

The Trumpit

Est 1987 – Issue 524



September 2025

Bumper Back To School Issue



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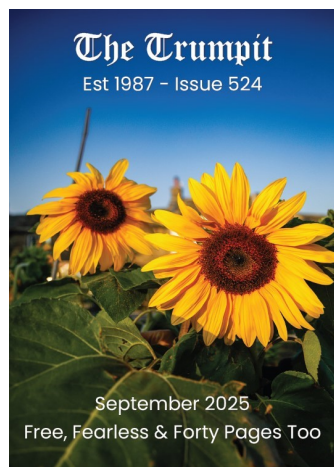
The Trumpit is a free monthly magazine with 1200 copies available in over sixty local outlets. We aim to entertain, inform and promote a great part of Bradford. And nobody makes a penny!

The Bill Craven Community Fund was set up in memory of Bill Craven who was Editor of The Trumpit for many years.

Deadline date is typically the 20th of the month; for new submissions as early as you can please.
Advertising prices (Set June 2018):
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Editorial

Great writers write with conviction, unafraid of topics many shy from. We mere mortals sometimes just have to trust our gut. Inside is what has proven to be a very difficult piece to pen for reasons you will hopefully understand.

There are groups in this country that appear beyond reproach. The Establishment is a good example; imagine if you were one of the sub-postmasters still continuing to have to fight for justice. Imagine if you knew someone who perished in the Grenfell Tower tragedy; seven years on and how many prosecutions? Or your child had been groomed by gangs the institutions there to protect them did not have the balls to simply do their well-paid jobs.

There are also sections of our society that appear to be able to operate to a different set of "rules". Without rules you may as well have anarchy; society simply collapses. So, when injustice drops on you at a personal level, who do you go to for help? Or do you just shrug your shoulders?

Monthly I read about the chaos that passes for our local council's planning process. I am left with the impression that some decisions are granted more out of political expediency than sound planning policies. Inside, I document a current application - pending at the time of publication - based, frankly, on a pack of lies.

As I began to pen this some weeks ago, a story broke in the local paper (25/6) about two houses built without planning permission and actually being marketed. In a three-month period I had three visits from Building Control just to convert a garage. Two-tier Britain in evidence?

The planning committee meeting in July was also the subject of a couple of press articles highlighting the staggering ignorance of some councillors elected to make decisions that affect us all. Their approach seemed to be more of personal preservation than due diligence.

How does this happen time and time again? Where are the checks and balances? Or are we in an unstoppable race to the bottom so far as standards in public life?

By the time your read this, the application I and many others who have so strongly objected to, may already have had a nod and a wink? Modern Britain in full swing?

Finally, this edition marks the last Lee Report as Isabel is off to university. As with her predecessor, Auburn Em, I hope her experience on The Trumpit leads to far greater things. Good luck Isabel and thank you for all your hard work.

The Age of Spivs and Speculators

The application refers to the current entity as follows: "the running costs...have been subsidized

Now that is unsustainable.



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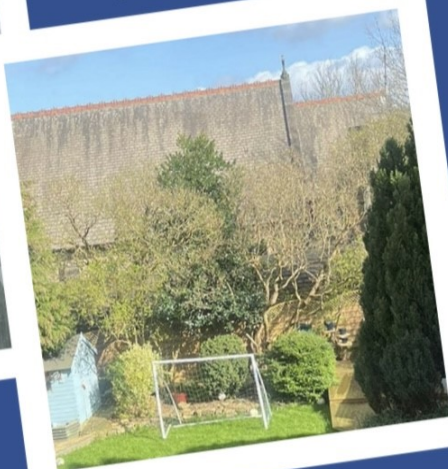
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Mick Craven has passed me your number. I help organise the Pink Lunch and love what you've done in the Trumpit.

I'm also helping to organise a charity walk on 6th Sept in support of our friend, local guy Neil Grist, who is suffering from a brain tumour. He used to play for Thackley AFC.

Would it be too late to put something in the Trumpit for September to help raise awareness and funds? Look forward to hearing from you. **Karen Toth-Jones**

Here is the link to the info or see The Trumpit's Facebook page (11/8/25)

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/andrea-grist-1735935397786>

Here is an inclusion on behalf of local theatre group Castaways who The Trumpit is always pleased to support.

Please note that the QR code often does not work as I have to amend the image to fit the page. Apologies on behalf of very your limited Trumpit Graphics Dept (me) – Ed.

Please could you put this in the September issue. There is no time on the flyer but hopefully the QR code is clear (*maybe not – Ed*) and there is a phone number for tickets too. If you have room for the flyer that would be fab. Many thanks. **Tracey Clifford** {Castaways}

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An update re previous enquiries around City of Culture (CoC) and Idle carpark.

I did ask the leader (Cllr Hinchcliffe) if she was concerned about the lack of financial information given to the CoC reference group and got a non reply. The next meeting is on the 18th of September. I have written...asking for a full explanation of why and by who the decisions around the Idle car park have been made. I have had no reply yet after nearly two weeks (11/8/25). **Cllr Alun Griffiths**

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North Hall Farm

I was asked by a reader to do some digging around North Hall Farm, Thackley, where the long-term tenants were effectively booted out as part of the council's fire sale of assets to pay down the massive debt pile.

My Freedom of Information request was:

With reference to North Hall Farm, Thackley. I understand that the previous tenants left this property...as it was to be sold as part of the council's asset sales. Since then the property has required 24 hour security.

Council response: Property has been vacant since 28/12/2023. The cost to the council of security to date is £69,369.25.

Another example of the utter financial incompetence that you and I will be paying for over decades to come.

Remember this next May – if you don't vote then you reap what you sow



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Bookworm

A Windhill Wanderer

I took three books on holiday with me this year and the 452 pages of *Butter* by Asako Yuzuki captivated me the most. Like most works of fiction by Japanese authors, *Butter* is a deeply provocative and layered novel that challenges the reader at every turn. Yuzuki was inspired by a real life serial killer (Kanye Kilimanjaro, known as the “Konkatsu killer”) who was convicted of seducing and poisoning several men. *Butter* explores the dark side of Japanese society, particularly the misogyny and fat-phobia that place huge expectations on women.

The protagonist is Rika Michida, a journalist who has been following the case of Manako Kajii, an obese woman convicted of killing three men who were supposedly seduced by her culinary skills. Kajii has refused all requests for interviews so far, but Michida manages to win her over by writing to her requesting a recipe. Kajii agrees to speak to Michida and as their relationship develops, it becomes more unsettling.

Back in the 1970s Susie Orbach’s bestseller “*Fat is a Feminist Issue*” was flying off the shelves and whilst Orbach’s book was part of the body-positivity movement and not a novel, it does share many common themes with *Butter* and as with Orbach’s book there is much discussion of complex philosophies about food, pleasure and femininity.

The central theme of *Butter* is nothing to do with murder and much more focussed on the relationship between women and consumption – literally and metaphorically. The author critiques how women are framed in and by the media, especially those who fall outside the conventional beauty standards.

