

BOSTON SPA PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2025

60th Edition

THE PARISH COUNCIL

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Front cover images. Top: Boston Spa High Street looking west in c1965. Below: High Street looking east in c1955 and St Mary's Church in 1965. Images supplied by The Francis Frith Collection. All rights reserved.

**THE
BOSTON SPA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2025 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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

Monday	20th	January	2025
Monday	17th	February	2025
Monday	17th	March	2025
Monday	28th	April	2025
Monday	19th	May	2025
Monday	16th	June	2025
Monday	21st	July	2025
Monday	18th	August	2025
Monday	15th	September	2025
Monday	20th	October	2025
Monday	17th	November	2025
Monday	15th	December	2025

Boston Spa Parish Council
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 2025

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 2023-24 £	Projected 2024-25 £	Budget 2025-26 £
INCOME			
Leeds City Council precept	60,413	74,150	78,417
Council Tax Support Grant	1,554	1,632	1,656
CIL Monies	0	0	0
Grants & Donations	6,171	1,586	0
Stables Lane Hire	1,235	1,030	1,225
Festival Pitch Fees	310	300	0
Allotment Rents	962	885	945
Newsletter Adverts	50	175	175
TOTAL INCOME	70,695	79,758	82,418
EXPENDITURE			
Stables Lane Park & Skate Park	5,784	4,570	5,700
Village Hall	3,500	3,500	3,500
Open Spaces/Riverside	22,433	12,567	21,007
Admin costs	16,529	20,678	26,850
Community Events & Support	3,338	3,007	3,335
Defibrillators	289	310	150
Audit	665	665	700
Insurances	1,118	1,143	1,472
Allotments	766	369	3,404
Christmas Lights	13,159	7,377	6,000
War Memorial	0	0	300
NON-RECURRING COSTS			
Improvements - Stables Lane Park	13,389	5,300	10,000
Improvements - Village Hall	7,483	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	88,453	59,486	82,418
NET INCOME	-17,758	20,272	0

Welcome to the Annual Newsletter of 2025

Chairman's Report from Councillor Keith Blake

I always seem to start my chairman's report in the same way by thanking my fellow Councillors for their support over the past 12 months. Without their work and support the Parish Council would not have been able to achieve what it has for the community this past year. A special thanks also goes to Deborah, our Clerk who keeps the Parish Council running smoothly and on budget. I would like to welcome a new Councillor, Anne Watts who joined us in August 2024. We still have a vacancy for a Councillor so if you are interested, please contact the Clerk or call me for a chat. The Parish Council also works with the Ward Councillors on many issues and we appreciate their continuing support.

Although the work on the village centre is largely complete, some issues are still outstanding from wear and tear such as overflowing gullies, missing bollards and broken tree grates. We are working with LCC Highways to resolve these problems. The new double yellow lines are in place around Church Mews and resident parking has been introduced on Bridge Close. Bridge Road parking has been adjusted to improve traffic flows. Our thanks go to Boston in Bloom for their continuing support in maintaining the many planters and flower beds around the village.

Another aspect of the Village Plan was the reduction in car parking spaces outside Yeadon's. The Parish Council met with local traders, Ward Councillors, Leeds Parking Services and local accessibility representatives to agree changes to the central car park. The car park now has more bays, limited time (30 minute) bays and layout improvements have been made to the disability bays. A new disability bay was marked out in the Stables Lane car park and the disability bays in the Church Fields car park have been marked out in more detail. A further meeting was held with the Village Accessibility Group to look at the improvements that can be in the village. Some of the requests are outside the direct control of the Parish Council but we are happy to support where we can.

PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm in Wetherby Methodist Church and members of the public are welcome to attend to talk directly to the police. In addition, the Ward Councillors are holding road safety meetings for members of the public where a Leeds Highways Officer is also in attendance. These are held at 5.30pm prior to the PACT meeting and also take place across the surrounding villages each month. Current proposals include new pedestrian crossings at the far east and west ends of the village, the prevention of lorry traffic on Wharfe Bridge and parking and speeding on the High Street.

Stables Lane Park continues to be well used, and we have made further improvements by installing rubber mulch safety matting around some of the play equipment. The car park has been resurfaced with a treatment that allows water to drain through to prevent run off. Some areas are showing signs of wear due to the surface settling and we will continue to monitor the surface and repair as required. A new sign has been installed at the entrance giving useful information and contact details to report any issues with the facilities. The Friends of Stables Lane Group (FOSL) and the volunteers continue to ensure the park is safe and tidy for all users. The PC is very grateful for all the work put in by all parties. Additional accessible benches are planned for 2025, and these will be placed near the tennis courts.

I am pleased to report that anti-social behaviour and vandalism have not been as much of a problem as in previous years. The Leeds ASB team have been involved but I would urge anyone observing bad behaviour to report to the Police on 101 or better still the WYP website to ensure it is logged.

The weather at the 2024 Weekend Festival was disappointing on the Saturday although the Sunday was much better. We are conducting a review of how the park can best support the festival and other events. The Parish Council now has a dedicated Community Events Committee who are currently planning the summer event and exploring a Christmas event in the village centre. Details are available on the Parish Council website and events will be publicised in the e-newsletter.

Allocation and maintenance of the allotments on Stables Lane and off Westwood Way are the responsibility of the Parish Council. As part of the ongoing improvements, a new fence and gate will be installed at the Westwood Way site. There is a waiting list for allotments, but if you are interested in taking a plot please email the Clerk.

The Parish Council continues to support the Village Hall and recent work has included new panels to improve the acoustics. Work to the Committee Room is planned this year and the village is lucky to have such a facility for the community to use.

Following the installation of the bus shelter outside St Mary's Church, it was agreed that the Parish Council would explore putting a shelter on the opposite side of the road. We have approached WYCA to see what options are available as the pavement is very narrow.

Last year we had the disappointing news that the Wharfe at Boston Spa did not get bathing water status. Subsequent to that, the decision for Wetherby was reversed and while it will not directly affect Boston Spa, we are close enough to Wetherby for it to have some beneficial impact. Work has continued on the woodland areas to reduce trees at risk as identified in the woodland survey. Felled logs are being left in place as a habitat for insects and the Parish Council kindly asks that people do not remove them.

The maintenance of the Church Fields green spaces has now been given to a new contractor who also looks after Stables Lane Park. Mike Gadd and his team of volunteers have just finished hedge laying alongside the car park and riverside footpath. This is part of a longer-term project to reduce shading, make the area more ecologically sound and promote growth at a lower level alongside the footpath. Mike has worked with the contractor to look at the best way to promote growth in the wildflower meadow. The Parish Council is very grateful to Mike and his team for their work. If anyone would like to assist with volunteering their time, please email the Clerk.

On planning and development, the application by McCarthy and Stone to build a 49 dwelling retirement living accommodation at the former St Vincent's School site has now gone to appeal and we await the results. The application for 13 dwellings on the site east of Church Street is still being considered by the Leeds Planners.

