Truth from above by Vaughan Williams, The Shepherds' Farewell by Berlioz, The Coventry Carol arranged by Shaw, Christmas Lullaby by Rutter, As with Gladness by Chilcott, and the Sussex Carol by Willcocks. The usual Willcocks descants were sung to the congregational carols. It really was a great start to the Christmas season.



Whilst we are a strong choir, we would still like to invite new members to join us. We would welcome musical families and would very much like to see children in the Choir. We are very short of basses and altos at the moment. We have a weekly rehearsal, but we still welcome people who can only make it on a Sunday, where we have a short rehearsal before the service.

So, if you think it might be for you or your children come along and have a go. You do not need to be able to read music, just enjoy singing. Choir practice is great fun, and children get a good musical education for free!

If you would like further details then give me a ring on 07703575750 or email me on steveinyork@talktalk.net, or simply turn up at St Mary's. With very best wishes, Steve Aston

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT ST MARY'S (FOM)

FOM was formed shortly after the completion in 2010 of the restoration of the Forster and Andrews pipe organ which was originally built in 1873. The aims of FOM are to promote and safeguard the fine musical traditions at St Mary's which are a vital element in the life of the church and also to fund a bursary for an organ scholar. Peter Sharp came to St Mary's as a scholar but now, as St Mary's assistant organist, Peter makes a significant contribution to our music both through his playing of the organ and his membership of the choir.

Following the restoration and re-siting of the organ, valuable space for the congregation and for visiting choirs, concerts and other musical groups has been created.

FOM life membership and annual subscriptions of £20 plus occasional fundraising events provide the bursary for our assistant organist. These funds also enable costs connected with the choir such as choir robes, sheet music etc. and the maintenance of our Steinway piano to be met by FOM. By funding these costs, FOM helps to ease the burden of the principal budget of St Mary's Church

We are most grateful to our loyal group of existing members and extend a warm welcome to prospective members. Please get in touch if you would like to become a Friend of the Music of St Mary's when I shall be happy to arrange for you to meet our Director of Music and Choirmaster Steve Aston. David Coates, Chairman, Tel: 07850 600798



BOSTON SPA METHODIST CHURCH

Our vision is to see lives, relationships and communities transformed by the love of God, in Jesus Christ.

Sunday services (at 10.30am) allow us to worship God in the company of friends, with a warm welcome to all who join us. We celebrate Holy Communion monthly, when all are welcome to share the Lord's Supper. We hold a Communion Service at 10am on the second Wednesday of the month at Box Tree Court, to which everyone, resident at the Court or not, is invited.

Our minister, Revd Steve Jakeman, also has churches at East Keswick, Collingham and Clifford for which he has overall care. Steve will retire in August 2024 and be replaced by Revd Abi Alex. He will care for churches in Clifford, Ulleskelf, Church Fenton and Appleton Roebuck as well as Boston Spa. He will live in the Methodist Manse in Tadcaster.

The church is well provided with a fully equipped commercial kitchen and modern IT equipment, including an upgraded sound system. We offer these facilities and rooms to community groups and individuals for hire. Contact Anne Hovell for details annehovell2011@gmail.com

At 11.15 am every Wednesday, all are invited to join for 'Coffee at The Crown' to enjoy a chat over coffee. This provides an opportunity to meet in a totally relaxed and neutral setting.

The church is also blessed with a superb pipe organ, (built by Harrison & Harrison, Durham in 1878) which is played at public concerts two or three times each year.

Last Christmas we were once again able to hold a Tree Festival with almost 30 Christmas Trees decorated by individuals, local businesses, church and community groups. This attracted much interest, and we were able to make a substantial donation to our Circuit Charity, 'All We Can', the Relief and Development Fund of the Methodist Church. This fund helps find solutions to poverty by engaging with local people and organisations in some of the world's poorest communities to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice.

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will run from the 13th to 15th December.

Our Christmas celebrations last year also included a carol sing at Box Tree Court, attended by a number of residents and their family and friends.

Ecumenically we have good relationships with our Anglican neighbours at St Mary's Church, and also with the King's Church, who use our premises on Sunday afternoons for a Pentecostal style of worship with modern music, broadening the worship styles within the church building. We are also members of the local "Christians Together", which includes the Bramham Benefice and St Edward's church.

