

BOSTON SPA PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2026
61st Edition

THE PARISH COUNCIL

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Front cover images kindly supplied by Boston Spa in Bloom, Boston Spa Community Green Group and Boston Spa Rubbish Team.

THE
BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY 2026 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 2026

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 2024-25 £	Projected 2025-26 £	Budget 2026-27 £
INCOME			
Leeds City Council precept	74,150	78,417	81,938
Council Tax Support Grant	1,632	1,656	1,719
Grants & Donations	1,886	2,969	270
Stables Lane Hire	1,554	1,310	810
Allotment Rents	902	1,044	1,080
Newsletter Adverts	175	164	175
Bank Interest	5,856	12,998	7,000
TOTAL INCOME	86,155	98,558	92,992
EXPENDITURE			
Stables Lane Park & Skate Park	5,084	9,824	12,530
Village Hall	3,500	3,500	3,500
Open Spaces/Riverside	20,422	25,813	25,011
Admin costs	20,232	26,507	27,354
Community Events & Support	3,008	3,552	4,135
Defibrillators	310	163	2,000
Audit	665	770	690
Insurances	1,143	1,253	1,500
Allotments	369	3,761	772
Christmas Lights	7,377	8,081	8,000
War Memorial	0	220	1,000
Neighbourhood Planning & Emergency & Resilience	0	592	1,500
NON-RECURRING COSTS			
Improvements - Stables Lane Park	32,682	10,255	5,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	94,792	94,291	92,992
NET INCOME	-8,637	4,267	0

Welcome to the Annual Newsletter of 2026

Chairman's Report from Councillor Keith Blake

My report is slightly different this year as I have indicated my decision to stand down as Chairman in May. I will be moving to the back benches so will still be involved with the Parish Council. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman and wish to thank all the councillors past and present for their support. We have seen a number of changes and enhancements to the village, and I wish the new Chairperson all the best. I have really appreciated the support given to me by Deborah, our Clerk for the guidance on regulatory matters and the Ward Councillors for helping with some of the more difficult issues. One of our councillors, Emily Davis has recently resigned, and we wish her all the best. I am pleased to say that two new Councillors have joined us: Amanda Brown and Paul Hunt.

Stables Lane Park

Stables Lane Park continues to be well used by families and visitors, as well as being the venue for the annual Party in the Park as part of the Boston Spa Festival. The 2025 event was held on the Sunday and worked well, so is likely to be repeated in 2026. The park also hosted a circus in 2025 which was much appreciated by those attending.

New accessible benches have been installed near the Tennis Club, and the south gazebo has had a replacement roof covering fitted. The new car park surface has developed some sinkage at the entrance which has been repaired but the heavy rain has caused some excess water to run off into the tennis courts. Further work is planned to find a permanent solution.

Stables Lane Park received the Green Flag Award last year and the application has been submitted for the 2026-27 award. Keith Jackson has championed this award, and the Parish council are grateful for his efforts. The Friends of Stables Lane Group continues to meet on a regular basis looking at park improvements. Ongoing maintenance is provided by a team of volunteers as is the regular bin emptying and litter picking. The Parish Council appreciates their dedication, and new volunteers are always welcome. If interested, please get in touch.

Village Centre

On the Village Centre, new bollards are in place and some damaged bollards and signs have been repaired. A few issues are still outstanding, and the Parish Council

continues to work with LCC Highways on a resolution. As a result of feedback from a resident with a visual impairment, the type and positioning of the planters outside Costcutter will be reviewed. Although the planters are the responsibility of Highways, the Parish council has been working with all involved to find an amicable solution for all parties.

Following the installation of the bus shelter outside St Mary's Church, we now plan to install an additional shelter on the opposite side of the road. Due to the narrow footpath, the Parish Council approached West Yorkshire Combined Authority for advice. A standard wooden shelter with seating was recommended and we are now just awaiting approval from Highways before this can be installed.

Events

A new Events Committee was set up in 2025 and took over the planning for the Party in the Park with its new format. Members of the committee also organised the Christmas event in Millennium Gardens with an elf trail in the village shops. A Christmas tree was decorated by local schools, the church choirs sang carols, and Santa paid a visit to Boston Spa Library where children were invited to make LED Christmas cards. We were very grateful to Tempo FM and to Christine Talbot for switching on the tree lights. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind, but those who braved the rain made good use of the facilities.

Following some feedback, the High Street Christmas lights were changed last year to have a white shooting star as this was thought to be more appropriate for the Conservation Area. The same design will be used in 2026 with the car park retaining its colourful 3D snowman.

Highways

The Ward Councillors have held quarterly road safety meetings at Deepdale Community Centre where members of the public are welcome to raise their concerns. A Leeds Highways Officer is also in attendance. New pedestrian crossings at either end of the village have been put forward for a formal assessment and Highways will be installing a camera to monitor lorry traffic across the bridge to Thorp Arch.

On Westwood Way, the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to insert additional yellow lines near the schools has gone out to public consultation. The TRO also includes some additional yellow lines on eastern end of the High Street for safety.

Green Spaces

The Parish Council is very lucky to have the resources of Mike Gadd and his team of volunteers to help maintain the green spaces. Mike's team have made a considerable difference to the Church Fields and riverside areas by laying hedges and creating wood piles to increase biodiversity. Mike is very grateful to the volunteers and new people are always welcome. If interested, please get in contact with the Clerk.

Some additional felling of trees in the woodland areas has been carried out on trees at risk. It has been noted that some of the felled wood has been taken by residents. We would ask that any fallen wood be left in place as it acts as a habitat for insects and is part of the ecological work in the area. The contracts for some of the green spaces have been modified to make sure we keep footpaths clear where Parish Council hedges abut public footpaths.

It was disappointing to find that several loads of rubbish had been thrown down the riverbank from the footpath behind Deepdale last year. This is fly tipping and we ask that rubbish is always disposed of in the appropriate way.

Planning

On planning, Leeds City Council has started to look at housing needs up to 2040. As part of that process, the Leeds Local Plan will allocate land to be used for development in the future. A number of sites around Boston Spa have been submitted for consideration, and the Parish Council together with other local Parish Councils have put forward their views on each of the proposed sites. The next stage will be the review of a shortlist of sites which will be drawn up by LCC.

The Government is currently reviewing National Planning Policy which will feed down into the Leeds Local Planning Policy. The Parish Council currently has a working group reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, but given the above reviews, that part of the plan will be put on hold until any outcomes become clearer. Other parts of the plan can still be reviewed.

On local planning matters, an application is underway to demolish the old St Vincent's School on Church Street and clear the land. This is welcomed by the Parish Council as the site has not only been an eyesore but has also been subject to significant vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The application for the housing development at the old Hollydene Nursery site has been approved by the planners. As part of conditions, the developers will be required to create an ecological wildlife corridor where the boundary meets Stables Lane Park. Jackdaw Crag/Deepdale

Wood will also be maintained by the developer for a period of 30 years under a Biodiversity Net Gain requirement. This will release the Parish Council from the responsibility. However, any issues can still be notified to the Parish Council in the normal way. Final details of any conditions are awaited.

Emergency & Resilience

LCC has an Emergency and Resilience Programme looking at community resilience and emergency planning and the Parish Council has set up a small working group to consider Boston Spa. An advice leaflet on how to prepare for an emergency has been distributed to each household.

Police & Crime

The PACT meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm in the Methodist Church in Wetherby and details can be found on the WYP website. Members of the public are welcome to attend to talk directly to the police. Speeding in the villages is always raised as a concern, and the camera van has been used across the area. However, Boston Spa does not have a suitable location to position the van at present. The Local Neighbourhood Policing Team now consists of a sergeant with 6 PCs and 5 PCSOs which is helping to increase their presence in the local villages. Reporting incidents to the police other than in an emergency can be done by calling 101 or online. Online can be quicker. The more reports that are made on incidents, the more it will help to maintain a police presence in the area. Crimes can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.