The Boston Spa Neighbourhood Plan review is underway with Councillor Gail Bowen leading the working group consisting of Councillors and residents together with representatives from Leeds City Council. Working groups have been set up and contact will be made with schools, local traders and other interested parties for further comments. A review of overall planning law by Central Government is likely to have an impact at some point on local plans which the working group may need to consider. Information on the ongoing process will be in the Parish Council minutes and e-newsletter and more public meetings will be held as the plan develops.

Following the installation of the new LED lamp post Christmas lights in 2023 some further changes were made in 2024. The Parish Council held an online survey in January to obtain public feedback. The results were mixed but overall, a scheme of white lights is preferred as Boston Spa is a conservation area. The Parish Council is currently holding meetings with Leeds Lights to discuss the designs for 2025.

Members of the public are invited to join us at the PC meetings which are held on the third Monday of every calendar month at 7.00pm. The first 20 minutes are set aside for public questions and concerns. As mentioned, the Parish Council has one

vacancy so please contact the Clerk at clerk@bostonspapc.org.uk if you would like more information.

BACK IN 1965

The Parish Council's annual newsletter is now in its 60th year. 1965 was a critical year for Boston Spa and the 1960s saw a period of huge change for the village.

The Chairman in 1965 was a Mrs Marjorie North who presented her report at the annual meeting of the Parish on 22nd March 1965 where 34 residents were in attendance. The Chairman's Report highlighted the positive work of the Parish Council in agreeing to install two tennis courts to the recently acquired Stables Lane playing field, new street lighting at the West End Estate and the provision of a car park on the High Street. However, it seems likely that most residents attended to express their concerns about the rapid development of the village.

By the early 1960s, the land at Clarendon Lodge was being sold in plots, Lee Orchards was being constructed, and the Parish Council had also received word that housing developments had been proposed on land at Boston Lodge, Clifford Moor Road, Chestnut Grove, and the Riverside View areas. It was noted in the minutes that by March 1962 planning consent had been given for 55 acres of land in Boston Spa. Later that year in November, the Parish Council was shocked to learn that the Yorkshire Post had published an article and artist's impression of a proposed development of Church Fields. A letter was sent to the Wetherby Express and Boston Spa News making the Parish Council's position clear that the Church Field should be retained as an open space for the benefit of the community. A public enquiry in August 1964 ensured it remained this way (for the time being).

At that time, Parish Councils were not consulted on planning applications and the Parish Council were growing increasingly concerned about the number of new houses. In February 1963, the Parish Council formed a Development Committee with the purpose of designing a Village Plan. It also drew up a provisional list of buildings with architectural or historical interest and began to look at the preservation of trees. In 1967, the Parish Council developed a proposed outline for a Conservation Area.

It was noted in the 1967 annual newsletter that a very long battle had been won when Wetherby Rural Council agreed to submit planning applications to each of its Parish Councils and allow 14 days for their observations. The Village Plan was several years in the making but came in useful in ensuring the village had a second car park on Stables Lane (in the garden of the late Dr Lee) and that the land to the south of the Stables Lane playing field would be the site for a new primary school.

The Parish Council also acquired the land at the entrance to Clarendon Road for a small public garden and thanks to a gift of £850 from an anonymous donor, were able to erect the bus shelter.

Towards the end of the 1960s further significant developments were proposed on the land to the rear of Boston Hall, at Carleton House, to the rear of Westwood Lodge and the north of Primrose Lane. In November 1970, the Parish Council were pleased to acknowledge the changes made by Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co Ltd in amending the design and layout of the Primrose Lane estate so it included open spaces, tree planting and grassed areas to be maintained by the Parish Council.

Also, in the 1960s:

- In 1967 Jackdaw Crag and the surrounding woodland was generously gifted by Sir George Martin to the Parish Council for the enjoyment of the public.
- It was proposed that the closed railway line from Church Fenton to Wetherby become a by-pass road to divert traffic away from the village
- The High Street car park was proposed for use as a bus station
- A holiday caravan site was proposed on the field behind Deepdale. This was strongly objected to by the Parish Council
- The land at Chestnut Grove on the former secondary school site was granted as a children's playground and this successfully went ahead. The Parish Council also pressed for land at the West End estate to be used for a playground
- The first sports pavilion was erected at Stables Lane playing fields
- Aside from traffic and parking on the High Street, the Parish Council were deeply concerned about dogs that were roaming freely on the roads.

The map overleaf shows the outline of the village in 1952, prior to the major developments on Clifford Moor Road, Primrose Lane, Westwood Way, Clarendon Road, Parkfield Drive and River View in the 1960s and 70s.

Boston Spa 1952





BOSTON SPA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

An even better Boston Spa?
Retain what we most value, develop what we most need.

A Neighbourhood Plan sets out a plan for a particular locality and describes how it aspires to develop. It contains background information and identifies priorities with linked policies and guidance for development. Boston Spa already has an excellent Neighbourhood Plan – but it was created more than a decade ago and the world has changed significantly since it was written.

The Parish Council decided to review the current Plan, to bring it up to date and make it more ‘future proof’. As a part of that process, the Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Group (NPAG) was set up to do this work. The key starting point for NPAG was to talk to local people and users of the village. So, we began a series of consultation events and many of you responded to the invitation to share your views. In total, many hundreds of responses were received from local people during our ‘Even Better Boston Spa’ consultations on the Boston Spa Neighbourhood Plan (BSNP) and we thank everyone for their comments to date. However, just getting ideas and comments is not the end of the process – far from it – the consultation has helped to set an agenda for a revision of the BSNP, but there is still much work to do.

During the consultation, many things were highlighted as important for the village and its development. It is really hard to pick out the ‘top’ issues raised – there were so many and they were so diverse – some of them being issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to address but many being issues for others to pick up, such as community groups, the Parish Council, Leeds City Council, etc. Some of the headline issues and concerns included:



Transport – not surprisingly, there were requests for a return to the half hourly number 7 bus, with greater reliability, but probably the most frequent request was for a direct bus to York – something that was identified as important to Boston Spa residents over a decade ago.

Cycling – people want to cycle but don’t feel safe doing so. We need safe cycling routes, not just for recreation but for links with Tadcaster, Wetherby and Leeds.

Parking – this was a big issue. Much concern was expressed about illegal parking activity and the need for better signage was highlighted. Residential parking is a problem for some, particularly near schools.

Traffic – real concerns were expressed about the safety of pedestrians relating to the speed of traffic going through the village and people were worried about HGV vehicles using the village as a ‘rat run’, making the village centre feel very unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists.

Businesses – we are very fortunate to have such diversity and excellence in the quality of businesses in the village – even better now that we have physiotherapy, podiatry and IT services, to name but a few. However, concern was expressed about how we maintain this level of diversity – and about access issues. Some of the premises are very difficult to enter for wheelchair users and for those using wheeled walking aids.