Further information about the Methodist Church may be found on our website: www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk Here you will find information regarding our activities as well as the in-church programmes. A monthly Circuit newsletter, 'Being Church' is available on-line, and delivered to the homes of those without email. Our weekly notice sheet also highlights news of the church and current events. Links to the church's YouTube channel and Facebook page are available via the website homepage.

Val Woodhams 01937 541497 val1.woodhams@btinternet.com

BOSTON SPA METHODIST CHURCH LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

"Here will we sit, and let the sounds of music creep in our ears" (Shakespeare)

Boston Spa Methodist Church has been full of music every **2nd Friday, at 1.00pm** (with the exception of July and August) from January 2023 to December 2023.

The year started with a packed church for a wonderful recital on both the church organs from John Dunford. Each month something different to enjoy. A young baritone from London, James Jenkins. From York the cellist Catherine Strachan with David Hammond. The gifted flautist Chris Hill with Amy Butler, mezzo soprano Valerie Parker with Tim Tozer, The Yorkshire Evening Post Brass Quintet. Serendipity celebrated 20 years of performing together. Chris Why baritone with Linda Hinchliffe and the Christmas tree festival performance by John Nancarro set the festive season on its way.

None of this happens without thanking a dedicated team behind the scenes, providing pre- concert lunches, décor, advertising and personal service in this beautiful building.

The latest development has been the creation of a successful sponsor scheme, enabling us to support our artists and for this. Grateful thanks go to our sponsors, and to our audience, both local and from further afield who regularly support these concerts.

So why not “come, sit and let the sounds of music creep into your ears.”

Lunches from 12noon, concert 1.00pm, Tickets £6.00.

See the church website for more concerts or contact Margaret Jowett.

margaretjowett@btinternet.com.

07702977696 / 01132682041

BOSTON SPA METHODIST CHURCH – SENIOR TABLE TENNIS

There is a long history of Table Tennis at Boston Spa Methodist Church going back to the Youth Clubs of the 60's and 70's! This history continues today with two active adult groups playing every Monday throughout the year.

At 2.30pm the “Ping Pong” group attracts a wide range of social players.

At 5.00pm the “Senior” group have a club session until 7.00pm followed by matches during winter months for the two teams playing in Divisions 3 & 4 of the Harrogate League. Both teams also play in the annual Charity Cup Competition with the B team finishing as beaten finalists in 2023. New players are welcome to both groups.

Enquiries: Jo Vernon (Ping Pong) 07963 660621 jovernon1@gmail.com

David Hovell (Seniors) 07817 769259 david_hovell@hotmail.com

THE KING'S CHURCH

Last year, we ran a very successful Easter Holiday Club and also a one-day Christmas Club for children in the village. We had a great time together; the leaders and the children all enjoyed it very much. So much so that we are planning another Holiday Club for this Easter. Just before both Easter and Christmas 2023, you might have seen us giving out free books at the 'Book Table'. This is always a real joy as we get to meet so many people from the village, and beyond. Look out for us in 2024!

Along with people from St Mary's Church, we go into St Mary's Primary school and Lady Elizabeth Hastings in Thorp Arch to give assemblies.

We continue to meet at the Methodist Church at 4pm every Sunday and we are so thankful that they allow us to use their facilities. Our children's club, 'Explorers', meet in the room downstairs during the church service and it is a great opportunity to have some fun and learn something from the Bible together. This is for school years Reception to Year 6, so if you have children this age, we would love from them to join us. Parents (or anyone else!) would be very welcome to stay with us during the service.

We continue to meet during the week, alternating between our small groups and our Bible study at the Methodist Church. Our Young Life group (for ages 11+) which meets on a Friday night, also at the Methodist church, is going well and last October we started a new group for primary school aged children called 'Discovers'. They also meet on a Friday (just before YL) and is a brilliant opportunity for the children to have lots of fun, make new friends and also hear about Jesus. Parents are welcome to stay for a coffee and chat too! Speaking of coffee... last year we also started a new group called 'Coffee and More'. This is held in the Village Hall and is an opportunity for people to enjoy a coffee while hearing various speakers tell their inspiring life stories.

We are so glad to be a part of this local community and we are looking forward to what exciting things 2024 might bring.