Parish Council Meetings

Members of the public are very welcome to join us at the monthly PC meetings which are held on the third Monday of every month at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The first 20 minutes are set aside for the public questions and concerns.

BOSTON SPA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Creating An Even Better Boston Spa – where are we now?

We are very lucky in Boston Spa to have an excellent and very detailed Neighbourhood Plan already, but we need to bring it up to date, and the Parish Council has been working hard to make that happen. It is a complex process, and we need to make sure that any revisions reflect what local people want, as well as reflecting the National and Leeds City Council planning requirements – so a bit of a moving target.

The finished document will set out an overall vision for Boston Spa as it moves into the future, a set of objectives which flesh out the vision and a set of policies which are the means by which the vision and objectives will be realised. The vision set out in the current document is as follows:

to respect and preserve those beneficial things which we enjoy (such as the riverside) and to adapt to the changes (such as more homes, an ageing population, extra traffic, the digital age, pressure on public services and the changing retail scene). We wish to further develop a positive social wellbeing environment for those who live, visit or work in the village. We will preserve the historic legacy of our forefathers and overcome some of the adverse features that have beset us (such as paucity of social and green amenity space and the conflict between traffic and people). Our vision is that we will become a truly sustainable community in all aspects whether they are social, economic or environmental.

Respecting history, adapting to change, improving lives.

It is a great vision for our village – but we need to look at it to ensure that it is exactly what we need for now, and for the next decade or two. Any changes we make, we will ensure you know about them.

In the last newsletter we reported on the changes from the objectives set out in the existing plan, to those we intend to include in the revised plan. These objectives were drawn from consultation at public events during 2024. Once the revised plan is drafted we will consult again with local people to make sure we got it all right. By way of a reminder, the revised objectives are set out below. Hopefully you recognise some of the points you may have raised with us, and that they reflect the needs of our village.

- 1. Promote, encourage and facilitate renewable energy solutions and make Boston Spa a more sustainable place.**
- 2. Retain the special character of Boston Spa and manage new development so that it meets current and future needs.**
- 3. Work with others to address weaknesses in public transport and consider other ways that Boston Spa can be more and better connected.**
- 4. Promote, protect and further develop green spaces and wildlife habitats and make Boston Spa an even better, safer, healthier place to live.**
- 5. Preserve the distinctive and diverse character of Boston Spa so that it an even better place to do business, and support local employment, socialising, shopping and enjoyment.**

We now have the job of creating the policies which will deliver the plan for us. The Plan needs to be readable, clear and sufficiently detailed to be fit for purpose – and set out in a way that makes it easy for us to monitor progress on an ongoing basis.

It has been, and will continue to be, an interesting process. For example, during the process of our work as a Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Group, we identified a need for our village to have some kind of resilience plan, so that it can respond to any natural or man-made crisis, disaster or critical event. Clearly most of these kinds of events sit within the responsibility of the local authority, or some other tier of government or body, such as the NHS, as was the case during Covid. But equally there are some things local people can do to help.

The Parish Council set up a group to explore this ‘gap’ and we now have a superb group of people preparing a Resilience Plan for Boston Spa. Also, during our work in reviewing the plan, we identified that there was a wish to support the work of our brilliant village library – local use and enjoyment of which came out strongly in our consultations on the plan. Rather than wait until the revised plan is published (which might be some time) we recently engaged in very early discussions about what and how we can do this with library staff – and we are hoping that this might lead to benefits to local people in the ‘offer’ the library is able to make to our village. Keep your eyes open for more information about this – it is still very early days, but we are optimistic!

Finally – if you like the sound of what we are doing – and feel you have a perspective, some expertise or some time you’d like to share with us, please

feel free to get in touch via the Clerk to the Parish Council. You will be most welcome – and your contribution will help us to create an Even Better Boston Spa!

Councillor Gail Bowen, 2026.

BOSTON SPA'S EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

We live in a world of increasing uncertainty and mounting risks to our well-being. With changing weather patterns, there is a growing need, especially for those who are vulnerable; funding is stretched. Under this scenario, it seems appropriate to anticipate how our community could be better prepared.

The Parish Council has commissioned a small group under the leadership of Anne Watts and supported by Gail Bowen, Keith Jackson and Nick Randall, to work on an Emergency and Resilience Plan for our village. They are being assisted by and are co-operating with the Leeds Resilience and Emergency Team. The Plan is being rolled out in three phases:

- 1 – What you can do for yourself
- 2 – What you can do for the community
- 3 – What the community can do for you.

The first phase was introduced at the Boston Spa Festival's Party in the Park in July 2025, with an informational booth and distribution of leaflets providing details of how to prepare for a potential emergency, including a list of supplies to have on hand.

For the second phase, more than 2,000 letters were hand-delivered to homes in the village in November 2025, again providing information (with a recap of Phase I) and asking for volunteers who would be prepared to help in the event of an emergency. This resulted in 15 volunteers coming forward, offering assistance in the medical field, engineering/construction, and administration. A big thank you to the volunteers!

The third phase is now in progress. The working group has prepared a stratified risk register of potential emergencies. These include severe weather, utility outages, another health pandemic, flooding (likely to be local/limited), cyber risk, public disorder, malicious attack – with the last two considered to be lower in risk.

The Parish Council's foremost role is to communicate in the event of an emergency, followed by coordinating support as needed, as well as working with other regional and national emergency services and statutory responders. Severe weather is likely to hold the greatest risk for us, which could be accompanied and compounded by some of the other risks listed, e.g. power or other utility outage and flooding.

In the event of an emergency, particularly if it involves an extended power outage, the Village Hall would serve as the information hub and 'rest centre'. Local churches may also be available to provide shelter, etc., if required.

We welcome any comments or ideas, and/or for more information please contact Anne Watts at anne.watts@bostonpapc.org.uk



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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 occurs more and more as the years go by. 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

WETHERBY U3A PAINTING GROUPS

The University of the Third Age (U3A) 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. For further information about Wetherby u3a, membership details and activities, please see <https://wetherbyu3a.org.uk/>

There are currently three painting groups under the umbrella of Wetherby u3a, meeting at the Deepdale Community Centre, Boston Spa. 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 (and if we end up with something to put on the wall, it is an added bonus!) Information about local events such as art demonstrations, workshops or exhibitions hosted by local artists or art clubs, are circulated to the groups.

The three groups meet at Deepdale Community Centre in Boston Spa, in the Beech Room.

Mondays 10-12:00 noon on the first and third Monday of the month.

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

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

If you would like further information about any of the painting groups, please get in touch.

Up to date information, such as the current status (e.g. full or space available for new members), meeting sequence and dates can be found in the entry on the relevant Wetherby u3a Activities page: <https://wetherbyu3a.org.uk/group-list/>

Contact Barbara Duncan email: barbmicbed@btinternet.com

BOSTON SPA ART & CRAFTS FESTIVAL



The Boston Spa Art & Craft Festival was held again in October 2025. The event was a great success and featured over 50 artists and makers. Work on display included painting, collage, photography, textiles, jewellery, glass, ceramics, print, metal and wood crafts. Refreshments were served from the village hall cafe by the Boston Spa Village Hall CIO committee and volunteers and proved very popular with visitors.

The main aim of the Boston Spa festival is to celebrate and promote the talents of local artists and crafts people whilst giving them a platform to sell their work. The event also raises valuable funds for the ongoing programme of improvements to the Boston Spa Village Hall.

The festival will be held again over the weekend of 10th and 11th October 2026. Final dates are yet to be agreed. For more information about the event, you can visit the website 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 2026. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please email us for more information.