Stables Lane – we got lots of brilliant feedback about this superb resource for the village.

Facilities – some people told us they wanted more benches/seating – right along the length of the village. There was good feedback for our GP and dental surgeries, but some people were worried about capacity, particularly in the light of more residential development (locally, but also in Clifford and the Tadcaster area).

The Riverside – this area is very much valued as a recreational area, but much concern was shared about the quality of the water which inhibits swimming and other recreational activities.

Young people - a lot of concern was expressed about the lack of facilities and activities for young people, in particular teenagers. People wanted to see ‘our own’ youth worker, homework clubs and investment in quality facilities for outdoor activities including football, skateboarding, etc.

Housing – as ever, the need for more affordable housing was recognised as a high priority, along with a better supply of smaller housing units. We heard that there was a lot of anxiety about potential building development encroaching into local greenbelt.

Green issues – there was a big emphasis on green issues – about properties being built without solar panels and lacking other, ‘built in’ green technologies, and the challenge of retrofitting for older properties, in order to aim for as near as possible

to zero carbon. There were lots of comments about the need to seek alternative ways of creating energy.

Community – we heard lots of very positive comments about many village events, but equally, people want to see more happening, to create even more of a community feel, so that people can ‘stay local’ for entertainment and activity.

Access issues – these were raised over and over again. A major concern is the problem of negotiating pavements and access into shops for the less able.

Deepdale – a lot of people wanted to see more of a focus on this part of the village and on the Deepdale Community Centre. People wanted to see a shop, toilets, planting and seating and to make better use of the existing buildings.

Village Centre – many people liked the work done to date on the village centre but wanted it to go much further and hoped to see more effective traffic calming measures developed. They also wanted more public seating and cycle racks and better public lavatories, and perhaps some kind of seating/shelter.

So, if we take all of that, and everything else we heard about during the consultation events, plus all of the other things that feed into planning, such as new Government policies, Leeds City Council policies, new trends and developments such as an increase in the number of people working from home (WFH) and the availability of new green technologies, etc we have a real challenge to bring it all together into a revised, bold and effective BSNP.

And this is where you (might, we hope) come in. We need help: your time, your ideas, your expertise and your perspective on things, and for you to be able to keep up to date with what we are doing on the BSNP.

To do this work we have established five informal ‘working groups’ to explore the five key areas we want to work on, to revise our BSNP. The key areas are:

Energy

To promote, encourage and facilitate energy reduction (including embedded energy) and renewable energy solutions and make Boston Spa a more sustainable place.

Buildings

To ensure that both the development of new buildings and the adaptation of existing buildings respect the special character of Boston Spa and meet the housing

needs of existing and future populations whilst incorporating stretching and progressive sustainability standards.



Transport

To work with others to improve public transport, reduce traffic and increase opportunities for active travel and seek other pioneering ways that Boston Spa can be more and better connected.

Green Spaces and Biodiversity

To promote, protect and further develop green spaces and connected wildlife habitats

and make Boston Spa an even more sustainable, safer and healthier place to live.

Business & Community

To preserve the distinctive and diverse character of Boston Spa so that it becomes an even better place to work and do business and to provide an attractive environment for shopping and socialising.

As well as exploring the above five areas, there are themes which will impinge on all of them – addressing climate change, diversity and inclusion, social, physical and mental wellbeing and accessibility for all.

So – can you help? Please think about joining one of these five groups – and become a shaper and a maker of the future of Boston Spa.

You can find a copy of the current Neighbourhood Plan and the minutes of all the NPAG minutes at

https://www.bostonspapc.org.uk/Neighbourhood_Plan_29745.aspx , or to talk about your interest in any aspect of the BSNP, or to join us, please email clerk@bostonspapc.org.uk or gail.bowen@bostonspapc.org.uk

I hope you found this interesting. We all share a really lovely village and we want it to be the very best it can be, for ourselves, our young people, our families, our elderly residents, our visitors, our businesses and service providers - indeed, for anyone and everyone. The BSPN is a key way of achieving this.

Follow us, support us, join us!

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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 incurs 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 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, 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 collection of paintings above were part of the Wetherby U3A December Christmas Showcase Event 2024, at Wetherby Town Hall, where the three groups put on a small display of work.

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 (Beech 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 Crafts Festival was held once again in October 2024. The event was a great success and featured over 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 from the village hall cafe by the Boston Spa Village Hall CIO committee volunteers and proved very popular with visitors.

We are a not-for-profit organisation. Our main aims are to celebrate and promote the talents of local artists and crafts people whilst giving them a platform to sell their work. We also raise valuable funds for the ongoing programme of improvements to the Boston Spa Village Hall.

The festival will be held again on Friday and Saturday 10th and 11th October 2025 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 2025. We are always looking for volunteers to help in the lead up to the festival, so please email us if you are interested.



BOSTON SPA ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE GROUP

Our fieldwork over the last 24 years has included excavation, fieldwork, 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
Wed 9th – Tue 15th July

Festival
Sat 12th, Sun 13th July

The Festival is being planned for the second weekend in July. Commencing the week before and lasting for 7 days, 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.

Over the 12th and 13th 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>

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 7th June

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

There seems to be no official record of when the first Boston Spa Gala took place. Anecdotal accounts would suggest it could be the 1960s or even earlier. No gala took place during 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic; in 2023 the gala committee was unable to host the event due to low numbers.

However, after a massively successful 2024 Gala we are pleased to announce that Boston Spa Gala 2025 will be back bigger than ever!

Located on St John's Catholic Specialist School playing fields, the 7th June 2025's gala will see almost 60 stalls, an incredible main stage hosting performers from the local area including Willis Academy of Dance, Voices of Rock, TLA, Big Red Curtain, Union of Dance and Clifford Drama Group. Artisan pizzas, a BBQ, a Fish and Chip van, Tornado Potatoes, crepes and a crumble stall among others will keep people well fed whilst a cocktail bar, Pimms 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

Bowling in Boston Spa dates back until at least 1900 when bowling took place behind The Royal Hotel - now Costcutter. By the 1970's there was growing interest in starting a bowling club in Boston Spa and after receiving the required number of 40 names of people to get a grant, the Parish Council and Wetherby Rural District Council both donated £8,000 to the cause and work started. This was completed in 1980 at a cost of £18,000, the bowling club having moved to its present site. Facilities were limited: two ex-railway containers were used as pavilion and storage sheds - members at the time remember it feeling like they were sitting inside a metal watering can when the rain was falling on the roof! Play commenced on the green in 1981 with an official opening in 1982. By 1987 there were 110 playing members. There has been a steady development of the club and the facilities since 1980 and the club now boasts a new pavilion with catering facilities and meeting area, an irrigation system for the green, patio area around the clubhouse, a paved path around the green and a covered seating area around the pavilion.

In 2024 the bowling club had about 85 playing members and 10 social members all of whom enjoyed plenty of bowling on the green. Maintaining the green takes time and commitment from dedicated club members. Annual fees are modest, but club funds were supplemented by raffles, quizzes and a lottery organised by members.