BOSTON SPA VILLAGE HALL CIO

The Hall is an independent charity which is run by a group of Charity Trustees and volunteers. It's a predominant feature in the centre of the Village. All our income is from the hire of the various rooms and fundraising events, once bills are paid any excess income is ploughed back into maintaining and improving the building. The Hall was built in 1909 and is constantly in need of maintenance, repair and updating.

This year we received a grant from Biffa Award, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Bernard Sunley Foundation, Boston Spa Parish Council and Wetherby Ward Councillor Penny Stables to refurbish the Jubilee room. The work took place over the summer and with a lot of hard work by our contractors and Trustees, particularly Phil Harrison and Joanne Sabin. We re-opened the room in September.

The assistance the Hall gets from volunteers cannot be underestimated. They donate their time, skills and expertise without which the Hall would not be in the condition it is. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

ACTIVITIES

There are many groups and classes available that you may consider joining. Please look at our website www.bostonspavillagehall.co.uk for a timetable of activities that are available. Many of the groups using the Hall will be listed in this newsletter along with their contact details.

We host several large annual events for the village such as the Boston Spa Beer Festival, Boston Spa Arts Festival and Boston Spa Summer Festival. Music evenings are very popular. They are organised by Jazz in the Spa www.jazzinthespa.co.uk and Entertainment in the Spa www.entertainmentinthespa.com, please see their websites for further information.

ROOMS FOR HIRE

The Hall has four rooms for hire all with good car and cycle parking.

Main Hall

This is a large room with its own stage capable of hosting musical and drama events. It has a full-service kitchen and toilet facilities. The floor is wooden making it suitable for dancing, exercise and it can even be used for some racquet sports. There is a versatile PA system. The system can be used separately or collectively in all three main rooms.

Café area

The café attached to the main hall is transformed into the WiSE Community café on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week. The cafe is well established and attracts many visitors. Do call in to see what is on offer, they are open between 9.30am and 3.00pm.

Jubilee Room

This is a good-sized room with its own entrance, toilets, and small kitchen for serving drinks and snacks. It has parquet flooring and can seat up to eighty people. The room is used for a variety of activities and meetings and is a useful alternative to the main hall.

Lantern Room

This is a carpeted room with toilets and has access to the small kitchen where drinks and snacks can be prepared. A feature is the large lantern rooflight that is illuminated with low energy lighting during the hours of darkness.

Committee Room

This is a smaller room with a large table and comfortable seating for up to 8 people. If you are working from home and need somewhere to meet, consider using this room.

If you require further information or wish to book or view the Hall then please use our online booking system <https://www.bostonspavillagehall.co.uk/bookings> or send an email to: bsvhbooking@gmail.com.

We look forward welcoming you.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

It takes a lot of money to keep our 100-year-old hall maintained so we are always looking for ways to raise funds. If you have an idea for an event, we welcome suggestions, please get in touch. We are also happy to discuss possible joint ventures.

Contact details:

Website:

www.bostonspavillagehall.co.uk

Email for all enquiries:

bsvhbookings@gmail.com



JAZZ IN THE SPA

Jazz in the Spa enjoys a well-deserved regional and national reputation as a centre of jazz excellence.

Boston Spa Village Hall is home to our Saturday evening jazz sessions – currently twice per month. What makes the venue so successful – we believe it’s the truly friendly atmosphere as we convert the Hall to ‘Cabaret Club’ style with individual tables and subdued lighting – just like the old days in Harlem!

We feature a different band or group session by session often playing in Traditional or Mainstream formats, but these are interspersed with rhythm and blues, “gypsy jazz” and with quartets and quintets playing the standards in a variety of exciting and melodic styles. Britain’s leading bands and musicians appear right here in Boston Spa as well as visiting overseas bands on tour and world class soloists from the UK, Europe and the USA. So – something for everyone to enjoy.

And all this for the realistic entry fee of £12 and no further costs involved as we operate a ‘Bring your Own’ arrangement so take along your own tipple and glasses or coffee or whatever. Our programme is advertised in the local shops, local press and radio and on the Boston Spa Parish Council and Village Hall websites. Our own

updated website www.jazzinthespa.co.uk gives full details of our forward programme. You can visit us also on Facebook.

Single and like jazz and enjoy friendly company? Just pick up the phone and we'll be more than happy to **meet you and seat you**.

Our sessions begin at **8.00.pm**. Doors open at 7.00.pm. No requirement to book in advance. Pay on the Door.