BOSTON SPA WEEKEND FESTIVAL



The Festival is being planned for the second weekend in July.

The Scarecrow Trail will be held the week before and lasting for 7 days, the with characters appearing in resident's gardens and shop premises. In April the theme will be announced and builders invited to participate.

From the 10th to 12th July 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 include: Art exhibitions; A Bake-off competition; Bowling and Tennis taster sessions; Buskers; Concerts; Craft and Gift fairs; Fitness and Welfare sessions; Plant sales; Street Music and Food. A detailed, printed programme will be available from the end of June.

The Trail Maps will be printed in May and available from local shops in June. The Festival Programme will be released in June on the Village Hall website: <https://www.bostonspavillagehall.co.uk/>. Look out for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/bostonspafestival>.



Scarecrow Trail
Wed 8th – Tue 14th July 2026

Festival
Fri 10th - Sun 12th July 2026



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

BOSTON SPA GALA

Boston Spa Gala returns Saturday 13th June

12pm to 6pm at St John's Catholic Specialist School

After a massively successful 2024 and 2025 Gala we are pleased to announce that Boston Spa Gala 2026 will be back bigger than ever!

Located on St John's Catholic Specialist School playing fields on the 13th June, 2026's gala will see almost 40 stalls and an incredible main stage hosting performers from the local area including Willis Academy of Dance, Voices of Rock, Big Red Curtain, and Clifford Drama Group. Artisan pizzas, a BBQ, a jacket potato and nachos van among others will keep people well fed whilst a cocktail bar, Pimm's tent and a new improved bar will ensure no one goes thirsty.

For the more energetic, why not try the funfair, kids' play area, bouncy castle and trampolines.

The football tournament will run alongside the gala for boys and girls from the local primary schools.

As ever, we would love to see you all on the day to enjoy and support the amazing things that Boston Spa and surrounding villages have to offer and to help ensure that the Boston Spa Gala continues its legacy for future generations.

Entry is £4 at the gate and is free for under 16's. Well behaved dogs are welcome.

The opening hours have been extended to 6pm.

You can contact us at bostonspagala@gmail.com

BOSTON SPA BOWLING CLUB

Boston Spa Bowling Club, situated on Stables Lane, welcomes new and experienced bowlers of all ages. Crown Green bowling offers many physical and mental health benefits, as well as social interaction and is accessible for all ages and abilities. It can be played recreationally and competitively.



The club is open from the end of March to the beginning of October. Social bowling sessions occur on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 10-12. If you would like to try bowls call into the club just before 10am on these days and you will be welcomed by our members. We are also planning to start social bowling sessions on a Sunday afternoon this year. There isn't a specific dress code, but to play on the green you

must wear flat, closed shoes/trainers. Equipment is provided for new bowlers.

The club also participates in competitive league matches and members can choose to play socially, competitively and in our club competitions. Most days will see some bowling taking place on our green. The club has an open day during the Boston Spa Festival in July so that is also an opportunity for new members to see some bowling on the green.



The club is keen to welcome new members. If you have any questions or would like further information, please see the contact details below.

Visit our website - bostonspabowlingclub.co.uk
email - bsbchonsec@gmail.com
Address - Stables Lane, Boston Spa, LS23

BOSTON SPA TENNIS CLUB



Boston Spa Tennis Club is situated on Stables Lane. It has a shared carpark and is easily accessible for all ages and abilities of tennis players. Social tennis (mixed) is Saturday afternoon 2- 4pm in the winter and 1 – 3pm during the summer months. Monday morning return to play coaching and social tennis. Wednesday evening (mixed) during the winter months. Men’s night is Monday from 6.30pm, Ladies’ night is Friday from 6.30pm. We have teams in the York League, Harrogate League and Barkston Ash for men, women and mixed, and would encourage new members to play in them. BSTC also holds social tournaments and the dates this year are:

Pre-season Tournament SUNDAY MARCH 23rd

FINALS DAY SUNDAY 28th JUNE 2026

DRAWN PARTNERS DAY SEPTEMBER TBC

The Club is keen to welcome new players and families, so please come down or scan the QR code at the entrance to the Club or contact Pete Smith – Chairman on smithy472@sky.com or Sue Watson, Secretary on sue@suewatson.co.uk for information.



THE TERRACE LAWN TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB



Our history goes back over 100 years and we're still going, enjoying tennis, croquet, boules and great social events. We are a CASC Club. Anyone can visit us to play, and anyone can join, whether tennis, croquet, social or all three.

Tennis

We have 3 grass courts for social tennis. Saturday afternoons are Club Days for friendly mixed tennis, featuring tea and cakes/biscuits and a great opportunity to come down, play and meet people.



Croquet

We have two full size courts to accommodate social games and friendly matches against other clubs. Tea and cakes often feature!



Boules

All memberships include boules and visitors are welcome. Also, we are willing to host any boules/pétanque teams looking for a home.



Social

We have at least three social events each year, in addition to our open day during the Boston Spa Festival, and we have an evening barbecue on each of the last Saturdays between May and September, plus a lunchtime barbecue on the first Sunday in October.



It's a different and unique experience, whether in Boston Spa or the surrounding area for many miles.

Please give it a try. We are friendly, welcoming and supportive.

Whatever your age, you can play here. Family and Junior memberships are available and families and juniors are welcome as guests.

We support the Boston Spa Festival and are proud to be part of the local community.

You can view or contact us on:

Website: <https://www.bostonspalawntennis.com> or

Facebook: <https://facebook.com./bostonspalawntennis>

Contact: Bob Perry bob.perry104@gmail.com Chairman.

Liz Robinson bstltmemsec@gmail.com Memberships Secretary.

BOSTON SPA IN BLOOM



For the Summer of 2025 we replaced the three pavement-level planters outside St Mary's Church, and they again offered a colourful display for the season. The change from the old planters was assisted by two volunteer sources: a husband and a friend of one of our committee emptied the old containers and efficiently repurposed them; volunteers from the community programme from Wates contractors provided the person-power to refill them with the two tonnes of soil required.



The planters outside Costcutter were topped up by the same team and they were also involved in the preparation of a new site – we hope you have noticed (and admired) our most recent project. In Royal Terrace along the wall side of Costcutter we have created and arranged a bedded area from what had previously been an unloved and neglected area in the centre of the Village. Members of our committee completed the groundworks and planted bulbs and shrubs in the area which was previously attracting rubbish.

Wates Contractors have been involved in long term works at the British Lending Library site in Thorp Arch and for the past three years have offered their assistance for the 'heavy lifting' jobs within the village to help us with our ongoing schemes and maintenance. This is part of their community involvement and has been of great assistance to us. Once again, they were a cheerful and helpful team of people from a range of "day jobs" - and once again it didn't rain.

Rain – or lack of it – in 2025 offered some challenges for maintaining all our baskets,



planters and bed displays. Despite the setbacks, we were pleased to provide the best of summer displays.

The baskets for 2025 came from a change of supplier and were much admired for their wonderful blooms and village enhancement. For 2026, they are currently being prepared for installation at the end of May.



Our involvement for offering blooms in Boston Spa extends the length of the village: from the boundary sign on the roadside at West End to Kirby's at the south. There are ground level beds at Deepdale Lane and at Clarendon Road; raised beds and

street planters at the library, outside Costcutter, Royal Terrace, Stables Lane corner adjacent to the chemist, outside the Village Hall –the wall mounted hayracks- and at the smaller displays at the War Memorial. There are planters in the carpark in Stables Lane. The High Street from the Crown to the Doctors’ Surgery has a total of 80 hanging baskets.