The public vilification of Kajii seems to have as much to do with her appearance (and her staunch refusal to be apologetic for it) as it does with her crimes. It becomes apparent that both Michida and Kajii are navigating the pitfalls of being women in a patriarchal society and observing Kajii’s defiant indulgence forces Michida to confront her own insecurities.

Butter is a slow-burn novel whilst simultaneously being a page-turner. I read it over 3 days, largely because I couldn’t put it down and full credit for that goes to Polly Barton whose translation perfectly captures the simmering tensions and dark humour of the book.

George: A Magpie Memoir is by Frieda Hughes, the daughter of the late poets Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, so I would expect her to be a capable and lyrical writer; I was not disappointed. Hughes acquired George, a baby magpie, following a storm that destroyed his nest. The book charts the five months it takes to get George to the stage where he can return to the wild.

George is a cunning and mischievous companion who captures Hughes’ heart at a time when the rest of her life is not doing so well. Her failing marriage and health problems mean that George is not just a pet, he is a conduit for her healing from grief, instability and personal loss. Ultimately it is an uplifting tale of unconditional love and letting go, a quiet celebration of the bond between humans and wildlife.

The Trumpet has always championed keeping things local so I want to end by giving a shout out for a local author: E. Rachael Hardcastle. Hardcastle has published several books (for adults and children) and very kindly sent me two of her novellas, *Noah Finn & the Art of Suicide* and *Noah Finn & the Art of Conception*. At the time of writing, I have not yet finished the second one, but I want to recommend them to you.

In a nutshell, Noah Finn is contemplating suicide by launching himself from the top of the World Trade Centre. He is having second thoughts when – well, the date is 11th September, 2001, so the decision is made for him. The next thing he knows, he is on the NY subway where he meets Christopher Saint.

Saint tells him that he isn’t God, because there isn’t a god, but he is responsible for guiding Finn through the process of choosing his afterlife and to do that he has to learn seven lessons. He has to learn them quickly as it is a short book (perfect for people with limited time to devote to reading).

She has written several fantasy novels and also a guide to self-publishing. Please refer to:

<https://www.rachaelhardcastle.com/category/all-products>

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The Thackley Chef

Richard Aveyard – ACIEH



This month it is time to serve up a few dishes for the likes of Doug Deepley who will be busy bringing in the crops from a summer of allotment growing. Seasonality is the key.

Broad Bean & Fresh Mint Pate – serves 4.

Ingredients: 450g fresh broad beans (blanched with skin removed); salt & peppermill; 100g soft goat's cheese or any soft cream cheese; 2-3 cloves of garlic (root removed); 2-3 spring onions (finely sliced); 1 tbsp fresh mint leaves; 1tbspn fresh parsley; 1/2tsp smoked paprika; juice & zest of a lemon or 2- 3 tbsp lemon juice; 3-4 tbsp olive oil plus one French stick sliced into flutes allow to dry slightly

Method.

1. Remove beans from their pods and cook in a saucepan of boiling salted water for 8-10 minutes or until tender.

2. Once cooked drain and refresh under cold running water. When beans are cold, drain and remove skins. Keep chilled until needed.

3. Slice spring onions and retain the green parts for the pate.

4. Add the beans into a food processors or blender plus the cheese, 2 cloves of the garlic, spring onions, mint leaves, parsley and lemon juice. Add a little oil and blitz until mixture becomes smooth. Keep adding the oil until you have the consistency you require. Season, blitz, taste and correct.

5. Rub the French stick flutes with the garlic clove and drizzle with oil. Toast until golden brown on both sides.

6. Decant pate into serving dish and refrigerate for at least an hour

7. To serve – drizzle with a little oil and finish with the spring onions and a dust of paprika serving with the warm flutes, and a glass of something chilled. Enjoy!!

Summer Three Bean Pot – serves 4

Ingredients: 12-15 button onions (silver skins); 200g French beans (trimmed); 200g fresh (shelled) peas; 200g broad beans (shelled); 1-2 cloves garlic grated; 1tbsp chopped parsley; salt & peppermill; 1-2 rasps of nutmeg; 50g butter; 250ml double cream or creme fraiche; 1 small sprig of fresh rosemary & thyme; 1 bay leaf; 75ml dry white wine (optional); 200g white breadcrumbs mixed with 50g grated parmesan cheese and half of the parsley to the crumb mix.

Method.

1. In two small pans of boiling salted water blanch the broad beans (5-6 minutes) with the French beans (3-4 minutes). Refresh vegetables under cold running water until cold and drain – keep until needed. Cut the French beans when cold 1/2 inch pieces. We will add the peas later.

2. Blanch onions – if using frozen no need

3. Keep prepared food chilled until needed.

4. Place a sauce pan on a medium heat adding half the butter plus the onion cooking lightly. Add the broad beans stirring as you add wine if you wish. Reduce then add half of the cream or fraiche stirring well. Do not boil but use a gentle heat.

5. Add the herbs, then the peas and allow to cook gently. When the peas are tender add the French beans seasoning lightly with the nutmeg. Taste and correct if needed.

6. Increase the heat for a couple minutes. Remove off the heat adding rest of the cream or fraiche stirring in well.

7. Decant hot ingredients into a ovenproof dish and cover with the crumb. Add rest of butter over the dish placing under a hot grill to gratinate. Serve hot....with something cold!!





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The Thackley Trumpit

The Trumpit was born in 1987 by Alvin Blossom, landlord of the long gone Shoulder of Mutton pub in Thackley. "Bloss", an ex-Radio Leeds DJ, developed what was originally known as The Thackley Trumpit as a bar top A4 flyer. It took a "sabbatical" from 1992 until it re-appeared in December 2000 with the late Bill Craven as co-editor. Bill started with the Shipley Times & Express as a sixteen-year-old.

Copies were sold for 10p eventually rising to 25p. This page is dedicated to the two of them and all who have contributed during the years to 2018...and beyond. The 2000-2018 archive is on the website - www.thetrumpit.com

Below is a picture sent in by Mick Craven, son of the late Bill, of Alvin Blossom outside The Commercial. It would be great to hear from you again Bloss.



This month here are some extracts from edition 260 (September 2002).

A fascinating piece by Geoff Garnett around the conception of the Thorp Edge estate starts:

Local Press – Thursday 11th May 1944 MODEL ESTATE Bradford May Set Country Example

A model Idle housing estate [Thorp Edge], proposed by the Bradford Corporation on a suggested site of 220 acres, was again mentioned by Alderman Louis Smith at yesterday's meeting of the Corporation Co-ordination Committee.

It was resolved that each committee concerned should be supplied with a plan of the lay-out, and that they should report on their requirements at the next meeting of the committee. Later the alderman declared that he wanted it to be an exceedingly fine suburban lay-out – an example to the country and the best advertisement that Bradford could get.

It would be interesting to hear the views of local people here.