Playing members have the option of playing socially, in competitive league matches and in club competitions. The green is open from the end of March until October and on most days, you can see some bowling taking place on our green. We welcome new bowlers and would encourage anyone to try Crown Green Bowling. It is a social and inclusive sport, easy to learn and can be enjoyed by all ages, genders and abilities. In fact, 2024 saw one of our longest serving members, Margaret Gardner, win the club ladies singles title at the age of 97! A fantastic achievement.



If you would like to try bowls, call into the club on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday morning just before 10am when we have our social bowling sessions that run from 10am-12. Just wear some flat shoes or trainers, equipment will be provided. 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. Otherwise contact the club, details below

Visit our website - bostonspabowlingclub.co.uk

Email - bsbchonsec@gmail.com

Address - Stables Lane, Boston Spa LS23 6BX



Boston
Spa
Bowling
Club in
1900

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) social tennis Mens' night is Monday, ladies' night is Friday. We have teams in the York League, Harrogate League and Barkston Ash

for men, women and mixed. BSTC also holds social tournaments and the dates this year are: Pre-season Tournament : 16th March – back up date 23rd , Finals Day 29th June back up day 6th July, End of season Tournament 12th October

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

There are no other publicly available facilities for croquet and lawn tennis in the area.



So, if you'd like to play on our lovely grass courts and in a beautiful setting, then please get in touch.

Visitors of all ages are most welcome.

We are open to new members, with packages to suit your needs, including juniors, seniors and family membership, all including social membership. Or just social membership.

Our monthly barbecues in the season and social events through the year are based on enjoyment, fun and friendship.

We have been proud to support the annual Boston Spa Festival and shall continue to do so.

www.bostonspalawntennis.com

Bob Perry 01937 530359/ 07881 431926



BOSTON SPA IN BLOOM

We were involved in increased numbers of displays in 2024 where we assisted the Parish Council with the village improvements by donating five new planters for the car park in the refurbishment of Stables Lane recreational area. There were also two additional larger new planters outside Costcutter in the highways scheme that we included in our displays.

These new sites brought the full numbers throughout the village to ten planters in total. These displays are outside St Mary's Church, along the High Street to the significant displays outside Costcutter; outside Cohen's Chemist and along to the Village Hall and War Memorial area for the various troughs. This year we "inherited" the planting and maintenance of the hayracks at the Village Hall after many years of attention by one of our local newsagents and for which we are pleased to have a new sponsor.

There are several ground level flower bed displays which are at both ends of the village and at a range of sites including Deepdale Lane, Clarendon Road and River View. Hanging Baskets along the mid part of the High Street are at some 80 positions and are one of the main floral displays that we are so pleased to provide.

We really appreciate the assistance that we receive from both traders and personal donors to enable us to offer this support to the village and without these donations and sponsorships we would not be able enhance the village. For the displays we use about 12,000 plants in total for the two seasonal plantings for the autumn/winter and for the summer displays along with about 1000 bulbs and 80 hanging baskets.

The organisation for the blooms for Boston Spa in Bloom, the back-bending work and kneeling required for the plantings and the maintenance of the areas and the equipment comes from our dedicated team of ten Committee members and the assistance of friends and family. Watering the baskets in the summer is carried out by a team of some 60 volunteers who give their time for 2 or 3 evenings through the season to ensure that the village has an attractive appearance that we can all enjoy.

You will not be surprised to hear that we would welcome additional support for our planting and watering!

Your assistance would be appreciated. Please contact Linda
milandulo@btinternet.com

We are fortunate to have financial support from the village with sponsorship and donations and in 2024 there were several opportunities where we were able to assist for new businesses and also for community organisations and for personal dedicated memorial displays. These involvements make it possible for us to offer our support of the village and the local community from our organisation.



BOSTON SPA GARDENING SOCIETY

The Boston Spa Gardening Society was started 1989 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, and often brings unusual plants to sell.

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 share anecdotes and jokes as well as gardening tips and advice – there is always something of interest.

This season’s topics will include "20 Golden Rules for Successful Gardening", "Irises – all through the year" & "Creating an exotic Garden in Yorkshire".

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 recently restarted our 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 **Jenny Douglas 07483887667** - or simply come along on a Wednesday evening

And finally – when a plant is feeling sad do the others photo-sympathise?



Visit to Stillingfleet Nurseries – a hot day in July.

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.bostonspac.org.uk

BOSTON SPA, WETHERBY & VILLAGES GREEN GROUP



As a local community-based group (and registered charity (CIO 1204438), over the past year, we've continued to focus our efforts on our 3 greatest strengths; Big Bike Fix, local nature improvements and education.

The Big Bike Fix reached another milestone during the year of refurbishing over 800 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. We are moving to our next exciting phase of securing further grant funding and new management to push to our 1000th bike milestone. If you wish to help in any way, please read more here <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, wildflower meadows in Wetherby, orchard pruning in Deepdale and many more trees planted (to help with biodiversity, slowing rainwater runoff to prevent flooding and reduce heat islands).



We also continue to work with local schools, successfully helping Lady Hastings Primary School achieve their first Eco Schools Green Flag award last autumn, congratulations! <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/news/lady-hastings-primary-school-achieves-ecoschools-green-flag-award/> we will 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 a nature walk in the summer, a citizen science moth trapping and count exercise, an autumnal evening bat walk and an exclusive showing of Wilding the movie - all well attended. We have many more such events planned for this coming year.

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 <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/just-giving/>

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!

Finally, if you wish to hear more about our activities and future events, please subscribe to our newsletter on our News page via our home page <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/> Be a force for good in 2025

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.



We are heartened that the village is looking generally neat and tidy (apart from the odd bag of dog waste left by the river), but the major litter problem we are currently struggling with is the charity clothing banks at the entrance to Deepdale. 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. 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 lovely village and 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

2024 saw a growth in Sunday congregations at St Mary's Church with average attendance on Holy Communion Sundays up by around 22%, and our monthly All Together service has maintained its attendance numbers well. Our Saturday morning Café Church, Connections continues to thrive, with an activities area for young children having been added during the year to meet the needs of young families who are attending in greater numbers.

A new congregation also began during the year. 'Harmony' is an informal gathering of deaf and hearing people who share a light lunch of soup, rolls and cake before worshipping and praying together around a theme. This group meets monthly at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of every month and uses a blend of reading, BSL, live transcription and video materials in a way which blends different ways of communication. An important part of the ethos of this service is that it is not for deaf people alone: breaking down barriers between people who are deaf or hearing impaired and those who can hear is key to our vision.

Flourish (which grew from the Connections Café group) continues to meet monthly on a Sunday evening. The teaching is conversational and interactive, and the worship combines contemplative videos and music and offers those who attend our Saturday café church a chance to engage more deeply with the Bible than is possible at Connections Café.