Boston Spa in Bloom is all voluntary. A dedicated and hard-working team of nine people on the committee are involved in all the work required for providing the displays and have much appreciated help from family and friends. The watering required to maintain the displays is carried out by teams of volunteers who attend to the displays usually three times each week. The rota consists of some 60 people who give their support to the village for about 3 times during the season. We rely on all the support and are most appreciative of all the help and involvement.

So a request / invitation / suggestion:

We need more people to join us, please. This will enable us to continue with all the good efforts of Boston Spa in Bloom and to contribute to our part of the Village community.

If you would like to become involved, we would be very pleased to hear from you – for the watering rota, for assistance with planting, weeding, maintenance, for contribution to planning and fund raising and general administration on the committee.

Also:

All the baskets and displays are financed by sponsorship.

There are commercial and business contributors, personal sponsors and family, friends/neighbours’ groups and ‘in memoriam’ sponsors.

They are all a very important requirement and there are opportunities for all different displays.

Please can you consider this and support the village.

Contact: Richard (Chair) rw.harrison@talktalk.net 07923 494136

Thank you.

BOSTON SPA GARDENING SOCIETY

The Boston Spa Gardening Society was started over 35 years ago with just 10 enthusiastic members. Since then, the Society has thrived and with a current membership of around 70, holds regular monthly meetings at the Deepdale Community Centre in Boston Spa, on the last Wednesday evening of each month, each with a speaker who gives an illustrated talk or demonstration covering a wide range of garden and horticultural topics.

We try to maintain a “lightweight” approach as we want members to feel comfortable at the meetings and not intimidated by complicated Latin names or scientific jargon. The speakers often bring plants for sale and share anecdotes and jokes as well as gardening tips and advice – there is always something of interest.

This season’s topics will include “The National Trust Gardens of York” and “Alpines for All” and will also feature a welcome return of Martin Fish who will talk about “The Cutting Garden”.

In addition to the regular talks, each May we hold a plant sale with plants and cuttings donated from members’ gardens, as well as nursery-grown bedding stock. It is a very popular event with people queuing to snap up the bargains. We organise summer garden visits with a coach trip to a popular venue as well as a short visit to a smaller local garden.

Please check our Facebook Page, NextDoor or watch out for posters around the Village. For more information, please call **Hazel Wicks 01937 845954** or **Jane Thompson 07840 935890** - or simply come along on a Wednesday evening

*And finally - Understanding gardening isn't difficult; you just have to weed
between the lines*

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.bostonpapc.org.uk

BOSTON SPA, WETHERBY & VILLAGES GREEN GROUP



Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group

As a local community-based group, and registered charity, we've continued to focus our efforts on our 3 greatest strengths; **Big Bike Fix, local nature improvements and education.**

The **Big Bike Fix** recently reached another milestone of refurbishing over 1000 bikes, thank you so much to our team of fixers, it is truly inspiring what you are doing for our community, in repurposing possible waste. Sadly, you may know, we've not been successful in gaining further funding yet, but with the help of our volunteers we've been able to keep this initiative going, for now. If you wish to help in any way, please visit <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/cycling/big-bike-fix-weve-started-something-amazing/>

Locally, within our communities, you will also have seen **the many improvements to our natural environment all our volunteers continue to make**, including; new educational signage and natural hedge creation around Church Fields, path clearance and improvements along the riverside, orchard pruning in Deepdale and many more trees planted (to help with biodiversity, slowing rainwater runoff to prevent flooding and reduce heat islands). Thank you so much. People in our communities are noticing the hard work.



We also continue to work with local schools. It's great to see Lady Hastings Primary School achieve their Eco Schools Green Flag award for the 2nd year running, congratulations! We also continue to assist within the [STEM Learning; Climate Ambassadors Scheme](#) framework, which requires all educational settings to have a Sustainability Lead and a Climate Action Plan in place by the end of 2025.

We've continued to engage our broader communities in new and exciting ways, with our 2nd annual citizen science moth trapping and count exercise, a drier autumnal evening bat walk this year, a local Arborist talk, bi-annual litter picks, a new excess autumnal fruit & veg stall, an Eco Energy Fair in Wetherby, and a showing of Ocean at Wetherby Cinema - all well attended.

We have many more events planned for 2026, so please subscribe to our newsletter, so you don't miss out, via our home page.

As part of our education objective, we've been lucky enough for members of our community to start to share their low carbon journeys; articles such as "We've halved our energy bills!" and our journey with solar & battery can be found on our website. You can also learn more Ingrid in Wetherby about other retrofit home energy saving measures, as well as a family half-term train trip to the west coast of France. Seamless, comfortable, fast and enjoyable.



Don't forget, we have a huge amount of information on our website, so if you want to know more about energy saving, solar panels, batteries, heat pumps, cycling and recycling, please make yourself a brew, grab a biscuit and have a root around!

If you wish to learn more about the Community Group and its activities, please get in touch at adrian.balcombe@bostongreengroup.co.uk If you are unable to give your time, then we do continue to need funds to be able to purchase trees, tools, bike parts and more, so please consider donating to our Justgiving campaign at <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/just-giving/>

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 and thank you to those that do. The group litter picks whichever areas are bad e.g. the main road, Deepdale, the car parks, the main shopping area, the roads around the schools, the road up to the A1 including the roundabouts, layby and parking areas. We have the full support of the Parish Council and the LCC Ward Councillors, one of whom picks with us when she is available.

Through our efforts, and also the majority of you who do not drop litter, the village generally looks neat and tidy, but our pickers do complain about the used discarded dog poo bags by the river - please take them home with you, or use a litter bin in the village. It sounds obvious, but obviously it isn't to some people. Also, fishermen by the river -

can we respectfully ask that you take all your litter away - I removed a full carrier bag of food packaging tied to a tree branch this morning.



Last year, we had a major problem with the charity clothing banks at the entrance to Deepdale. It has been a little better this year so far, but still not great. The yellow Air Ambulance bin takes only CLOTHES AND SHOES; the blue Hope for Tomorrow cancer bin takes CLOTHING, SHOES, HANDBAGS AND HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES. Nothing else! People are leaving non-acceptable items (toys, books, child car seats and often general rubbish) which is strewn around the side of the bins, as well as permitted items that will not fit in the bins. The stipulated items must go WITHIN the metal bank - the 'stuff' that is dumped on the floor will NOT be collected,

and is also exposed to the elements, so becomes wet and dirty. It then becomes a big problem as we have to dispose of it, and your best intentions of giving to charity are negated by it going into landfill. So please be responsible - if the bins are full and you cannot get your stuff in there, don't leave it on the floor. This is classed as

fly tipping, for which you will be fined. There are options: try again on another day; 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 the more numerous charity shops in Wetherby, 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 in our cars and put in our own bins at home.

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. Three members of the team litter picked on the Wattle Syke roundabout to Collingham road which has been strewn with unsightly litter for some time - they collected 29 bags of it! Three other members litter picked both sides of the Boston to Wetherby Road (A168) and lost count of the number of bags collected. A member of the Boston Green Group also instigated the National Highways Agency to litter pick on the A1M Southbound slip road, which sadly is always unsightly. Whilst these areas are obviously not in our village, it does set the standard for the approach/exit to Boston - it is upsetting and annoying 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.



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

- remind and encourage your children to bin their litter or take it home
- if you're a dog walker - please don't leave poo bags tied on trees, or on the ground
- maybe try to pick up the odd piece of litter in the village and bin it
- report fly tipping to LCC, and they will collect it, and fine those involved (easy to report on their website)

Thank you for your support

St Mary's Church continued to flourish in 2025.

Our connections minister Joe Davies led events reaching out to the wider community in Boston Spa and beyond. The Bereavement Café supported those who had recently lost loved family members and friends, and the Refresh Parents Café provided parents and children with play facilities, light refreshments and a place to chat. Café Church on Saturday mornings at 10am continued to grow as a social space and light introduction to Christian worship. Jo also joined our altogether worship team which leads our popular "Altogether Worship" service on the first Sunday of each month. This service has been ably assisted by our music group providing lively accompaniment to the singing with keyboard, guitar, clarinet, and the occasional flute and brass addition.