Elsewhere there were typically forthright letters from readers not shying away from the (still) daily issues.



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Tony Gough

Time For Change

Petty crime concerns many of us; typical crime is vandalism of public and private property. For example, two weeks ago flower beds in Idle village centre were uprooted; why? Car theft, home burglaries, dangerous driving etc are all examples of petty crimes.

Figures show that 2% of criminals are multiple offenders; the 2% commit the majority of offences and the average is about 50 offences. Some have over 100 convictions.

Rough sleepers account for a large proportion of offences such as shoplifting. Homeless people are entitled to claim £393 a month in universal benefits paid into a debit card account, so not having an address isn't a problem. They can also claim up to £1000 a month in housing benefit if they can find a landlord willing to house them.

So why do people commit criminal offences? For youngsters it may be an unstable home life, boredom or peer pressure. For older offenders, drug addiction, alcoholism and mental health issues are prime causes.

Jailing petty offenders won't resolve the issue. Jail becomes a place where vulnerable individuals are abused by more serious offenders or youngsters learn how to commit more serious offences. So how to break this circle of offending?

My suggestion would be a *three strikes and you're out* rule. An individual that commits more than three offences in five years would be sent to a prison farm for one year.

After release on licence, if they commit another offence they would automatically be sent back for three years. If they commit another it would be five years, with a five year automatic sentence every time they reoffend.

The prison farms would be a place to learn useful skills working a traditional 8 hour day. They would grow their own food and learn animal husbandry. The farms would be secure enclosed areas without day release as happens in open prisons. Any prisoner not cooperating will have privileges withdrawn.

You may say it's a soft option when compared to traditional prisons but the cost of keeping an offender in prison is £52000 a year. I would see it as a way to break the cycle of offending. Quality accommodation should be provided for these offenders when they are released as well as helping them to find paid work on release.

It would be expensive to establish won't be claiming benefits and a large amount of police and court time would be saved because sentencing would be mandatory.

A couple of test farms should be established initially to iron out any problems. At worst these petty offenders wouldn't be affecting the rest of the population; at best offenders would be able to become functioning members of society.



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After last year's disaster on the plot, certainly so far as tomatoes went, this year looks like a bumper crop. But what to do with a glut? In 2022 I saw a fascinating method on Beechgrove Garden (BBC Scotland - Episode 21 - August 2022). The lady demonstrating grew 240 varieties of tomato which is mind-blowing; here is her method of preserving to use all winter which I follow every summer.

Chop and combine all types of tomatoes and push down into large jars using either your fingers or a spatula. This releases the juices in the tomatoes. Then you can add salt, olive oil and herbs/chillies of your choice until the jars are full.

Place the lids on the jars - ensuring these are sterilized first - and undo about halfway to allow a pressure release when baking in the oven at round 120C for around an hour. Once the jars have cooled enough to touch, twist the lids firmly shut, place upside down and either refrigerate or freeze.

I picked off the jars regularly last winter to make sauces and soups. If you are lucky enough to get a glut then either try this or give them away to lucky friends and neighbours.

Freeing up space on the plot leaves us with the option of either replanting - leeks are a great option - or putting the space to bed.

Last winter we left sowing green manure a bit late - early September is probably the latest - so used a series of plastic sheets to attempt to keep weeds down.

Alternatively you could obtain a load of well rotted horse manure from your local stables who will doubtless be pleased to get rid for a small donation.

The maincrop potato harvest is the last main job so far as harvesting goes basically when the stems and leaves begin to die off and wilt.

Cut these off at ground level and leave for two weeks before digging up, preferably on a sunny day to assist drying. If storing over winter, don't wash them but simply bag up and keep in a cool dark place. It is a good idea to check your bags periodically as some will deteriorate.

Inside - and out - of the greenhouse you should hopefully be enjoying an abundance of cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes. Nip out any new growth as it is too late for this and remove all witing leaves to enable them to put maximum energy into the existing fruits. Keep picking and don't wait for monster sizes or you will get a glut. Best to eat, not compete.

Broccoli can create issues unless you crop, blanch and freeze regularly, consuming what you can. A great tip is to remove the main head and then score a cross on the stump. This will be followed by a second harvest of delicious side-shoots. Kale will also keep producing well into autumn and is a versatile and tasty alternative to cabbage.

Eccleshill Horticultural Society is based on Harrogate Road and is a great place to get competitively priced gardening products plus you will find the members who staff this on a volunteer basis very helpful. Membership is a modest £3 annually.

Thackley's community gardening swap shop meets the last Sunday of the month. If you can, join the Facebook page *Thackley and Idle Gardening Swap Shop* to keep up to date.

They meet in Thackley Cricket Club's car park 10.30am till 11.30am, with gates opening at 10.15am for those setting up.

People can come along to swap/sell/buy anything from plant pots, seeds, plants, tools and equipment or anything gardening related. All are welcome.

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Tales From The Scruffy



To celebrate Yorkshire Day we decided to leave The Scruffy and venture to Posh Bradford for a bit of proper culture. It was another scorching day and the Ilkley train was full of cultured sorts as we headed to another world..

Making the same trip was Doomsday Dave, this time not out for a loaf and a pint of milk, but celebrating thirty-five years of marriage to the lovely Mrs Doomsday who he was "treating the lass to a bit of a do!"

"More like a hundred and thirty-five!!" she quipped as we congratulated her for endurance. Doomsday had got dressed up for the day and had ditched his traditional funeral black. We bade our farewells as we rode into Ilkley knowing that our paths would likely cross later.

Ilkley was heaving but seemingly with half of Idle and Thackley there; who said the local punters were lacking culture?

We soon bumped into The Trowel and his lovely wife Jiving June, out on the lash again, two popped up pensioners living life to the full. The old boy was as dapper as dapper could be and almost Ilkley born to the manor.

Also out in numbers were the male members of Idle Athletics Club who claimed that they were on a training run, having hiked across the moor.

Having done this walk many times, I knew that they were on an alternative mission and it did not involve physical fitness. Team GB would not be relying on this bunch of ale carts come Los Angeles 2028.



The sunshine quickly turned to Storm Floris as the new week began and Greenfingers' Farm came under attack from Mother Nature. Suddenly the beer crop - tomatoes - looked in danger. Quickly sensing this, Greenfingers decamped to the greenhouse with only his transistor radio (translation for younger readers may be needed) and a twelve-pack of John Smiths for survival mode. Eat your heart out Bear Grylls.

As his YTS trainee (more translation please) I decided to check in on him come the middle of the week only to find the precious crops undamaged, a pile of beer cans and a very happy old bloke snoozing away.

Sensing he needed refuge I suggested we call an impromptu board meeting and off we went to The Scruffy to find it throbbing with similar folk with nothing better to do. Dizzy silently shook her head as she served up two fine ales and off we went to find a corner to discuss anything other than agriculture.