Yorkshire's Premier Jazz Venue with a really friendly atmosphere is right here on your doorstep. How does your Saturday evening compare?

Ken & Brenda Waller 01937 844898/ 07775 984907
www.jazzinthespa.co.uk

DEEPDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

A Centre of Activity for the Local Community.

Deepdale Community Centre has two meeting rooms, with capacity for up to 80/100 which are available to rent at very reasonable rates for morning, afternoon and evening sessions.

The centre is used for a wide range of activities for all ages – including regular groups such as adult education, recreational hobbies, band practice and meetings - as well as one-off events like children's parties or regional meetings.

Situated just off the High Street, at the West end of Boston Spa on Deepdale Lane. There are 2 well-equipped rooms available for hire. Facilities include a fully-fitted kitchen, disabled access & toilet, plenty of parking and external security lighting. Rooms are well furnished with tables, comfortable chairs, fitted projector screens, black-out blinds and a hearing loop.

If you are thinking of starting a hobby or educational group or want to hold a family party, then Deepdale Community Centre will fit the bill. Please contact the booking secretary Mary Sergeant - 07729 921660 - for more information.

FIRST BOSTON SPA GUIDES

Boston Spa Guides meet on Monday evenings 7pm – 8.30 pm. Boston Spa Guides is a lively, friendly unit and we are looking for volunteers who are prepared to help girls develop self-confidence and a sense of purpose. Guiding is open to all girls aged

10-14, please contact Catharine Auty if your daughter would like to attend a Guide Taster session.

We started the year celebrating Chinese New Year with food and activities and the girls challenging themselves on the climbing walls at Parthian in Harrogate. This year alongside their usual patrol activities and badge work, skills builders and unit meeting the Guides worked throughout the year for the Leeds 50th Challenge, which celebrated Leeds County Guides 50th birthday. The Guides had great fun with a Lego evening organised by Bricktopia.

The main event of the summer term was celebrating our 100th birthday. We had a tea party in the Scout and Guide hall and it was lovely to see many former Guides come and take part in the festivities. In the spirit of our centenary year, we completed the Guide History badge which included learning Morse code, semaphore and building Blitz ovens and cooking over them using World War II recipes. We spent the spring bank holiday weekend camping at Bramhope with other Leeds County Guides and the Guides loved the range of activities on offer including axe throwing, archery and orienteering. We finished the term making Moana, which the Guides had chosen for the scarecrow festival and a walk along the cycle path to Wetherby and chip supper by the river. In the summer holidays we held a badge day for our Backwoods Cooking badge.

Autumn term began with the Guides completing a first aid course at Tadcaster Pool for their First Aid skills builder. Before half term we went to SnoZone in Castleford and the girls had a great time on the slopes. As always, the Guides took part in the Remembrance Day service at St Mary's and marched to the War Memorial. This term we completed the Mixology badge and the Guides gave a party for their families serving mocktails of their own creation. We finished the term making decorations for our tree in the Christmas tree festival at the Methodist Church and held a party with Clifford Guides.

Leader: Clare Elwen 01937 541112 / 07725448852 / clare.elwen@talktalk.net

Assistant Leader: Catharine Auty 01937 918375 / 07849918310 / catharine.auty@btinternet.com

BOSTON SPA TREFOIL GUILD

Boston Spa Trefoil Guild is part of the Guide Movement, and it is made up of Guiders who no longer run a unit and ex Guides/Brownies who wish to still be part of the Movement. Boston Spa Trefoil meets once a month, usually on a Tuesday afternoon. Indoor meetings are held in Clifford Village Hall in Albion Street, starting the year

with the AGM on or near the 22nd February. We have meetings with speakers, handicrafts, games and singing. We also make visits to gardens and other places of interest. Members serve on a rota in the Guide Shop in Wetherby on a Saturday and some occasionally help with Guide and Brownie meetings or division events.

Last year trips were enjoyed to Wetherby cinema and Adel churchyard to see the bluebells followed by tea and cakes in a café. We also visited the Arium Garden Centre. Trefoil Guilds' celebration of 80 years and Leeds Guide County 50th Birthday Challenge gave us plenty of ideas for activities; remembering skipping rhymes and collecting 50 items for the food bank were just two of these. We also enjoyed a garden party in a member's garden and a festive meal at the Crooked Billet in December. We would welcome new members whether or not you have been a Guide or Brownie.