Our curate Hannah Moore was ordained in Selby Abbey on 28th June in a service led by Bishop Flora and led her first eucharist shortly afterwards. We were delighted to celebrate these events with her. Other successes of the year were our continued support for Wetherby Food Bank and Wetherby Clothing Bank, our fundraising for Christian Aid, the continuance of the church yard as a calm place of remembrance and a haven for wildlife and our annual holiday club for children and young people which ran in the school summer holidays. We continued to host baptisms, weddings, funerals and memorial services and these were, of course, available to the whole community. We ended the year on a high note with an exceptionally large community Christmas choir and the church packed for many Christmas services. Please contact the church office with any enquiries: 01937 844402 or bramhambenefice@outlook.org.

ST MARY'S CHOIR

The Choir of St Mary's continues to develop, and the repertoire is constantly expanding. We now have over 20 singers. The Choir sings regularly for services on a Sunday morning and meets to rehearse on a Thursday evening. It is one of the few four-part church choirs in the area. It is the largest village church choir in the York 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 total of over 50 singers. This was a record number of singers and was a highlight of the year. The service was so well attended by parishioners that there was standing room only. Carols included: In the Bleak Mid-winter by Darke, The Truth from Above by Vaughan Williams, Whence is that Goodly Fragrance Flowing by Willcocks, Christmas Lullaby by Rutter, As with Gladness by Chilcott and Infant Holy by Willcocks. The usual Willcocks descants were sung to the congregational carols.

Whilst our choir is flourishing, we would still welcome new members, especially basses. We would also welcome children to join us. This is a great opportunity for children to have a free musical education. It is surprising how many world- famous musicians started life as choristers.

Our main rehearsal is on Thursday, 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 07703 575750 or email me on steveinyork@talktalk.net or simply turn up at St Mary's on a Thursday at 7pm.

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 restoration and re-siting of the organ has been a tremendous success in enhancing the clarity of music being played and in providing valuable space for the congregation and for visiting choirs, concerts and other musical groups.

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. Our last organ scholar, Peter Sharp, came to St Mary's as a scholar but due to his significantly increased skills in playing the organ, Peter was appointed assistant organist at St Mary's. Alas, the increasing demands of Peter's main job as a national train driver meant he was unable to commit to maintaining his duties at St Mary's and therefore had to resign his post. Peter is greatly missed but Steve Aston, our director of music and choirmaster is on the lookout for another organ scholar.

FOM life membership of £200 with annual subscriptions of £20 plus occasional fundraising events will provide the bursary for a future organ scholar. 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;

david.coates42@gmail.com



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 also hold a Communion Service at 9.30am on the first Wednesday of the month at Box Tree Court, to which we invite everyone, resident at the Court or not.

Our minister, Revd Abi Alex, abi.alex@methodist.org.uk also has churches at Appleton Roebuck, Church Fenton and Clifford for which he has overall care. 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. Details are available on our website www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk. Please contact Anne Hovell for more details. email: annehovell2011@gmail.com

Regular weekly church activities include:

Table Tennis

Two clubs continue to play every Monday in the church hall.

The afternoon "Ping Pong" group has been operating since 2017 and play from 2.30 until 5.00pm and offer social play and interaction. New members of all ages and ability are welcome to come and give it a try.

Contact: Jo Vernon 07963 660612 jovernon1@gmail.com

Senior Table Tennis

A new calendar year also marks the mid-season point in our league matches, which run from September to March. Both our A & B teams are currently in Division 4 of the Harrogate League which makes this season even more competitive. The A team currently holds first place with nine wins from nine matches, which inevitably means also beating the B team (previous winners of Division 5) who are finding the competition much harder at this level.

Throughout the year Club nights continue every Monday evening from 5.00 to 7.00pm with competitive social play.

Contact: David Hovell 01937 843445 david_hovell@hotmail.com

New players are welcome to both groups.

Coffee at the Crown

At 11.15 am every Wednesday, we invite anyone to join us at The Crown to enjoy a chat over coffee. This provides an opportunity to meet in a totally relaxed and neutral setting.

Concerts

On the second Friday of each month, we invite a variety of musicians to perform for a lunchtime concert (from 1.00pm – 2.00pm) and we are indebted to Margaret Jowett for arranging such a variety of entertainers. These concerts are always preceded by light lunches, kindly arranged by church members.

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.

Christmas

Last year we held the 11th Community Christmas Tree Festival, with 35 Christmas Trees decorated by individuals, local businesses, church and community groups. We enjoyed excellent performances from local schools and entertainers and were able to make a substantial donation to the Millie Wright Children's Charity.

The Christmas Tree Festival 2026 will run from the 11th to 13th 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.

Interaction with other churches

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 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

Shakespeare wrote “If music be the food of love, play on:”

At Boston Spa Methodist Church every second Friday of each month from January 2025 to December 2025 (with the exception of July and August) there has been music and food to feed our senses. Delicious light lunches to purchase from noon, thanks to the ladies of the church, followed at 1pm by an hour of professional musical talent, from artists who are happy to travel from all parts of the country. This season we have heard John Dunford on the organ, celebrated Valentines Day with Welsh National Opera Bass, Miles Taylor, accompanied by Linda Hinchliffe, enjoyed York Trombonist Ken Stamp, listened and learned about Oboe music from “The Kenwood – Reasbeck Duo”, Elizabeth Kenwood and Peter Reasbeck. Being the 80th anniversary of V.E.Day, “Serendipity”, Margaret Jowett and Kathy White in 1940 costume told the story of “Wartime Memories” in words and song.



Before the summer break we were sent off with an enthusiastic programme from Harrogate Harmony Barbershop Chorus, ringing in our ears. Refreshed we returned to a sparkling violin concert from highly acclaimed Charlotte Rowan accompanied by Charlotte Stephenson, followed in October by singer entertainer Emma James. In November we welcomed a Midlands pianist Mark Rose and the year ended at the Christmas Tree Festival with a performance by “The West Riding Concertina Ensemble,” a programme which included some audience carol singing.

Below you can see the full programme for 2026. Don’t miss the rest of the year. Look at the church website, watch for our monthly posters. Please come and join us for a concert of your choice- or for ALL our season- maybe sponsor a concert in memory of a lover of music. Concert tickets £6.00. Pay for food of your choice.

January 9th Katharine Ley Cello, with You-Chiung Lin Piano.

February 13th Bethany Hannah Winteringham Soprano, & Tom Owen Piano.

March 13th Eira Lynn Jones Harpist.
April 10th Kenwood-Reasbeck Duo, Oboes and Piano.
May 8th James Gaughan Baritone, with David Hammond Piano.
June 12th Sax Forte, Saxophone Quartet.
No concerts July or August

September 11th Grace Harman Trumpet, with Adele Bracegirdle Piano.
October 9th Ruth and James Sanderson Violin and Piano.
November 13th. Dash Quartet. Oboe Piano Flute and Clarinet.
December 4th PLEASE NOTE 1st Friday in December
Daytones Harmony Chorus.

So with apologies to Shakespeare, " Music IS the food of love" A warm welcome awaits at Boston Spa Methodist Church.

Further information from Margaret Jowett 01132682041 /07702977696 or email margaretjowett@btinternet.com
<http://www.bostonspa.methodistchurch.org.uk/whats-on/lunchtime-concerts>

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 and is run for the benefit of all the community. 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.