Soon, in came the snazziest pair of shoes I think I have ever seen in The Scruffy. Answers on a stamp-addressed postcard (yes...more translation) if you can guess who was wearing these beauties.



Wednesday night sees the Trades Union Congress - Retired Idle Rich Branch - weekly meeting and soon they rolled in. Ageing rocker The Boilerman was keen to tell a story about being woken in the night by fifteen wild horses on his driveway. Wisey was disbelieving.

"Ave you been on that wacky baccy again?"

The Boilerman was insistent and had the proof - in a couple of buckets - back home. Always up for a bit of shit himself, Greenfingers perked up at this.

Meanwhile, the main topic of the day for the retired rich was the installation of a new traffic island at Thackley Corner. Had we had one before or was this a sign of the council finally investing in the area or getting the wrong postcode? The debate raged on back to the day of trolley buses (more...) which the old boys seemed to remember vividly.

Wisey decided to take up the challenge via his Samsung. Punching the phone he asked:

"Did Thackley Corner 'ave an island?" Unbelievably, Samsung seemed to understand what he was on about, which was unexpected, as few of us ever do. I shook my head in disbelief. I never thought I would see the day that Wisey met AI - Elon Musk needed to be there.



As another week drew to a close I wandered into the village with a handful of remaining Trumpits. Walking towards the Post Office a sleek, luxury Jaguar car sidled alongside me, the type that retired crooks on the Costa Del Sol favour, tinted windows and alloy wheels.

The window slowly wound down and a tanned, leathery old hand dripping with gold slid out, palm upright. A wiry finger indicated to my pile of Trumpits and the exchange was done quicker than the local pharmaceuticals. In a flash the sleek saloon sped off - The Guvnor had his morning read - all was well.

Walking across the Green I noticed that property millionaire Sharp Suit Snr had parked his Horse & Hound vehicle of choice - Range Rover - in his usual free spot outside the chippie. Bradford Council would not be getting him to cough up a quid or two via the barren lands of the village carpark.

With copies flung far and wide, it was time for a beer and no finer sight than the beaming Fat Lad squeezed into Nob Ed Korna.

Across the road Towngate Fisheries had reopened and, although we still faced a drought, famine had been averted with the installation of a sleek new frying range.

Young Bet was on the lash sporting a new pair of glasses I could only describe as from the Dame Edna Everage collection. I put this to her but, as with most of her replies, this too was unprintable.

As I sat at the bar, up sidled Doomsday safely returned to Idle by Ilkley Parish Council along with the rest of us from the previous week's excursion. If only Sir U-Turn could take a leaf from Ilkley's immigration policy the boats may well be stopped.

Soon the inevitable invasion of golfers was in full flow as The Major took a stool at the bar awaiting the arrival of birthday boy Big Al. We were keen to find out if he had received his annual card from the NHS congratulating his liver on surviving yet another year.

Doomsday was reciting his days at long-gone printers Watmoughs. Would you believe that in those days out of the local factory came titles such as Marie Clare, Country Living (special delivery to local estate agents), Cosmopolitan and Fur & Feather.

Several decades on and the only major title remaining printed in Idle is The Trumpit. Even if Rupert Murdoch comes in with his anticipated multi-million bid The Trumpit will never leave BD10 - unless he throws in a Porsche.

In other news, Five Pints was back from a week in the sun proving conclusively that gingers do not tan - please be kind to gingers.

Just before I left The Scruffy was treated to a visit from the gym Golden Girls including one half of local duo Pepsi and Shirley, the latter out on the lash as the former enjoyed a weekend of rehab and bingo in Filey.

It was great to see the glittery collection of pensioners sequinned to the hilt out to show the young 'uns what life was still about.

Until the morning after came.



The Lee Report

Terrifying Truth About Child Poverty

As my time at The Trumpit comes to an end and I venture to new opportunities and university, it got me thinking about the type of stories and journalism I would like to produce in the future. So, as my final piece for The Trumpit, I would like to write about something I feel strongly about.

Food poverty, often described as household food insecurity, refers to households that cannot reliably access enough nutritious food in socially acceptable way.

As of 2022, 4 million children lived in homes without adequate access to food. In 2023/24, 7.5 million people (about 11% of the UK population) lived in households facing food poverty; among them, 18% were children. In just two years this has almost doubled.

As well as the government pushing for healthier eating initiatives and the expectancy of a balanced diet, many children are left without nutritious food on the table.

When looking into this deeper, the debate about healthy foods like fruits and vegetables being affordable becomes less truthful. In a recent study, people living in poverty have a worse diet.

While 30% of all households with children said they had cut back on the quantity of food they bought, 35% said they had cut back on quality.

Among those experiencing food insecurity, 58% said they were buying less fruit and 48% said they were buying less vegetables.

This means that children, especially those in big families, are not receiving the nutrients needed for their growing bodies.

To be able to achieve the government's recommended healthy diet the most deprived fifth of the UK's population would have to spend 45% of their disposable income on food and this increases to 70% with more children.

For many low-income families, the best (only) way to feed the entire family is with junk food. There is a term coined for deprived areas called 'food deserts' as the availability of fresh produce is at least 15 minutes by public transportation.

This makes it even harder for low-income families to eat healthy as convenience shops are the only ones available. With many low-income families struggling to afford heating, electricity and cars in this cost-of-living crisis, it deepens the inequality in social class.

Health concerns are therefore mounting. A sharp decline in fruit and vegetable consumption –particularly among low-income households–is contributing to worsening nutrition-related illnesses.

The return of diet-related diseases like rickets and gout has been observed, alongside worsened mental and physical health resulting from poor diet and instability. In January 2025, around 2.2 million pupils (25.7% of state-funded students) were eligible for free school meals, the highest level since tracking began in 2006.

Footballer Marcus Rashford appealed for the importance of free school meals, as for many children this may be their only hot meal of the day. Rashford's activism stems from his own childhood experiences of food insecurity–relying on free school meals, breakfast clubs, food vouchers, and food bank support.

He has spoken of his mother's struggles working multiple jobs and sometimes going hungry to feed her children.

In June 2020, when the UK government announced it wouldn't continue free school meal vouchers through the summer holidays, Rashford wrote an emotional open letter to MPs urging them to reverse the decision.

Despite recent support packages, food poverty remains deeply entrenched in our society. Structural issues, such as inadequate benefit levels, sharp regional disparities, and the ongoing cost-of-living pressures–mean systemic reform is essential.

Programs like Liverpool's mobile greengrocer, and the free school meals program offer encouraging innovations but broader implementation depends on sustained political will and funding.

The Trumpit has been such a great opportunity in building my confidence in my writing and I am looking forward to starting my journalism journey. Thank you for your support.

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The landscape of financial planning in later life has dramatically transformed. Gone are the days of a singular goal for borrowing money in your fifties and beyond. In fact, for many, the traditional aspiration of being "mortgage-free" by retirement is now just one of several financial considerations. Whether it's to supplement retirement income, manage existing debts, fund home improvements, or even help family members get a foot on the property ladder, later life lending is far from a one-size-fits-all solution.