After 18 years The Ark, which was run by the Mothers' Union, stopped meeting. This friendly, fortnightly drop in for parents and carers with their babies and young children had been very successful, and a much-loved part of St Mary's, but as times have changed and fewer parents and carers were seeking this kind of daytime group, it was time for a rethink. Many thanks to Janet McBride and others who gave of themselves so lovingly and diligently through The Ark over the years. We are currently rethinking our offer to young families, part of which is already in place through Connections Café and related outreach groups.

St Mary's collaborates with other churches in the Deanery of New Ainsty in offering youth groups, both at the Hayloft in Healaugh and via The Bridge Project in Tadcaster. Our vicar, Rev'd Nick, revised his minibus driving skills during the year to take a group of teenagers over to Mixenden in Halifax for Rock Mass – a heavy-metal style church service.

Our choir has gained a few new members over the year, but we said a fond farewell to our Assistant Organist Peter Sharp at the end of 2024. He will be much missed, and we are seeking to appoint a new Assistant Organist and / or Organ Scholar during 2025.

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/watch?v=...)

Our summer Holiday Club was themed around Trusting in God and featured a huge sailing ship which we built in the church. 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 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.

Every term, the vicar offers outdoor sessions which explore Christian Spirituality to all classes at St Mary's School. This is called "Wild Geese" and a display of what happens in these times of exploration and worship can be seen in the North Aisle altar area of the church.

Our staff team grew by one during 2024 when The Reverend Hannah Moore joined us as curate. The staff team also includes The Reverend Nick Morgan (vicar) the Reverend Trish Anslow and Rev'd Glenda Webb (Assistant Priests), 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.

In October 2024 we undertook a month-long survey of accessibility at St Mary's. The results of this survey are available on our website and the resulting report in informing a programme of improvements to the building over the coming years.

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. We are also grateful to Wetherby YO1 whose work parties in the churchyard have been invaluable in some of the more overgrown and harder to manage areas.

A CCTV system has now been installed to deter acts of vandalism and theft which had become increasingly common in recent years. This has meant we were able to continue to keep the church open to parishioners and visitors almost every day. Nobody is filmed "at prayer" by this system – it is simply there to be reviewed by the police in the case of any future incidents.

Contact: Parish Office 01937 844402

Email us: BramhamBenefice@outlook.com

Website: bramhambenefice.org

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 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 35 singers. This was a record number of singers. Carols included: In the Bleak Mid-winter by Darke, The Candlelight Carol by Rutter, Still, still, still arranged by Ledger, En Natus Est Emmanuel by Praetorius and a Maiden Most Gentle by Carter. The usual Willcocks descants were sung to the congregational carols.

Whilst we are a strong choir, numbering 18 and are the largest village choir in the York area, we would still like to invite new members to join us. We have recently had six new members join us, including a boy treble. 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. We would welcome musical families and would very much like to see more children in the choir. We are very short of men at the moment, especially basses. 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!

Sadly, after seven years our Assistant Organist is leaving us. We are currently recruiting for this post, so if you are interested, please get in touch.

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 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 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 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 has meant he cannot commit to maintaining his duties at St Mary's and he has had to resign his post. He will be greatly missed, and we hope to see him and to listen to his music from time to time. An organ recital is being planned for this year which will include Peter, and we hope this recital will be fully supported by our village community and beyond

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.

FOM life membership and 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



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 everyone, resident at the Court or not, is invited.

Our minister, Revd Abi Alex, abi.alex@methodist.org.uk also has churches at Appleton Roebuck, Church Fenton, Clifford and Ulleskelf 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 2.30pm 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. The evening group was formed in 2012 and provides a competitive standard of play from 5.00pm until 7.00pm with league matches played during winter months. The club has two teams playing in the Harrogate league with both teams aiming for promotion this season.

New players are welcome to both groups.

Contacts

Ping Pong	Jo Vernon	07963 660612	jovernon1@gmail.com
Senior Group	David Hovell	07817 769259	david_hovell@hotmail.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. 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.

Last Christmas we were able to hold the 10th Community Christmas Tree Festival, with 40 Christmas Trees decorated by individuals, local businesses, church and community groups. This was well attended, and we were able to make a substantial donation to the Millie Wright Children’s Charity. 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 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

Sir Edward Elgar stated, “There is Music in the Air,” and there has certainly been a great deal of music in 2024 on the second Friday of each month from January to December (with the exception of July and August) at Boston Spa Methodist Church. Our Lunchtime concerts from 1pm - 2pm, with a delicious homemade lunch served at noon have been very popular indeed, attracting an audience from miles around as well as residents from Boston Spa. Our grateful thanks go to all church members and friends who make our concerts possible.

The monthly concerts provide a platform for young professional artists to grow in experience, as well as the seasoned artist being able to continue sharing their art with a live audience. The programme of 10 concerts a year features music for all.

This year we have listened to The Chestra Trio, Flute Piano and Clarinet, Harrogate Harmony a barbershop chorus. Katharine Ley a talented cellist, a delightful young soprano Bethany Hannah Winteringham with songs for all tastes. A seasoned Folk duo with many instruments. The wonderful sound of brass with the Yorkshire Evening post Quintet. We enjoyed a programme devoted to nature from Aires & Gracenotes, followed by a polished violin performance from Robert Webb accompanied by David Hammond. Finally, The Christmas tree festival was opened with "A box of Christmas Delights" performed by Sue Lees, founder member of Opera North and her guests.

The concert tickets are £6.00, payable on the door whether you choose to lunch or not. A sponsorship scheme enables us to attract artists from all over the country, so we invite you to join us as, "There is Music in the Air".

Further information from Margaret Jowett 01132682041 /07702977696 or email margaretjowett@btinternet.com Check our website.

<http://www.bostonspamethodistchurch.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. 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.

Already this year the Trustees have funded acoustic panels in the main hall and café to help with the sound quality. Other plans include refurbishing the meeting room which will be completed over the Easter holiday.

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 and are organised by Jazz in the Spa and Entertainment in the spa. See www.bostonspavillagehall.co.uk and click on the music tab at the top of the page for more 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, 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.

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.

Meeting 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

From its original venue at the Crown Hotel the jazz sessions moved to our village hall 21 years ago. Top jazz performers and our cabaret seating with tables for everyone plus the usual reasonable entry cost of £12 all seem to make for a durable formula. Added to this we continue our policy of "Bring your own bottle" which keeps costs down and allows supporters to bring the tippie of their choice.

Our performers provide us with entertainment within the widest interpretation of "Jazz" so you can hear old style "trad" plus mainstream, boogie-woogie, blues, gypsy jazz, R&B and even rock'n'roll. Our variable staging system also allows us to feature larger ensembles and several times a year we enjoy the sounds of the Big Bands (which can be up to 18 musicians). We continually seek to improve the experience at our sessions and are grateful to the Hall trustees for the recent refurbishments of the building and the installation of sound absorption panels which improve its acoustic values. We look forward to welcoming new audience

members, old and young, singles and couples, and will be happy to meet, greet and seat you at Jazz in the Spa!