Please contact Glennis Allan on 01937 845348 or Liz Pennington on 01937 845575
Liz.Pennington@btinternet.com

BOSTON SPA LIBRARY

You can be guaranteed a warm welcome at Boston Spa Library, with free membership, free borrowing, free WiFi and internet access, no late fees, and free reservations. Our online library services are available 24 hours even if we are not open, and as a member you will also have access to a huge range of online material including eBooks, audiobooks and magazines. Opening hours can be viewed here: <https://libraries.leeds.gov.uk/libraries/boston-spa>

How to join: either call into your nearest Leeds library or register online via Leeds Libraries homepage: libraries.leeds.gov.uk/. You'll be able to keep up to date with upcoming events here too, and by following us on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/leedslibraries> and subscribing to our newsletter via the Leeds Libraries homepage.

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SPECIALIST SCHOOL

This year our students have had some lovely opportunities to work with our local communities and those further afield.

Guests from Jazz in the Spa came to a summer concert and gave us a generous donation to purchase some musical instruments to achieve our mission to give every pupil the chance to learn a musical instrument and take it home to practice. Our visitors enthusiastic support in the concert really helped our nervous musicians.



In our Interfaith Week we welcomed members of different faith communities in Leeds; Anna who is Jewish, Navinder who is Sikh and Seema a Hindu. We really appreciate that they gave up their time to help us understand the values and traditions of their religions.

In November, we paid our respects to those soldiers who died in both world wars. We visited the graves of Private Rafferly and Corporal Szkandera who are buried in St Edward's churchyard. A few years ago, a member of staff from St John's researched Corporal Szkandera and obtained a photo of the young airman which is stored in St Edward's Church.

As usual, our Christmas Fayre was a lovely occasion, well supported by the community. We also welcomed ex-students from Nottingham, Lincolnshire, Beverley and Newcastle, who brought their partners and even children! These young people also visited during Deaf Awareness week, describing their careers in fields as diverse as cyber security, nursing and university students.

Some of our current students had the confidence to take part in the Leeds SEND Partnership Board takeover event at Leeds Civic Centre. They articulated their views very clearly about the quality of the services available for young people with SEND, how they should be publicised and what needs to be improved.

St John's is also proud to have achieved a range of awards. We gained the Autism Specialist Provider Award and our commitment to young people's mental health and wellbeing has been recognised by staff presenting at national conferences for SAPHNA (School and public health nurses association) and BATOD (British Association of Teachers of the Deaf). Also, our chickens were officially recognised as being of star quality when we won first prize at Bramham show for exhibiting 3 hen's eggs.



MARTIN HOUSE

Martin House Children's Hospice on Grove Road supports over 500 families of children with life-limiting conditions across North, East and West Yorkshire annually. We offer planned respite stays, symptom control, emergency and end of life care as well as bereavement support for over 150 families each year. Open 24/7, 365 days a year, we have specialist paediatric doctors and nurses available around the clock to support the families who need us the most.

Martin House provides all services free of charge and receives only 10% statutory funding. It costs nearly £9 million a year to provide this care. We rely on the generosity of our donors giving voluntary donations and supporting our fundraising events.

Our biggest local fundraising event, Glow Together, took place for the second time in October 2023, right here in Boston Spa. Together with over 250 participants turning out in head to toe 'glow' as well as local businesses 'glowing up' the route, not only were the streets of Boston Spa lit up in style, we also raised over £10,000. This fantastic amount could help us to provide end of life care for a baby, child or young person, allowing their family to spend precious time with their loved one, providing symptom control at end of life and care after death in one of our cooled bedrooms. Look out for Glow Together 2024, the date for your diary is Saturday 16th November.



You may have spotted the construction site entrance to the side of Martin House and wondered what we're up to? Since opening our doors in 1987, advancements in clinical research and palliative medicine have resulted in children and young people living for longer, with more complex needs. Our facilities need to change to ensure families continue to receive the highest quality care in modern, well-equipped surroundings. We need more space for specialised life-sustaining equipment as well as purpose-built facilities, so we have embarked upon an ambitious £21.9m transformational project to extend and refurbish the hospice.

THE BUILD will offer dedicated wellbeing areas, improved accessibility, enhanced social and private spaces, alongside modernised facilities for all of our families. This will enable us to match our facilities to the outstanding standards of care that all staff and volunteers at Martin House are committed to delivering and continue to be the hospice that children, young people and families deserve.