The good news is that gaining the financial support you need in later life may be closer to home than you think. With a range of options available, gaining a solid understanding of the solutions that align most closely with your individual circumstances and aspirations is key to making an informed decision. Here are some of the key property-based financial solutions you may wish to consider:

Standard residential mortgages: The perception of conventional mortgages for borrowers aged 50 and above has shifted considerably. Many lenders no longer impose rigid age cut-offs, with some even offering products that extend well into your nineties – for example, lending up to age 95 is becoming more common. This reflects lenders' growing recognition that borrowing money in later life is increasingly the norm, especially with people living and often working longer, alongside their desire for greater financial flexibility in retirement.

If you continue to receive a regular income that can cover the repayments, you may be eligible for a standard residential mortgage that's specifically tailored for later life customers. These mortgages are assessed based on affordability, taking into account retirement income and existing commitments.

Retirement Interest-Only (RIO) mortgages: RIO mortgages allow you to unlock funds tied up in your property's value, with the crucial caveat that you must be able to afford the regular interest payments. The capital is typically repaid when

the property is sold, often upon death or moving into long-term care. This option can be appealing for those with sufficient income to cover interest payments, but who wish to retain full ownership of their home.

Lifetime mortgages: A lifetime mortgage allows you to unlock a lump sum from your home's value, without the need to commit to regular repayments unless you choose to. The interest accrues over time and is typically repaid, along with the original loan, when the property is eventually sold. You retain ownership of your home for life, and the loan is usually repaid from the sale of the property when you pass away or move into long-term care. This can be an attractive option for those who are asset-rich but cash-poor, and who don't wish to make regular payments.

From navigating the nuances of later life lending products to working out what you can afford, there's a lot to think about. That's where the expertise of a mortgage adviser becomes invaluable. They'll help you weigh the pros and cons of each option, explain the long-term implications, and ensure you make an informed decision that aligns with your financial wellbeing. An adviser will also explore all available products from across the market – many of which you won't be able to access on the high street.

The world of later life lending has become increasingly dynamic, and offers a surprising breadth of opportunities for those aged 50 and over. These solutions can empower you to achieve diverse financial goals, from enjoying a more comfortable retirement to providing crucial support for your loved ones. By seeking expert mortgage advice, you gain access to tailored insights, a comprehensive understanding of your options, and the confidence to make an informed decision that aligns with your financial goals and circumstances.

Andrew Milnes Mortgage Advice Bureau, 105/107 Main Street, Bingley. Tel: 01274 568832 / 07703 548020 Email: andrew.milnes@mab.org.uk

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Holly's Story

The Bill Craven Community Fund

Two local ladies here are raising funds in memory of local business woman, Andrea Mann. The Bill Craven Community Fund, Idle Travel and Idle-based Henderson's Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms are all donating. - see The Trumpit's Facebook page for details.

Here is their story.

Helen and I are taking part in the Leeds 10k and then running the Great North Run in September to raise money for Leeds Mind.

The charity has supported our close friends, Tony, Jodie, Kerri and Tyler, following the tragic loss of Andrea, a much loved wife, mum, nanna and friend.

Please donate to allow the charity to continue the work they do to support people and their families, struggling with their mental health. Here is how donations help Leeds Mind.

- £5 can fund a wellbeing session
- £30 can fund a counselling session
- £50 can fund a befriending event
- £100 can fund a peer support session

Leeds Mind supports people to discover their own resources to recover from periods of poor mental health, and to live life independently with their mental health condition.

One in four people experience mental health difficulties in their lives. Whether that be depression, anxiety, isolation, stress, self harm, personality disorder, bereavement or any other negative mental health experience, Leeds Mind are here for you.

See page 3 for details of the Bill Craven fund.



Bill Craven

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Andrea Mann



Holly, Tony Mann and Helen

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What's On

The Commercial has plenty going on here. Check their Facebook page.

Idle WMC: Thursday quiz (8.45pm) and bingo night (7.15pm). Plus lots more.

The George: 6th Got It Covered 9pm;
7th Charlotte Nicholson and Jezz
6.30pm; 14th Saen Harrington 6.30pm;
20th LabRats 9pm; 26th Kindred 9pm;
28th Jerrad Barraclough 6.30pm.

The Highfield: Every Friday at 7pm DJ
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Remember this is a **free** page to all local venues and performers. For details of how to get in touch see page 3.



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The Independent

The present make-up of Bradford Council is: Labour 47 seats; Conservatives & Queensbury Independents 14; Green 10; Bradford



Out walking the dog the other day I came across former MP David Ward. Given the general disinterest in politics – local and national – I wondered how many may be aware we have a local man that has represented us in Westminster. I am grateful for the time he afforded me over a cuppa.

According to David there is “no job description” that fits an MP’s role. Parliament really is the Westminster Bubble, attracting “bright young things” who can suffer from believing that they are the “centre of the universe”. It is, however, an “exciting place”.

From a humble Lincolnshire background – father a plumber, mum a land worker – David found Bradford over thirty years ago and Idle has been his home for much of that time.

He first stood for Parliament in the 1990 election, losing in three more elections before finally winning in 2010 amidst the economic chaos post the credit crunch. To say he had a lively relationship with the party of his choice – Liberal Democrats – is an understatement.

He has since been excluded from the party and, having lost the 2015 election, now sits as a councillor again, albeit as a Bradford Independent in the Bolton & Undercliffe ward.

A local man with a strong sense of localism – he still volunteers at the Springfield Centre (and others) in Idle several decades on – he believes that the vast majority of people have lost interest in politics at all levels.

Most notably, he believes the white working class are one of the hardest to reach groups with Britain the “most centralised (country) in Europe”. Apathy is rife here.

Next year is a significant one for Bradford as all ninety councillors are up for election post recent boundary changes. This is very rare and has the potential for real change with the ruling Labour group under some pressure.

Independents 9; Lib Dems 5; Independents 5.

Here in BD10 the Lib Dems retain a stronghold with Labour unable to get traction and the Conservatives largely invisible. Nowhere else in Bradford do they have such presence. That said, at a national level, given the boundary changes and demographic, BD10 is unlikely to be anything but Labour.

He told me about the Marked Register where candidates can see just who voted at previous elections although not how. This drives candidates to target those most likely to vote – in local elections roughly only 30% – why waste time on those who will never vote?

I asked about the perception that postal voter fraud is rife in Bradford to which he conceded that “collection (of votes) occurs.”

Many issues that determine elections at all levels in Bradford are now influenced by events far from Bradford, notably the Middle East. Campaigning is an arduous task and, although fit as a fiddle in his early seventies, David is not sure if he will stand again.

That said, he does believe that his new party represents a shift – largely from Labour – with bright, younger people driving the agenda in stark contrast to those that have enjoyed a cosy existence in rock-solid safe seats.

The imposition of a 10% hike in council tax this year – when there were no elections – may well come back to haunt the ruling group.