Since 2020 the trustees been successful in applying for numerous grants and using funds from their reserves which has enabled us to renovate the Main Hall, Jubilee Room and re-roof the area over the kitchen and cafe. During 2025 the trustees have self-funded renovation projects in the small meeting room now known as the Wharfe Room and commenced the renovation of the Lantern Room. A grant from Enterprise Mobility also paid for the cladding of the front stage.

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. Organised by Jazz in the Spa www.jazzinthespa.co.uk and Entertainment in the Spa www.entertainmentinthespa.com weekend music events are extremely popular. Please see their websites for further information.

ROOMS FOR HIRE

The Hall has various rooms for hire and there is a car park and cycle parking. The rooms offer a flexibility for most hirers, being three main rooms, a meeting room and the café area.

Main Hall

This is a spacious 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 newly renovated front of stage was completed with the generous donation from Enterprise Mobility.



Café area

The café attached to the main hall is transformed into the WiSE Community café on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 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. The café area can be hired out in the evening for small meetings.

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 60 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.



Wharfe Room

This is a smaller newly decorated modern room. It is ideal for meetings or small community events.

We also offer a Children's Party daytime rate at a weekend – 4 hours for the price of 3 hours which is very popular.

If you require further information or wish to book or view the Hall, then please use our online booking system which can be found using the link below:

<https://www.bostonspavillagehall.co.uk/bookings>

or send an email to

bsvhbooking@gmail.com.

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

Richard Ormondroyd

Chair of Trustees

Boston Spa Village Hall CIO

Registered Charity

JAZZ IN THE SPA

Don't let the word "jazz" put you off! We offer a broad range of music from swing, rock'n'roll, Latin, blues, big-band, cabaret and cater for traditionalists too but always top-class acts with entertainment at the forefront. Jazz in the Spa has the reputation of being the best jazz club in Yorkshire and it's right here in Boston Spa's own village hall!

Some of the highlights this year will include the fabulously entertaining trumpet player and singer **Georgina Jackson** who has a residency at Ronnie Scott's, the hot Latin sounds of Sérgio Mendes from **Carioca Soul**, resident pianist at Jools Holland's "The Jam House" in Birmingham, **Carl Sinclair** and his boogie band and a special Christmas Show featuring the **Northern Swing Orchestra with The Honeybirds** – a cracking 16 piece big band together with the best female close harmony trio around.

We continually seek to improve the experience at our shows and have recently added new uplights and a back curtain to our side-stage. It's a great atmosphere and always friendly, we can meet, greet and seat you if you've not been before and everyone is welcome - young, old, singles and couples. There's no need to book, just pay on the door only £15.00 cash or card. Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles as it's informal cabaret-style seating.

Saturday evenings throughout the year - doors open 7:00pm, show 8:00pm–10:30pm

For the full programme go to our website: www.jazzinthespa.co.uk

Run by Ken and Brenda Waller, Heather Galloway and Ian Gomersall
Contact us via the website or e-mail: bspa.concerts@btinternet.com



ENTERTAINMENT IN THE SPA



Launched in 2023, Entertainment in the Spa is the sister brand to Jazz in the Spa encompassing different genres of entertainment. Run by the same friendly team of volunteers these events are also held at Boston Spa Village Hall at various times throughout the year and follow the same successful formula with cabaret-style seating and BYOB arrangement, except all tickets to be purchased in advance via our website, not pay on the door.

We've got some fantastic shows lined up for this year... **Buddy Holly's Winter Dance Party** – a recreation of their last tour, featuring Buddy Holly and the Counterfeit Crickets, Dion, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper; **Twist'n'Shout** – a West End sixties musical extravaganza; **Absolute Benson** – George Benson tribute; **The Faulty Towers Dining Experience** – a fully immersive, highly interactive and completely original two hour comedy show including a three course meal; our old friend **Snake Davis** and his band; **The Anchormen Big Band** cabaret night; **We Three Kings of Rock'n'Roll** and **Dominic Halpin's New Year's Eve Show**.

As word is getting round that we've got some top-class acts right here on your doorstep, our shows are selling out quickly so the best way to stay informed is to subscribe to the Entertainment in the Spa newsletter through our website.

For more information and to buy tickets go to: www.entertainmentinthespa.com

Run by Ken and Brenda Waller, Heather Galloway and Ian Gomersall

NOSTALGIA

NOSTALGIA was set up in Oct 2016 by Ken & Brenda Waller who had been running similar singalongs around the area for several years. It is a friendly informal singalong, meeting the first Friday each month in The Jubilee Room, Boston Spa Village Hall 1-30pm - 3-15pm, £5 entrance includes refreshments. Proceeds go to Village Hall Improvements.

With Ken on guitar, we sing songs from 40s, 50s, 60s, the ones we remember from our youth. Song sheets are handed out and it is a very friendly welcoming atmosphere. For information call Brenda on 07774 125821.

DEEPDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

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 gardening, yoga, U3A, art, quilting and craft as well choir and band practice. Christmas and Easter are popular for one-off events like children's parties.

Situated just off the High Street, at the West end of Boston Spa on Deepdale Lane, adjacent to the children's playground. There are 2 well-equipped rooms available for hire. Facilities include a fully fitted kitchen, disabled access and 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, area meeting or reunion, 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.

Our year began with the Guides starting with a brilliant visit from the Mobile Police Museum, the Guides were spellbound by the stories about policing and loved dressing up in vintage police uniforms. We also had a presentation from a Peer educator who is a member of Guiding aged between 14-25 on the theme Save the World which helped the girls in exploring topics which are relevant to them. The Guides also took part in activities to celebrate International Women's Day. We finished the term with a cookout where the Guides practised their fire lighting skills and cooking a supper and of course marshmallows!

In the Summer term we usually concentrate on outdoor activities including a hike and chip supper, more cookouts, and activities by the river. In June we went on camp at Wynches near Ilkley and took part in camp activities such as learning to cook over Trangia stoves and getting the train into Ilkley and taking part in a treasure hunt around Ilkley and swimming at the Lido. In July, the Guides took part in the Boston Spa Festival, holding a stall outside Costcutter selling cakes to raise funds for our Unit camp fund alongside 1st Boston Spa Brownies.

The Autumn term saw the Guides continuing with their Patrol activities and working towards their theme awards. As usual we took part in the annual Remembrance Day parade and later in the term, they engaged in other activities including making decorations for our tree in the Christmas tree festival and ice skating at the designer outlet at York.

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

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

BOSTON SPA TREFOIL GUILD

Trefoil membership is open to anyone over the age of 18. It is a place to find friendship and fun, and meet new people in your area, you can be flexible with how Trefoil works for you. Get involved in an exciting programme of activities and learn new skills or listen to fascinating speakers. We have so much to offer.

We meet on the third Tuesday afternoon of each month at Clifford Village Hall, Albion Street. We have had a varied calendar of activities; over the last year we have enjoyed guest speakers to talk about the work of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and the history of the Police Force, attended county led walks, tried archery and axe throwing as well as crafts, cooking and quizzes to name but a few.

We also enjoyed trips to York for afternoon tea, Wetherby cinema and the Girlguiding Leeds County Campsite at Robin Hole, Ilkley, we rounded off the year with a Christmas lunch at the Tickled Trout.

Our members help at the Wetherby Scout and Guide Shop as part of their rota and assist at local Guiding units if needed and guiding events. Each year we support a charity. In 2025 our chosen charity was Wise (Wetherby in support of the elderly). For more information please contact Audrey Morrall audreymorrall@yahoo.co.uk 07854 318822 or check out our national website <https://www.trefoilguild.co.uk>

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.

SPA SURGERY

At Spa Surgery, we are proud to care for our local community of just under 7,000 patients. We're more than just a GP practice — we're your neighbours, and we're here to support you and your family at every stage of life.