Now, more than ever, we need your support! To find out more about how you can help turn our vision for the future of Martin House into a reality, please visit: www.martinhouse.org.uk or call the fundraising office on 01937 844569 Keep an eye on our social pages for more information soon [@martinhousech](https://www.instagram.com/martinhousech)

From Zipping out of Xscape to wining and dining at our Glitter Ball, with your help, we will continue to be here for the babies, children and young people who need us.

WETHERBY & DISTRICT LIONS

Firstly, a big thank you to all our supporters. You helped make 2023 another greaaat year! With over 1.3 million members in over 200 countries our purpose is to serve the community and bring communities together. Our local club serves the area from Wetherby to Boston Spa and onto Tadcaster and nearby villages including Harewood, Scarcroft and Spofforth.

The year started with one of our regular and very popular events, the Senior Citizens Party, at Wetherby High School with 200 residents joining us for lunch and entertainment. Throughout 2023 we worked with the local community and businesses to put on and support a number of local events and raise funds.

2023 saw two firsts. In July we worked with the Wetherby Bandstand Trust to stage Wetherby's first Drover's Day with marching bands from across the north of England marching through Wetherby to the bandstand reviving some of the history of Wetherby. We had some great support for this as part of Leeds 2023. We have been nominated for a Leeds Compassionate City Award and plan to make it an annual event. Look out for the bands in 2024!

In November we held our first ever fashion show with the support of a local ladies clothes shop, Best Kept Secrets, (now based in Harrogate). This was a lot of fun and a hugely successful fundraiser for us. We've worked with other local organisations, coordinated the car parking for the Wetherby 10k, run a flat cap throwing competition at Tockwith Show and our ever-popular Cuddly Lions tombola has been to school fairs and shows raising valuable funds.

Grant giving is part of our work and we have supported a number of individuals buying equipment to improve their lives. One of our larger grants went to Martin House Children's Hospice to help them to install a sensory garden.

We finished the year with another favourite, the Dickensian Christmas Market and the presentation of the 2024 Townsperson of the Year award to Kazia Knight in recognition of the vast amount of work she has done for the local community. December was a busy month for Santa as he took his sleigh to the streets of Wetherby entertaining children and collecting for our charitable causes.

As well as serving our local community the Lions, as part of an international organisation, raises funds for causes overseas. This year, with the help of the residents of Wetherby and surrounds, we were able to give £1,000 towards the purchase of a fire engine for use in the Ukraine. We teamed up with the Harrogate Soroptimists "Toilet Twinning" providing toilets for people in developing countries

and reminding us that current toilet provision for some is neither safe nor hygienic. Finally and with your help we collected 40 kilogrammes of used spectacles donated to opticians in Wetherby by the general public. These will be used by people in Africa who would otherwise go without.

2024 is going to be another busy year for us. If you would like to know more about our work, then do look at our website www.wetherbylions.org follow us @wetherbylions or contact 0345 833 9529

Finally, a big thank you from the Wetherby Lions for your support.

Wetherby District Lions Club
Registered Charity Number: 1166656

BOSTON SPA ROTARY CLUB (Sponsored by Wetherby Wharfedale)

Wetherby Wharfedale Rotary now has an active Rotary group here in Boston Spa, meeting monthly at The Crown to discuss Rotary projects and community engagement. The group seeks volunteers who share Rotary's values of '*Service above self*' and to do good in the world. We are working with other community groups and local schools on projects to benefit the local community.

In 2023, Rotary continued to support Martin House, sponsored and helped with the Boston Spa Festival and Party in the Park, raised money for improvements to the Village Hall, and helped the Friends of Stables Lane group.

Wetherby Rotary is also active in the national Rotary Shoebox scheme, working with local primary schools and youth groups to provide gift boxes for deprived children overseas.

Rotary's own international charity, The Rotary Foundation, remains committed to ending polio in the world and we raise awareness of this by planting purple crocuses in local public spaces and parkland.

Rotarians offer support to communities in many ways, locally, nationally and around the world. Joining the worldwide family of Rotary is not only personally rewarding but you also make new friends and have a lot of fun!