Many Saturdays through the year. Doors 7pm, Show 8pm
Ken and Brenda Waller, Heather Galloway, Ian Gomersall
T. 0777 5 984907 For the programmes go to: www.jazzinthespa.co.uk

NOSTALGIA IN THE SPA

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, £4 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.



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, 10 to 12 times a year, and following 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.



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

www.entertainmentinthespa.com

Ken and Brenda Waller, Heather Galloway, Ian Gomersall, Vicky Stark

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, adjacent to the children's playground. 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.

Groups which currently meet at Deepdale:

Art Appreciation
Art Club
TheXception Band
The Good Old Boys
Willard Band
Bloom Babies
Boston Spa in Bloom
Embroiderers
Environmental Group
Gardening Society
Midweek Geology
Model Aircraft
Music Group
Quilters
Tuesday Quilters
U3A : Painting Groups
U3A: Crafts
U3A: Memory Group
U3A: Days of Special Interest
Waddington Band
Wisecraft
Yoga/Meditation
Yorkshire Modern Quilters

The WiSEcraft “Knit, Natter, Craft & Chatter” one of the regular groups which meets at Deepdale Community Centre.



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 their Investigating badge, including making lava lamps and extracting DNA from fruit, as well as other Patrol activities that the Guides take part in throughout the year. A new activity for the Unit was drumming which the girls really enjoyed as well as completing challenges and gaining our Earth Day badge. A presentation from a Peer educator who is a member of Guiding aged between 14-25 on developing Personal Resilience helped the girls in exploring topics which are relevant to them. 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 May alongside with Guides and Brownies from all over Leeds County we met at Wetherby Racecourse for a Grand Day Out with activities including Rugby, Circus Skills, a silent Disco amongst others. In July, the Guides took part in the Boston Spa Festival, holding a stall outside Costcutter selling cakes to raise funds for our Unit tent 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 visiting the Pantomime at Tadcaster and engaging in some audience participation.

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

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 to Horticap Garden centre where we had a guided tour followed by tea and cake in their café. We also visited Golden Acre Country Park and had a garden party in a member's garden. Following a talk by their representative, our charity for the year was the Joanna Project, which helps vulnerable women trapped by life controlling addiction. We finished the year with a Christmas meal at the Tickled Trout at Bilton in Ainsty.

Please contact: Audrey Morrall audreymorrall@yahoo.co.uk 01937 572958

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

Here at Spa Surgery, we're proud to be your local GP practice, dedicated to providing comprehensive and compassionate care to our community of just under 7,000 patients. We understand the importance of accessible and personalised healthcare, and we strive to offer a wide range of services to meet your needs. Our dedicated team provides a full range of services, including:

- Routine Medical Care: From consultations for everyday illnesses to general health check-ups, we're here for you.
- Preventative Care: We believe in proactive healthcare, offering advice and services to help you stay healthy.
- Chronic Disease Management: We provide ongoing support and management for conditions like diabetes, asthma, COPD and heart disease.
- Minor Surgery: Our GPs are trained to perform joint injections on-site, saving you time and travel.
- Child Vaccinations: We ensure your children receive the essential immunisations to protect their health.
- Weekly Women's Health Clinics: We offer dedicated clinics addressing the unique health needs of women.

Our Expert Team:

Our team is composed of experienced and caring professionals, including:

- Six experienced GPs, providing a wealth of medical knowledge.
- Regular GPs in training, bringing fresh perspectives and up-to-date knowledge.
- Two skilled Practice Nurses, offering a range of treatments and advice.
- Two dedicated Healthcare Assistants (HCAs), supporting our nurses and GPs.
- An onsite Pharmacist who expertly manages prescribing and medication queries.

Community-Focused Care: We understand that some patients may need additional support, which is why we offer: Care Coordinators who provide vital home visits to our frail and vulnerable patients, including those living with dementia, ensuring they receive the care they need in the comfort of their own homes.

Visiting Paramedic who offers daily home visits to our housebound patients, ensuring prompt and efficient care.

Your Health is Our Priority: At Spa Surgery, we are committed to providing high-quality, patient-centred care. We believe in building strong relationships with our patients and working together to achieve the best possible health outcomes.

Alison Briscoombe
Practice Manager

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SPECIALIST SCHOOL

This year marks the 150th anniversary of St John's being in Boston Spa. Over the years, our school has served the needs of many deaf children and their families from all over the UK and beyond. It was the only Catholic residential school for the deaf in the country and offered a route to develop spoken and written English, a full education and key vocational skills training towards employment. The school always aimed to improve the life chances for many deaf children over the years. It was run by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul since its arrival here. The sisters left in 1998 and since then it has been run by lay staff with its Headteachers being Tom Wryne (RIP), Ann Bradbury who retired in 2024 and now Kevin Harrington.

At St John's, we are proud of our history and proud of our uniqueness. We are still a non-maintained Catholic special school. We operate independently of local authority control, yet we are not a private institution. Our school is a charity and is run on a not-for-profit basis. All the children who attend St John's are funded by their own local authorities because their needs cannot be met locally.

In recent years, we have welcomed many more children from Leeds and North Yorkshire, as well as from other Yorkshire authorities, Lincolnshire and Manchester. The make-up of our school has evolved significantly, and a few years ago, we re-designated our school to meet a broader range of needs beyond deafness. Consequently, we renamed the school from St John's Catholic School for the Deaf to St John's Catholic Specialist School. At St John's, we provide a fresh start for children and young people who may not have been successful in mainstream schools. We offer a calm, nurturing environment where we can rebuild confidence and self-esteem, preparing our young people for adult life. Since its arrival in Boston Spa 150 years ago, the school has held the values of St Vincent de Paul close to its heart. These values include compassion, respect, humility, and a commitment to serving those in need with dignity and love. This work continues at St John's today. We are proud of our young people as they work hard to overcome their own difficulties. We prepare them for adult life and encourage them to use their skills and talents for the good of others.

This year, we have developed our own in-house sixth form provision where we offer a Skills for Living programme. This group of young people take on regular community-based work as part of their continuing education programme. Each week, they dedicate a day to St. Edward's Church in Clifford, contributing to the upkeep and preservation of this beautiful historic building. Some also enjoy work experience at the Harrogate Chocolate Factory and Café. This is a social enterprise that aims to help young adults with learning disabilities and autism gain vital work

skills and experience. We hope to widen this offer to include other local opportunities over the next year.

We warmly invite community groups to connect with us. Embracing change, we are always eager to explore new ideas and collaborations that will shape our future together.



Vocation training classes at St John's in the 1940's.



St John's students undertaking work experience at the Chocolate Factory and Café in Harrogate.



MARTIN HOUSE

The past year has seen major changes get underway at Martin House Children's Hospice. In 2024, we embarked on THE BUILD, our most ambitious project since we opened the hospice in 1987. 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.