Is there hope for Bradford? David believes we have to retain our younger people – “without hope they will give up” – including the brightest attracted by skilled Bradford jobs.

He does not see the City of Culture as a catalyst for this and, having sat on the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee in government, he is well placed to make that judgement.

He remains a very independent man.

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Tuesday ~ Idle

5.30pm

Idle Baptist Church
Bradford Road, Opp Co-Op

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Friday ~ Shipley

7.30am, 9am & 10.30am

Caroline Street Social Club

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Saturday ~ Bolton Outlanes

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St James Community Hall
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Following on from last month's article, I'd like to share a simple, practical way to help you be more present. You might be thinking you don't have time for that airy-fairy stuff – and I get it.

But here's the truth: research shows mindfulness practices don't just feel good, they actually change the structure of the brain (thank you, neuroplasticity).

I'm guessing you've felt the difference between living in stress and living in peace. If you'd like more of the latter, this is for you. The practice is about engaging your peripheral vision – taking a wider perspective.

You can do it anywhere it's safe. Focus gently on a point ahead of you, and, while keeping that soft gaze, expand your awareness to the sides, above, and below.

Notice what happens. If it feels hard, you're trying too much; this is something your body already knows how to do. Physiologically, it activates the part of your nervous system that helps you feel calm.

Like building a muscle, doing it once gives a pleasant effect; making it a daily habit turns it into a natural strength.

There's more to it than I can cover here so if you'd like an audio guide, email me and I'll send it over.

From my heart to yours—make peace your priority.

Jane x

Fireworks

A Grumpy Sleep Deprived Rant

Am I the only person in Bradford having my senses assaulted nightly by brain dead morons? In a city where our MPs continually bleat about hardship and poverty, how is it that idiots can still afford to send exploding piles of money into the night air? Are we alone or does this happen across the UK?

Whatever the factors behind this it is clear that the authorities are utterly clueless as to how to tackle this malaise. Suffer ye little people....can't touch them!

Excuse the pun but it cannot be rocket science. And whilst I am not in favour of blanket bans, in this case, banning the import of fireworks unless for licenced users and public events surely makes sense.

I accept this will create a black market but, even so, marking it harder to access these weapons of mass disturbance will surely deter many who simply are too stupid and selfish to understand the misery these create for people and animals alike. Animal lovers alone will tell you the stress these cause.

Or perhaps a Trump tariff which is very unlikely to stir China into a trade war?

There will be retailers that will whine about losing the right to make a living but we have already banned the sale of so many products that detract from the basic quality of life.

Impacting a tiny minority of morons who do not value a quality of life is not likely to bring any business down whereas affording a decent nights sleep to the hard-grafting, law-abiding majority must make more sense.

Have you any thoughts on this topic? Should we just suffer in silence? Have you any better ideas to tackle this given the police are so stretched? I welcome your views.

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS?

Art Exhibition by The Phoenix Art Club
as part of The Bradford City of Culture 2025

To be held at
Bolton Methodist Church Community Room
Bolton Road, Eccleshill BD2 4HT
(down the ramp, right hand side of the church)

From 15th to 19th September 2025 - 10:00am to 1:00pm

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Community News



There are no Bradford Ramblers walks planned for this month but are you free on a Wednesday or Thursday Evening? If so why not join the Bradford Ramblers for our 2-hour mid-week walks and turn your evening into a mini-adventure. We're a friendly local group exploring the trails around Bradford. New walkers are always welcome, and we'd love to hear from anyone interested in guiding a walk.

See details on the website: <https://bradfordramblers.org.uk> or on the Facebook page Ramblersbradfordgroup. All walks are approx. 4 to 5 miles starting at 7pm.

Hedgehog Emergency Rescue Bingley were delighted to receive a donation of £2000 from Support The Animal Rescues Shop (S.T.A.R.S).

This fantastic donation will be used to help pay the vet bills and to care for all the hedgehogs and hoglets in their care. Support The Animal Rescues Shop is a Pandora's box on 3 floors full of top quality donated items based at the Old Mill, Victoria Road, Eccleshill, Bradford, BD2 2BT.

Opening times: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 9.30 to 16.30 and Sun 11.00-15.00, Closed Tuesdays.



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The Commercial

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Joe King

A Chinese man moved to Australia after years of living in Shanghai. He bought a small piece of land near Mt Isa. Soon after, his friendly Aussie neighbour decided to go across and welcome the new guy.

But on his way up the drive-way, the Aussie saw the Chinese man running around his front yard chasing about 10 hens. Not wanting to interrupt these 'Chinese customs', he decided to visit the Chinese the next day.

The next day, just as he was about to knock on the front door, he saw through the window the Chinese man urinated into a glass and then drank his own urine.

Again not wanting to interrupt another 'Chinese custom', he decided to put the welcome on hold.

A day later the Aussie decided to give it one last go, but on his way next door, he saw the Chinese man leading a bull down the drive-way, paused, and then put his head next to the bull's bum.

The Aussie bloke couldn't take it anymore, so he went up to the Chinese and said "Jeez mate, what the hell is it with your Chinese customs? I come over to welcome you to the neighbourhood and see you running around the yard after hens. The next day you are pissing in a glass and drinking it, and then today you have your head so close to that bull's bum."

The Chinese was taken back.

"Sorry sir, you no understand. These no Chinese customs. I doing these Australian customs!"

"What do you mean mate" said the Aussie, "those aren't Australian customs."

"Yes they are. Man at travel agent tell me" replied the Chinese man. "He say to become true Australian you learn to chase chicks, drink piss and listen to bull-shit!"

A wife was in bed with her lover when she heard her husband's key in the door. "Stay where you are," she said. "He's so drunk he won't even notice you're in bed with me."

Sure enough, the husband lurched into bed none the wiser, but a few minutes later, through a drunken haze, he saw six feet sticking out at the end of the bed.

He turned to his wife: "Hey, there are six feet in this bed. There should only be four. What's going on?"

"Nonsense," said the wife, "You're so drunk you miscounted. Get out of bed and try again. You can see better from over there."

The husband climbed out of bed and counted. "One, two, three, four. Damn, you're right."

A smart-arsed teenager at the back of the room raised his hand and asked "What would happen if I came in tomorrow suffering from complete and utter sexual exhaustion?"

The entire class was reduced to laughter and sniggering. When silence was restored, the teacher smiled at the student, shook her head and sweetly said "Well, I would expect you to write the exam with your other hand."

The graveside service had just ended when there was a tremendous flash of lightening followed by a massive clap of thunder. More thunder followed. The little frail old man looked at the priest and said, "well she's got there!"

Women sometimes make fools of men. Usually most men are the do-it-yourself type.

Dave Illingworth



In Every Colour

Hollie Jackson

Here is a taster from our latest "recruit" to The Trumpit. Welcome to Hollie Jackson who starts her new column next month.