For information about Rotary in Boston Spa, just email: bs1rotary@gmail.com

WETHERBY & DISTRICT ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of Wetherby and District is part of the highly regarded organisation of Rotary International whose motto is 'Service above Self'. There are some 35,000 Rotary Clubs throughout the world with a total membership of 1.2 million Rotarians who are men and women from the business community and elsewhere. Our Club members meet each Wednesday between 12 noon and 1.30 pm at Wetherby Golf Club, when we plan our various activities over lunch.

Each year we run a Youth Speaks competition in local primary schools when groups of 4 children prepare a presentation lasting 4 minutes on a topic of their choice. They are truly amazing. We also sponsor a young person to attend a weeklong Rotary Youth Leadership Award Course at Hebden Hey which is run by professional instructors. Every young person who has attended says they gained great value from the course in developing their confidence and understanding the value of working together in a team.

Through members' donations we support the Rotary Foundation which is Rotary's own charity. We also support the Martin House Children's Hospice in Boston Spa and our local Radio station "Radio Tempo" through sponsorship. We look forward to continuing our support of other local charities such as the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and at an international level we continue to support the programme to rid the world of Polio. Since Rotary International began this programme of eradication over 35 years ago, 99.9% of eradication has been achieved with only Pakistan and Afghanistan still reporting cases of polio.

Fun and fellowship are very important to us and if you would like to hear more about Rotary, please contact our Secretary, David Coates on 01937 843662 or 07850 600798, who will be delighted to hear from you.

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

West Yorkshire Police has launched a new and updated version of the messenger system "**West Yorkshire Community Alert**". Community Alert is a system West Yorkshire Police has been using since 2019, allowing officers across the county to update the public direct with news, updates and appeals on matters that are happening on their doorstep. This new Community Alert has also been updated to include a range of new benefits, such as the ability for officers to send hyper-localised messages to the public by drawing round a particular area or postcode. West Yorkshire Police Crime Prevention Officer Paul Denison said:

"Community Alert is a fantastic service as it gives the public a simple way of keeping up to date with what we're up to in their local area, especially those who may not have social media. It is also an invaluable investigative tool - and can be used to appeal for information or intelligence and help to solve crime. It's a great service we can provide to the public as users are able to engage with us and receive real-time updates on issues that are affecting where they live, and they can also choose what updates they'd like to receive on things that matter to them."

Public registration is free, and people can choose to receive news and appeals, local crime information and/or prevention advice direct via email, text or voice message. Have you signed up yet for our WY Community Alert messaging system? Remember, your personal data is absolutely safe, it's strictly controlled and the system is fully GDPR compliant. We don't share your email address and other info. Registration is free and it only takes seconds to sign up. To sign up, please visit: www.wypcommunityalert.co.uk

Although the WYP community alert is a great tool for local residents, please be aware that should you wish to speak to one of your local officers in person we hold a 'Police And Communities Together (PACT) meeting' once a month in both the Wetherby and Harewood Wards. The details for these meetings can be found on the West Yorkshire Police Website.

Your Wetherby Neighbourhood Policing Officers are; Sergeant Sam Standen, Pc Stephen Lane, Pc Neil Breen, Pc Andrew Katkowski, PcsO Lou Crossland, PcsO Susan Broadwell, PcsO Christopher Barrett and PcsO Gareth Poole.

All the above officers are based out of Wetherby Police Station between 07:00 and 23:00 hours. Whilst the front desk is not open to members of the public, we are an operational station.

Want to keep up to date with Village life?

Sign up to the monthly Parish Council e-newsletter and get the latest news delivered by email. Use the 'sign up' box on the newsletter page at www.bostonspapc.org.uk

BOSTON SPA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Boston Spa WI offers a warm welcome to women of all ages. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm, usually in the Village Hall. We offer a varied and interesting programme, why not come along and see for yourself? Our 2024 programme and contact info is below.



The poster features a light green background with a large, stylized '2024' in the center. The title 'Boston Spa WI Events' is written in a cursive font across the top. A logo for 'the WI HELPING WOMEN' is in the top right corner. The events are listed in white boxes with red and black text. A decorative floral illustration with red and orange flowers and green leaves is on the right side. At the bottom, there is contact information.