Throughout 2024, we have been working on phase one of THE BUILD – a new children's wing, with 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. We are now embarking on the second phase of the project, which will see us 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 should be complete at the end of 2025.

Throughout all the work, our priority has been to ensure we deliver the best possible care to more than 550 children, young people, and their families, from across West, North and East Yorkshire, whether that's at the hospice, in hospitals, or in their own homes. We would like to thank the community in Boston Spa for their continued support and patience during this major building project.

We are still fundraising so we can complete this vital project, and you can support us reach our final total by donating or buying a brick at www.martinhouse.org.uk/TheBuild.

For further information contact:

media@martinhouse.org.uk

BOSTON SPA ROTARY CLUB

(Sponsored by Wetherby Wharfedale)

We are now in our third year as an active group of volunteers in Boston Spa, meeting monthly at The Crown to promote Rotary projects and local community engagement. Rotary is one of the largest volunteering organisations in the world –

Rotarians are committed to encouraging friendship, helping others, and trying to make our communities, both locally and worldwide, better places to live.

Thanks to the power of an international organisation, we are able to link in with national and international schemes to help locally: in the last two years three local youngsters have been on Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, a week-long residential course aimed at building leadership skills. We will be sending another candidate this summer.

The Rotary Shoebox scheme works with our local schools, Scouts and other groups to send thousands of “shoeboxes” of gifts to deprived children and families in Eastern Europe.

Our members support Martin House, Party in the Park, local Ukrainian refugee students amongst others. As a friendship group, we also have regular social events and visits – having fun together is part of the joy of Rotary.

If you like meeting people, whilst giving something back to our community, you should consider joining us – the more members we have, the more we can do. You can email bs1rotary@gmail.com and we will be in touch.

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 tell us that 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 07850 600798 who will be delighted to hear from you.

WETHERBY & DISTRICT LIONS



2024 was another busy year for the Wetherby Lions. We packed Santa’s Sleigh away and started the year with our Lion’s Midwinter Party at Wetherby High School. It’s always a fun day and this year proved to be no exception as 200 senior citizens joined us for a hot lunch, a game of bingo and entertainment provided by ‘Frank Sinatra’. This is an annual fixture largely funded by donations collected by Santa and his elves as his sleigh tours the streets of Wetherby.

A big thank you to all who donated and to those who helped on the day including our Mayor and Deputy Mayor calling the bingo and Alan Lamb and team who cooked a great meal.

Many people were in Wetherby in June to see 18 Brass bands playing whilst marching down the High Street and performing in the Horsefair and Bandstand. We were delighted to be supported by many local businesses, private individuals, Leeds City Council and Wetherby Town Council. Air Training Cadets were present in numbers bearing banners and band details with each band as they marched. Wetherby Lions were able to support the ATC in turn by providing musical instruments for them to develop their own musical talents and hopefully perform at the 2025 event.

Throughout the summer we were busy at school fairs fundraising with our every popular cuddly lions tombola and the, very competitive, and ‘unique’ flat cap throwing competition!

In November we ran our 4th Big Biz Quiz in conjunction with Morrisons with businesses and organisations taking part in a pub style quiz and competing for a much-coveted trophy. Over a £1,000 was raised for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. We started a new partnership with Wetherby Whalers Explorers, working with them to gain credits towards badges and awards such as DofE and Kings Scouts awards with community and environmental projects. The extra help from the Explorers enabled us to plant over 100 trees on a site along the old railway line. The Explorers helped at our annual Midwinter Party, serving food, organising the walkers, wheelchairs and socialising with our guests. Feedback from the Explorers has been very positive all round and this partnership has been beneficial to both groups. Long may it continue!

Santa's Sleigh returned to the streets of Wetherby in December. It is always such a pleasure to see children and their excitement when Santa drives past their house. The weather was kind to us this year and we were able to collect on 15 nights in December. Sadly, this wasn't the case for the Dickensian Market. We can plan for most things, but we couldn't stand in the way of Storm Darragh! As the wind whistled around the Town Hall the outdoor market and entertainment were cancelled. With the help of the Council Officers we were able to find a cosy home for Santa and he opened his grotto for business.

Mark Barrow became our Townsperson of the Year in recognition of his work filming underwater in local and national rivers and highlighting changes to this underwater world. In Mark's words: "...that was out of the blue and totally unexpected. I was awarded the Wetherby Townsperson of the Year 2025 for my services locally and nationally to the freshwater environment over the last 35 years. For once I was just about speechless!" Congratulations Mark!

A big thank you to all who have supported us this year as a business, a helper or by attending one of our events. In addition to our Midwinter Party we have been able to make a number of donations to local groups to support their activities and to individuals in need of equipment to help them live a more comfortable life. 2025 will be another busy year. If you would like to know more about our work have 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 all of the Wetherby Lions.

Wetherby District Lions Club

A Charity Commission Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered Number 1166656

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

For our first entry in the newsletter, we thought we would update you on some of the work your local team have been doing to keep Wetherby and surrounding villages a safe and enjoyable place to live.

For those of you who may not know, your local policing Team is based out of Wetherby Police Station. Although closed to the public, our teams use this as a base between their patrols and briefings.



Our Team, led by Sergeant Standen now has 3 new team members. In 2024, we welcomed 2 new PCSOs to the area: PCSO Counsell and PCSO Graham – both very experienced PCSOs already. We also welcomed back PC Katkowski. Some of you may already know him and we are delighted he has returned to Wetherby and is now the new Leeds District Wildlife Crime Officer.

This means your local Neighbourhood Policing Team is now:

Sgt 5863 Sam Standen

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
<i>PC 3180 Adam Walton</i>	PC 4282 Neil Breen	PC 4011 Steve Lane
PCSO 939 Louise Crossland	PCSO 592 Gareth Poole	PCSO 747 Chris Barrett
PCSO 527 Sue Broadwell	PCSO 827 Brendan Counsell	PCSO 838 Lee Graham

WILDLIFE & RURAL OFFICER: PC 2010 Andy Katkowski

PC Katkowski's new role is an exciting development and a huge step forward for North East Leeds. His primary focus will be providing expert advice to other officers investigating crimes against Animals and Wildlife as well as focussing on more rural offences in the area. He has excellent links with

partner agencies such as the RSPCA, National Farmers Union, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Angling Agency, Environment Agency, the Wildlife trust and many more. He has also received extensive training in wildlife legislation, which can sometimes be difficult to navigate. As part of this role, he will also assist with collating intelligence and helping teams target criminality by running pro-active operations and executing warrants. You will also see him out and about on his travels, engaging with local businesses and providing advice on crime prevention.