For a concerning amount of young people like myself, the teenage experience has significant, negative impacts on our mental health. Stress from school and the pressure to succeed, as well as the constant overshadowing of mental health issues and their severity, are just a few of the factors that impact us.

Additionally, minority groups, such as racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ people and those with physical or mental disabilities suffer to an even greater degree. As a queer, 17-year-old, neurodivergent woman who aspires to become a professional playwright/

screenwriter, receiving the chance to write a monthly piece for The Trumpit is an incredible opportunity to gain writing experience whilst also allowing me to have a platform to bring attention to issues that go overshadowed and voices that go unheard.

I am looking forward to writing for The Trumpit every month, exploring the topic of representation for groups that go unheard, specifically among young people and highlighting the positive (and negative) experiences me or other people around my age have gone through.

I've decided to name my piece 'In Every Colour' to reflect the purpose of why I am writing; to give every colour of the rainbow, no matter their appearance or personal identity, a place to feel acknowledged and to represent all of the colours Idle, Thackley and beyond have to offer.

We are a community that everybody deserves to be a part of.

A huge congratulations to Idle Red Kites rounders team on winning their league this season and securing promotion — onwards and upwards!

The team would like to extend heartfelt thanks to their long-standing sponsors, Townend Estate Agents and The Trumpit, for five years of incredible support.



They also warmly welcome two new sponsors this year - Loom & Co and Sambuca Restaurant. Thanks also extended to Hepworth & Idle CC for use of their home ground.

As the season wraps up, we're excited to invite everyone to our Charity Fun Day at Hepworth & Idle CC, Westfield Lane, Idle on Saturday 27th September. This year we're proud to raise funds for Yorkshire Cancer Support.

Join us for a fantastic day out featuring: fun stalls; live demonstrations; delicious food & drink; a fabulous prize draw and the much anticipated Ladies v Men Rounders match.

Top tip: Bring cash for the stalls and your card for the bar!

Let's come together for a great cause and an unforgettable day!

Walks in Yorkshire

Thruscross – Lovely Spot To Stumble

Mike Priestley

Many readers will remember Mike Priestley as a journalist for the Bradford T&A. His regular walking columns were a treat. A local lad, Mike has kindly given The Trumpit permission to reproduce walks from the five books he wrote dating back to the 1980s. I have remained faithful to the original text but some routes may have changed given the passage of time so please be aware. This is his second book.

You can't describe a country walk in a handful of paragraphs. Well, you can—but if you do risk incurring the wrath of people who misunderstand your sketchy directions and get themselves lost.

They won't bless you for it any more than I blessed whoever devised the Thruscross Reservoir walk described in *Enjoying Yorkshire's Waters*, a cheerful and informative booklet issued by Yorkshire Water.

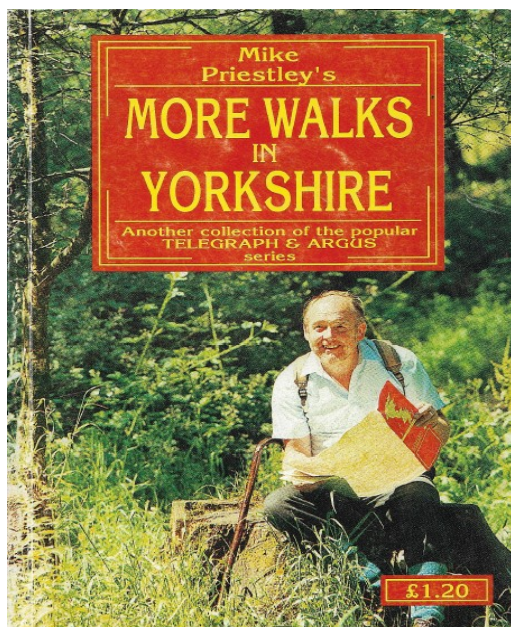
I've followed this booklet's advice once before on a different route and found it quite adequate. But its account of the Thruscross circuit leaves a lot to be desired.

Stiles weren't where they were supposed to be, we had to climb over tied-up gates, and at one page told the path went between two stone gateposts, we found ourselves having to guess which of four pairs of those within our sight we should choose.

What follows is an account of the way my wife and I ended up going.

Driving west on the A59, we took the second turning on the right in Blubberhouses and followed the winding road until a sign pointing right to Thruscross led us to the big car park overlooking the end of the reservoir.

We walked along the road on the top of the impressive dam, watching the canoeists



below enjoying the turbulence of the outflow as the River Washburn continued its journey down the valley.

We followed the road at the far side as it swung leftwards and stuck with it until we came to a five-bar gate to our left with a white gate-stile beside it: the entrance to the sailing club.

We headed down the drive towards the clubhouse but just before we got there we turned sharp right and climbed a gate, then headed for the ruined cottage above.

Over a wall stile to the left of the cottage, we headed straight forward briefly to turn left between gateposts and then followed the wall side (to our left) through four fields of dementedly bleating sheep and lambs and sizeable swarms of flies brought out by the hot weather,

Our next landmark was another ruin. We passed to the right of it, through a field of sleepy cows, and headed for a gate. We didn't have to climb this one. It opened to let us into a lane past a ruined farm on our left and soon a stinking old pond on our right.

Just beyond this we turned left down a green lane past yet another ruin on our right, climbed the gate which blocked our way and walked to the end of a further ruined farm on our left.

Here, in an area aflame with yellow gorse, we veered right and followed the wall side along the contour to climb a stile and then eventually clamber over another gate on to the moor.

From here, it began to get easy and rather enjoyable as we followed the path across the moor above the tree-line, dipping down into an occasional valley, at one stage climbing a sturdy ladder stile, watching the rabbits scamper and the lapwings swoop overhead.

At the end of the wood we turned sharp left and dropped down to a stile beside a gate which led us to the banks of the tiny River Washburn. Turning right and treading carefully for a while where the ground was swampy, we walked upstream to a footbridge and crossed it.

Once on the far bank we headed downstream, climbing steadily towards the top of the treeline and once there, following the path alongside it, over a ladder stile, past a row of shooting butts, through a gate and soon enjoying superb views of the reservoir and the valley beyond.

Keeping to the ridge of the hill rather than dropping down with the trees, we climbed a stone wall-stile and found ourselves in a green meadow full of cows and scurrying rabbits with a massive old ruin directly ahead.

At this ruin we turned right and walked up the wall side to dogleg between gateposts and keep on through the next field to the second gate, which led us into the yard of what the Yorkshire Water book told us was Whinmoor House.

"Excuse us" we said to the farmer, the first human being we'd seen since we passed the boating club at the start of our walk. "Is this Whinmoor Farm?"

"Whinmoor Farm" he said. They'd even got that bit wrong. "Are you lost?" he asked.

"Well we have been quite a few times, but if you point us towards the road we'll be all right" we admitted.

"Have you been using that bloody Yorkshire Water walks book?" he asked knowingly. We nodded.