Boston Spa WI Events



10TH JAN
MURDER MOST FOUL
AN INTRIGUING TALK ABOUT NOTABLE TRIALS AND HOW THE LAW SHAPES THEIR OUTCOMES

7TH FEB
FOOD FOR MOOD
LEARN HOW WHAT WE EAT AFFECTS OUR MOOD AND ENERGY LEVELS

6TH MARCH
BOLLYWOOD DANCE
ENJOY EXPERT TUITION IN RAJASTHANI DANCE FROM EXPERIENCED TEACHER CHIRAGI SOLANKI

3RD APRIL
CHEESE CHUTNEY & CHAT
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CHEESE IN A LIGHT HEARTED TASTING QUIZ

1ST MAY
EVOLUTION OF THE MODERN MISS
RETIRED COSTUME DESIGNER SUE SEEGER SHARES HER EXPERTISE IN HOW WOMENS CLOTHING HAS EVOLVED SINCE THE 1860S

5TH JUNE
WHAT WOMEN WANT
LEARN ALL ABOUT SCARF TYING FOLLOWED BY A SALE OF BEAUTIFUL ACCESSORIES

3RD JULY
A VISIT TO KIDDAL QUARRY FARM
A FAMILY RUN FARM GROWING BEAUTIFUL BRITISH BLOOMS. NB THIS WILL BE A 19.00 START AT THE FARM

7TH AUGUST
TREASURE HUNT
TEST YOUR SKILLS NAVIGATING ON FOOT AROUND THE VILLAGE FOLLOWING CRYPTIC CLUES, FOLLOWED BY DELICIOUS CREAM TEA

4TH SEPTEMBER
LADIES RACE NIGHT
WHY NOT DON YOUR HATS AND ENJOY A NIGHT AT THE RACES - IN THE VILLAGE HALL!!

2ND OCTOBER
AGM
FOLLOWED BY FISH AND FIZZ

6TH NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS CRAFT NIGHT
A FUN EVENING OF HANDS ON CHRISTMAS CRAFTING WITH EXPERT TUITION FROM CARYS HARRISON

4TH DECEMBER
FESTIVE FLORAL DEMO
NAFAS MEMBER DAPHNE DAWSON GIVES A BEAUTIFUL SEASONAL FLORAL DEMONSTRATION FOLLOWED BY CHRISTMAS NIBBLES & FIZZ

WE MEET ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
IN BOSTON SPA VILLAGE HALL AT 19.30
FURTHER INFORMATION FROM BOSTONSPA.WI@YAHOO.CO.UK

WETHERBY IN SUPPORT OF THE ELDERLY (WiSE)

Wetherby in Support of the Elderly (WiSE) is a small local charity which aims to improve quality of life for the over 60s in Wetherby and surrounding villages.

The charity's work enables older people to live at home, whilst reducing social isolation. WiSE's core services include befriending, information and advice, grass cutting, transport scheme, Send a Smile Scheme and regular social activities to reduce isolation and loneliness. The charity's Memory Café to support people living with dementia and their carers is now well established. Its popular Welcome Café (formally the pay-as-you-feel café) for those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, has been extended indefinitely due to popular demand of the service.

WiSE has had an incredible year in each of its services. In one year alone, there has been around more than 5,000 attendances at social events. There was an incredible 9,573 visitors to the WiSE Owl Café at Boston Spa Village Hall, 392 attendances at the Memory Café and 444 grass cuts carried out in conjunction with Wetherby Young Offenders Institute. The charity's volunteer driver transport scheme provided 708 transport journeys and there were 806 Information & Advice contacts for the year, supporting 400 people. WiSE also sent 1,248 cards to the community thanks to the Send a Smile Scheme, plus additional 630 birthday cards to friends and volunteers.

The charity's befriending volunteers have kept in touch with lonely and isolated friends throughout the year, providing 432 hours of visits and calls. None of this would have been possible without 121 amazing WiSE volunteers, who provided a massive 4,776 hours of their own time. A huge thank you to everyone who made this happen.

As 2024 progresses, WiSE wants to continue to building on these successes by enchanting its core services. To do this effectively it is appealing for volunteers, fundraisers and corporate sponsors in all different areas.

To get involved in volunteering, contact volunteering@w-ise.org.uk

To get involved in fundraising/corporate sponsorship, contact fundraising@w-ise.org.uk To donate, visit www.w-ise.org.uk/donate

Keep up to date with all WiSE news and updates on the website - www.w-ise.org.uk
- and Facebook page @wetherbywise / twitter @InWetherby Tel : 01937 588994



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