To contact him or any of his team please email ld.wildlifeandruralcrimeteam@westyorkshire.police.uk

With 2025 in full swing, we have updated our priorities. These are now:

- Road Safety
- Antisocial behaviour across areas of Wetherby town and Boston Spa in particular.
- Residential Burglaries
- Commercial Burglaries
- Fraud Prevention

To see regular updates on the work our teams are doing check out our website - <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/leeds/leeds-north-east>

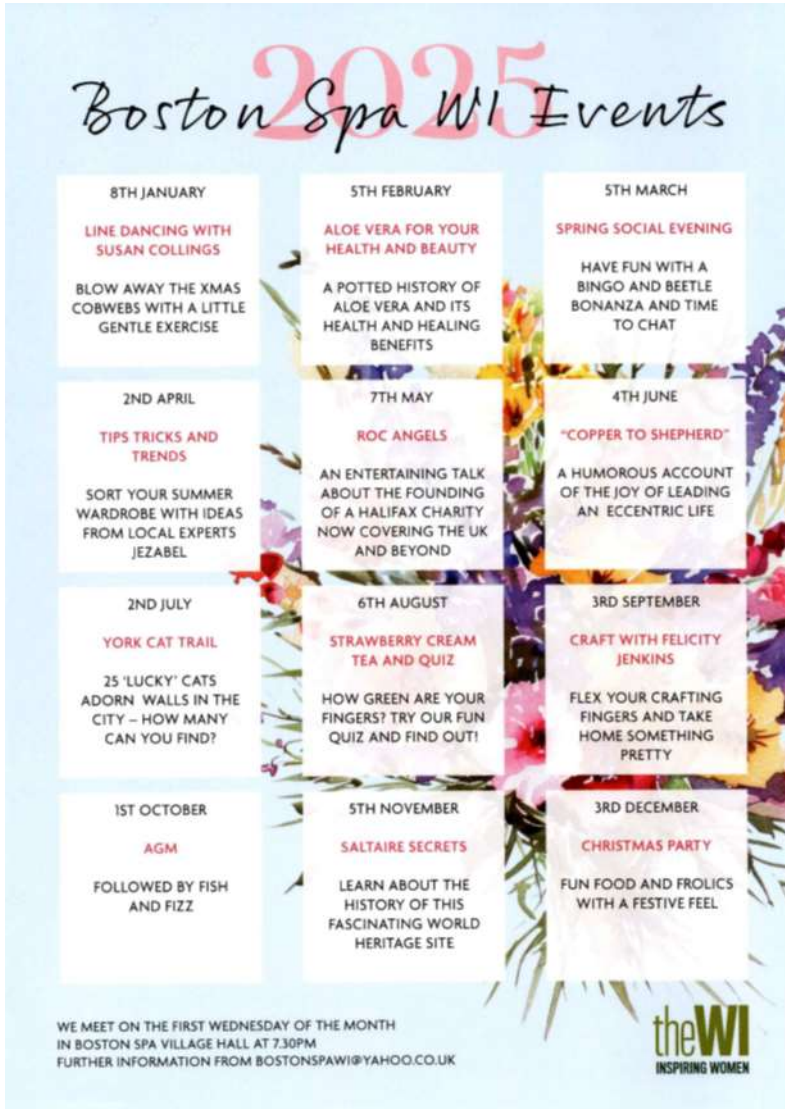
We have also seen an update to our Community Alert messaging system. By registering, you can choose to receive news and appeals, local crime information and/or prevention advice direct to you by email, text, or voice message. Registering is completely free and once you have signed-up, you can choose how you want to receive the messages and what you want to receive messages about. To sign up visit the website - <https://www.wypcommunityalert.co.uk>

Would you like to have a say on how we police your area?

We hold monthly Police and Community together meetings run by both the police and your three local Leeds City Councillors at The Methodist Church on Bank Street In Wetherby. Feel free to pop down and say hello. We start at 18:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

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 2025 programme and contact info is below.



The graphic is a calendar for Boston Spa WI Events in 2025. It features a light blue background with a floral border on the right side. The title 'Boston Spa WI Events' is written in a cursive font, with '2025' in large pink numbers. The events are listed in a grid of white boxes, each containing the date, the event title, and a brief description. At the bottom, there is contact information and the logo for 'the WI Inspiring Women'.

Boston Spa WI Events 2025

8TH JANUARY LINE DANCING WITH SUSAN COLLINGS BLOW AWAY THE XMAS COBWEBS WITH A LITTLE GENTLE EXERCISE	5TH FEBRUARY ALOE VERA FOR YOUR HEALTH AND BEAUTY A POTTED HISTORY OF ALOE VERA AND ITS HEALTH AND HEALING BENEFITS	5TH MARCH SPRING SOCIAL EVENING HAVE FUN WITH A BINGO AND BEETLE BONANZA AND TIME TO CHAT
2ND APRIL TIPS TRICKS AND TRENDS SORT YOUR SUMMER WARDROBE WITH IDEAS FROM LOCAL EXPERTS JEZABEL	7TH MAY ROC ANGELS AN ENTERTAINING TALK ABOUT THE FOUNDING OF A HALIFAX CHARITY NOW COVERING THE UK AND BEYOND	4TH JUNE "COPPER TO SHEPHERD" A HUMOROUS ACCOUNT OF THE JOY OF LEADING AN ECCENTRIC LIFE
2ND JULY YORK CAT TRAIL 25 'LUCKY' CATS ADORN WALLS IN THE CITY – HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?	6TH AUGUST STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA AND QUIZ HOW GREEN ARE YOUR FINGERS? TRY OUR FUN QUIZ AND FIND OUT!	3RD SEPTEMBER CRAFT WITH FELICITY JENKINS FLEX YOUR CRAFTING FINGERS AND TAKE HOME SOMETHING PRETTY
1ST OCTOBER AGM FOLLOWED BY FISH AND FIZZ	5TH NOVEMBER SALTAIRE SECRETS LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THIS FASCINATING WORLD HERITAGE SITE	3RD 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

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

WiSE had more than 17,000 interactions with older people in 2024. The charity's Memory Café for those living with dementia and their carers received almost 650 visits in 2024- up 250 on the year before, after adding an extra event each month.

WiSE also saw 9,800 people visit the popular WiSE Owl Café at Boston Spa Village Hall- up 300 compared to the previous year. The café also now opens on Fridays to cope with increased demand.

In 2024, more than 2,000 people attended the charity's packed activities programme- from exercise to crafts, with hundreds more attending special events- like a cruise on the river Tees and a trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

WiSE's volunteer driver transport scheme provided 720 journeys- including local trips for shopping, WiSE activities and GP appointments- whilst nearly 800 pieces of post were sent to older people as part of its popular 'Send a Smile' scheme.

Nearly 500 grass cuts were carried out for older people no longer able to maintain their lawns, plus 1,500 people of all ages accessed the charity's Welcome Café at Wetherby Town Hall, a warm spaces café for people struggling with the cost of living crisis.

A team of more than 120 volunteers provided a massive 6,700 hours of their own time to support the charity's activities.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this happen.

As 2025 progresses, WiSE wants to continue building 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) / twitter [@InWetherby](https://twitter.com/InWetherby).

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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.



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