We understand how important it is to feel listened to, respected, and cared for. Our team works hard to provide friendly, personalised healthcare in a welcoming environment where you feel comfortable and supported.

How We Care for You

We offer a wide range of services to help keep you and your loved ones well:

Everyday Medical Care

Whether it's a cough that won't go away, a new concern, or a routine health check, we're here to help.

Proactive Care & Health Advice

We believe in helping you stay well, not just treating you when you're unwell. We offer advice, screenings, and support to keep you healthy.

Support for Long-Term Conditions

If you're living with diabetes, asthma, COPD, heart disease or other ongoing conditions, we provide regular reviews, monitoring, and personalised support.

Joint Injections On-Site Our GPs are trained to carry out joint injections at the surgery, saving you time and extra appointments elsewhere.

Childhood Vaccinations

We help protect your children's health with essential immunisations in a calm and caring setting.

Weekly Women's Health Clinics

Dedicated appointments focused on women's health and wellbeing.

Meet Our Team

Our friendly and experienced team includes:

- Six dedicated GPs
- GPs in training, bringing fresh knowledge and enthusiasm
- Two skilled Practice Nurses
- Two Healthcare Assistants
- An onsite Pharmacist to support with medications and prescriptions

Together, we work as one team with a shared goal — providing safe, high-quality care with kindness and respect.

Supporting You at Home

We know that some members of our community need extra support.

- Our Care Coordinators visit frail and vulnerable patients at home, including those living with dementia, to ensure they receive the care they need in familiar surroundings.
- Our Visiting Paramedic provides daily home visits for patients who are housebound, helping to deliver timely care when it matters most.

Here for Our Community

At Spa Surgery, we believe healthcare works best when it's built on trust and understanding. We value the relationships we build with our patients and families, and we are committed to caring for our community with compassion, respect, and dedication.

Your health truly is our priority.

Alison Briscombe

Practice Manager

spasurgery.admin@nhs.net

MARTIN HOUSE

Big changes for Martin House Children's Hospice

For the past 12 months, work has been continuing on THE BUILD, our major transformation project to extend and refurbish Martin House Children's Hospice.

This is a major £21.9m project to extend and refurbish Martin House, driven by the need to ensure we continue the best possible care to children and young people with complex, life-shortening conditions now and for many more years to come.

Since Martin House opened, advances in medicine have meant that children live longer, and with more complex conditions. So, it was vital for us to upgrade our facilities to give our specialist care team the outstanding facilities they need to deliver care.

We completed the first phase of this ambitious project in February 2025, opening our new children's wing, which has spacious new ensuite bedrooms that feature integrated hoist systems and piped oxygen to every bed.

The new wing also has updated parents' bedrooms, a larger lounge and dining area, new kitchen, playroom, art and music rooms, as well as more private space for families.

Families have been enjoying this new space, while work continued throughout 2025 on the second phase of the project to build a new hydrotherapy pool and education centre, extend and refurbish our teenage wing, and create a new wellbeing centre, with a day hospice, treatment and consulting rooms.

This work is nearly complete, and we are looking forward to fully reopening the hospice, so we can continue to provide the specialist care children and young people with life-shortening conditions need now and for many years into the future.

We would like to thank the community in Boston Spa for their continued support and patience during this major building project.

To find out more about Martin House and how to support us, visit our website www.martinhouse.org.uk.



BOSTON SPA ROTARY CLUB
(Sponsored by Wetherby Wharfedale)

Wetherby Wharfedale Rotary 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 friendship, helping others and doing good in the world. We are working with other community groups and local schools on projects to benefit the local community.



In 2025, in Boston Spa, Rotary continued to support Martin House, sponsored and helped with the Boston Spa Festival and Party in the Park, and assisted the Friends of Stables Lane group.

Rotary's own international charity, The Rotary Foundation, is committed to ending polio in the world. This year, we sponsored a tree in the Community Christmas Tree Festival held in the Methodist Church, with an "End Polio Now" Teddy Bears' Picnic around our tree (children loved it!)

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. This year, we sent 326 boxes to deprived children in Eastern Europe – we hope to do more next year.

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!

We want more lovely people to join us; to learn more, email: bs1rotary@gmail.com – we would love to hear from you.

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 week-long Rotary Youth Leadership Award Course at Hebden Hey which is run by professional instructors. Each young person who has attended tells us of the great value gained from the course in developing their confidence and in 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 also 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 worldwide programme to rid the world of Polio. Since Rotary International began this programme of eradication over 36 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 07850 600798 who will be delighted to hear from you.

WETHERBY & DISTRICT LIONS



2025 was another busy year for the Wetherby Lions.

January is a quiet month for most but for the Lions it includes one of the highlights of our year, our Midwinter Party. 180 senior citizens gathered at Wetherby High School as our Mayor called the numbers for a game of bingo, Councillor Alan Lamb and his team cooked lunch and we were entertained with live music

from *Tandem* and a chance to dance off the excesses of dinner.

In June we worked with the Bandstand Trust to stage the 3rd, and now annual, Drover's Day marching band competition with 20 teams from across Yorkshire and beyond competing for some prestigious prizes. Drover's Day reminds us that cattle used to be herded from Scotland to the south of England through Wetherby. The sun shone as the bands marched down the High Street to the Bandstand to applause from a very appreciative audience. The day was made possible with the help of the Air Training Corp, a grant from the Wetherby Town Council, support from local businesses and donations on the day. The competition will return to Wetherby on the 14th June 2026.

In the summer we were busy at school fairs and Tockwith Show with our ever-popular cuddly lions and hugely competitive flat cap throwing competitions. A unique Yorkshire game!

November's Big Biz Quiz was once again hotly contested with businesses across Wetherby competing for a much-coveted trophy. Kemps Bookshop took first place. One point ahead of their three closest rivals. Thank you to all who took part and helped us to raise £800 for local causes.

We enjoyed some great summer weather, but this changed as we dusted down Santa's sleigh and set off on our annual street collections – 15 days and no two the same with a lot of rain and a lot of pleasure as children came to see Santa with looks of complete awe on the faces. All told Santa how good they had been!

Our Christmas market was back to normal this year with Santa's grotto, market stalls and live music. Townsperson of the Year 2026 was awarded to Louise Pedley. Louise was recognised for her work as a supporter, and chair, of many local organisations perhaps her largest contribution being the setting up of 'Wetherby Families and Friends' in 2016 a Facebook page to help inform families of local

events, give people a place to share information and ask questions to help their family settle in Wetherby. In accepting the award Louise said: "I am very surprised and honoured to have been awarded Wetherby Townsperson of the Year 2026. I love my local community of Wetherby and get a lot of satisfaction from helping others. It's a great feeling to know that I am making a difference and that others appreciate my efforts."

Throughout 2025 we received a lot of support and help from local businesses, the Town Council and of course the residents of Wetherby, Boston Spa and surrounding villages. Particular thanks go to the Wetherby Whalers Explorers Scout Unit who have helped us with many of the events we have run this year. It is great to see them taking such an active part in community life and is a partnership we would like to develop further.

Santa's sleigh is packed away for another year, but we have plenty planned for 2026.

If you would like to know more about our work, or would like to get involved take a look at our website www.wetherbylions.org follow us on social media @wetherbylions or contact 0345 833 9529. We are always looking to welcome new Lions and helpers.

A big thank you for your support from the Wetherby Lions

Wetherby District Lions Club

A Charity Commission Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registration Number 1166656



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Working together at the heart of our community

Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team is committed to being an active visible part of the community we serve. We believe that strong relationships help build safer neighbourhoods, which is why we value attending local coffee mornings, community events, and meetings whenever possible.

We would also like to invite residents to our **PACT (Police and communities Together)** meetings, which take place on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at Wetherby Methodist Church, Bank Street, Wetherby, LS226NQ.

Whilst these meetings are for the whole of Wetherby ward, they provide an opportunity to discuss local policing, crime, and community safety issues for all the local parishes. Police Officers and local parish and ward councillors attend and work closely together to address issues raised by members of the public. Our strong partnership allows us to jointly problem-solve and respond effectively to local concerns.

PACT meetings are open to everyone, and we encourage residents to come along, share their views, and help shape local policing priorities.

In the meantime, we will continue to be present within the Boston Spa parish, focussing on your priorities, issues and concerns. If you see us, feel free to say hello and ask our advice.

If you are holding any events, meetings or coffee mornings please contact us. We would be happy to attend, when possible, you can make contact via email for such requests on the following email address or just come along to the next PACT meeting to discuss with your officers in person.

nel.npt@westyorkshire.police.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 2026 programme and contact info is below.



Boston Sparklers
WI Events 2026

7TH JANUARY CUBAN SALSA DEMO AND BEGINNERS LESSON BLOW AWAY THE XMAS COBWEBS WITH A LITTLE GENTLE EXERCISE	4TH FEBRUARY BYSTANDERS CAN BE LIFESAVERS LEARN HOW TO SAVE THE LIFE OF FRIENDS, FAMILY OR EVEN A STRANGER!	4TH MARCH FROM PRISON TO PALACE THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF A YORKSHIRE LASS
1ST APRIL THE PIRATE GAME A FUN EVENING OF ROBBING, STEALING AND LAUGHTER GALORE!	6TH MAY HAND MADE SOAP MAKING PAMPER YOURSELF WITH A BESPOKE TREAT TO TAKE HOME	3RD JUNE PRICKLY PIGS HEDGEHOG RESCUE FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT HEDGEHOGS AND TOP TIPS ON HOW TO HELP THEM
1ST JULY MOLLY THE BUTLER AMAZING TALES OF WORKING LIFE IN A YORKSHIRE STATELY HOME	5TH AUGUST WILLOW WEAVING WEAVE A LITTLE MAGIC TO DECORATE YOUR HOME OR GARDEN	2ND SEPTEMBER MY YORKSHIRE LIFE A LIGHT HEARTED REVIEW OF LIFE AS A 'CUMMER INNER' TO THE COUNTY
7TH OCTOBER AGM FOLLOWED BY FISH AND FIZZ	4TH NOVEMBER CHAPTER ORGANICS LUXURY AROMATHERAPY TO ENHANCE YOUR WELLBEING	2ND DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY FUN, FOOD AND FROLICS WITH A FESTIVE FEEL

WE MEET ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
IN BOSTON SPA VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM
FURTHER INFORMATION FROM [BOSTONSPAWI@YAHOO.CO.UK](mailto:bostonspawi@yahoo.co.uk)

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

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 information and advice, grass cutting, transport scheme, Send a Smile scheme and regular social activities to reduce isolation and loneliness.

In 2025 was a strong year – with more than 17,500 interactions being recorded.

The WiSE Owl Café at Boston Spa Village Hall continues to go from strength to strength – reaching a record-breaking number of visitors last year. WiSE also launched a popular men's breakfast club at the cafe every Friday, creating a new social space for older men.

Demand for grass cuts and winter maintenance visits as part of the grass cutting scheme increased last year, plus the charity's Information & Advice services totalled 520 people.

Memory Café – which supports those living with dementia and their carers - saw 820 attendances, up 170 on the year before, and WiSE introduced a new quarterly Forget Me Not Café to give carers a few hours of respite.

Attendance at the charity's regular timetables activities increased – plus special events - including trips to Beamish, Blackpool, a York River cruise, Wetherby Racecourse, Christmas bingo and parties – were enjoyed by many.

Welcome Café, the charity's "pay as you feel" warm spaces café, supported 1,300 attendances and WiSE's transport services delivered 430 journeys.

The charity continues to be powered by its amazing volunteers. In 2025, 120 volunteers gave a combined 6,850 hours of their time - up 150 hours on last year - helping WiSE deliver vital services across the community.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this happen.

As 2026 progresses, WiSE wants to continue to build on these successes by enhancing 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](https://www.facebook.com/wetherbywise)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026

Monday	19th	January	2026
Monday	16th	February	2026
Monday	16th	March	2026
Monday	20th	April	2026
Monday	18th	May	2026
Monday	15th	June	2026
Monday	20th	July	2026
Monday	17th	August	2026
Monday	21st	September	2026
Monday	19th	October	2026
Monday	16th	November	2026
Monday	21st	December	2026

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.



SAVE THE DATES

Boston Spa Gala

St John's Catholic Specialist School

Saturday 13th June 2026

Boston Spa Scarecrow Trail

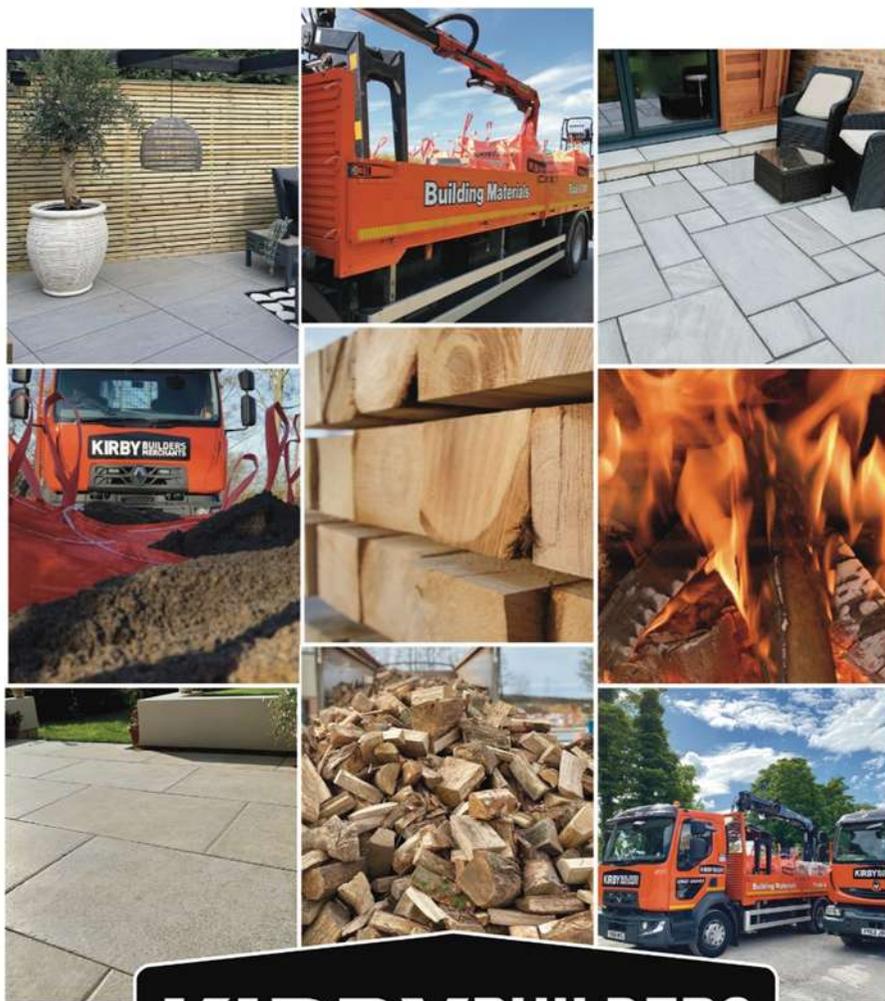
Wednesday 8th to Tuesday 14th July 2026

Boston Spa Weekend Festival

10th, 11th & 12th July 2026

Boston Spa Party in the Park

Sunday 12th July 2026



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www.kirbybuildersmerchants.co.uk