"We get quite a few people wandering through our land who've got lost because of that. Some of them can get quite nasty with us about it, I don't know why."

Then this kindly man directed us down his farm track to the road, where we turned left and walked a mile or so to the left turn which took us back to the car park. At one point a waymarked path led off to the left into the trees but we ignored it, unsure of where it would lead us and anyway preferring to stay out of the sunshine.

Along that winding up-and-down lane we were passed by one car, one pony and trap and one cyclist. Would that all road walking be so peaceful.

What had begun as a bit of a shambles in its early stages had turned out into a very pleasant outing with superb views.

Time: 2 & 1/2 hours

Sincere thanks to Nigel Burton, Editor of the Bradford T&A, for allowing The Trumpit to publish Mike's wonderful walks.



White Van Man

Counting On A Miracle

The Government is set on building record numbers of new houses and seems to think that by simply loosening local planning laws it will be job done.

But where is the army of brickies, chippies, decorators, electricians, plasterers and more coming from, especially when half of Poland has gone home? The bald truth is that these numbers are pure electioneering fantasy.

Having just gone through a small project, engaging with every hairy-arsed version of the above trades, I can tell you these guys are in real demand.

Also, as in other “proper” jobs, the average age seems to be on the up. Where is the fresh talent? As The Singing Builder remarked “kids just want to be TikTok influencers!” Not that he remains bitter from his Britain’s Got Talent rejection.

Yet without this range of skills, know-how and hard graft, the country is down the pan. To amplify their rare existence, the daily rate for a “good ‘un” might surprise you but these guys have skills we desperately need. Ironically, we rarely flinch at a solicitor’s hourly rate.

And the combination of high demand and short supply makes managing any project a challenge. If you expect things to run without a hitch or two, dream on.

Juggling a mobile, in-demand workforce alongside expectations shaped by numerous perfect world television DIY programmes is tricky to say the least.

All the trades were a credit to their various professions even amongst the odd cock-up and most were local too.

Daily the neighbours were assaulted by awful singing, plumes of dust and the crash-bang-wallop of power tools. Vans queued up like Dover docks as we were introduced to the performing cast.

Sustaining these guys took a coffee and tea mountain, often mixed with sugar like mortar. Mrs Day’s superb raspberry buns (Five Lane Ends) went down very well.



(No fee was received for this shameless promotion of one old lady’s fabulous buns but a regular supply of free sausages en route to the gym is being negotiated. HMRC have been informed.)

We also had a Diet Coke moment as one young lad insisted on flashing his buffed, sun-kissed body to the various twitching windows on Wysteria Lane. Some of the old gals had given up hope of even experiencing such a flutter.

It is a leap of faith to have a giant hole in your house and the walls propped up for weeks. Fingers are crossed at regular intervals.

But if these guys are in such short supply, what chance of mobilising Ms Rayner’s house building army?

I leave the last words to the magnificent Singing Builder.

“Counting on a miracle...baby!”

{cont'd from page 39}

Thackley had a point, another clean sheet and were still unbeaten in the league. A 1-0 defeat at Frickley in league game four brought the opening unbeaten run to an end but, considering the close season upheaval, it has not been the worst start to the season. Thackley will be hoping to continue picking up points and to build on this good start.

Thackley AFC Fixtures

Wed 3rd Sept Thackley v Bottesford Town KO 7.45pm
Sat 6th Sept Tadcaster Albion v Thackley KO 3.00pm
Sat 13th Sept Thackley v Penistone Church KO 3.00pm
Tues 16th Sept Liversedge v Thackley KO 7.45pm
Sat 20th Sept Harrogate Railway v Thackley KO 3.00pm
Sat 27th Sept Golcar United v Thackley KO 3.00pm
Sat 4th Oct Pickering Town v Thackley KO 3.00pm
Please note some fixtures are subject to change due to cup competitions.

The Thackley Ladies season starts on the first Sunday of September and they are back in the Premier Division of the West Riding Women's Football League after finishing top of Division One. In a remarkable season, they dropped just two points and won the League Cup.

However, like the first team, they have had to appoint a new manager after Steve Winterburn decided to step down. Yasmin Senior has been appointed as player manager and brings a wealth of experience to her new role, both on and off the pitch.

A qualified Level 2 coach, she spent six years as Head of the Women's Football Academy at Calderdale College, where she played a key role in developing young talent.

Thackley Ladies AFC Fixtures

Sun 7th Sept Golcar United v Thackley KO 2.00pm
Sun 14th Sept Thackley v Forge Way KO 2.00pm
Sun 21st Sept Thackley v Wyke Wanderers KO 2.00pm
Sun 28th Sept Knaresborough Town v Thackley KO 2.00pm
Sun 5th Oct Thackley v Silsden KO 2.00pm
Sun 12th Oct Sherburn White Rose v Thackley KO 2.00pm

As a player, Yasmin has competed in open-age football across West Yorkshire for over 20 years and captained Brighouse Town and Bradford City in the Women's National League.

The squad has been strengthened over the close season and hopes are high that the team will again be pushing for promotion.

Away from Dennyfield, it looks like it could be the death knell for Eccleshill United after playing locally for over 75 years.

They announced in June that they were moving their home fixtures to Keighley to play at Cougar Park.

At the end of July, it was announced that the Cougars owners had acquired the club. It now looks unlikely that Eccleshill will ever return to this area or retain its name.

The rumour that the ground is likely to be sold for housing, now they have departed, looks a strong one.

With Farsley Celtic withdrawing from the league a couple of months ago and Eccleshill moving to Keighley, we have now lost two of our local non-league football clubs.

Thackley are still looking for sponsors for the 2025-26 season so please get in touch.



THACKLEY AFC

A VIEW FROM MUPPET HILL



The new season started on the last Saturday of July and with just four-pre-season friendlies as preparation, Thackley's new team were at home to Premier Division new comers Wombwell Town. Of the eleven players that started that game, ten were Thackley debutants, only one player had previously played for the club and that was a couple of seasons ago.

New manager, Jamie Price, who was not appointed until late May, has put together a completely new team of players, after the mass exodus, following previous manager, Danny Forrest's departure to Liversedge.

This new squad is made up mostly of young players with no or very little experience of playing at this level. Alongside this youthful bunch, Jamie, has recruited some more experienced players, to give the team a certain amount of balance and guile.

It was a tough start for Thackley as Wombwell had been promoted at the end of last season, finishing runners up in the division, with 94 points and having scored 113 goals.

A tight game for the Thackley players playing together in their first ever competitive game was made harder as they gave away a penalty after just twenty minutes.

However, a fine save by new keeper Liam Wilson kept the visitors at bay. One of the advantages of having a young energetic team is that they are quick, enthusiastic and ambitious to do well. This more than compensated for experience in this game.

Yet it was left to one of the experienced Thackley players, the evergreen Paul Walker, to score the important only goal of the game and provide the perfect start, to what is expected to be, a challenging season.

Thackley AFC Results

26th July Thackley 1 Wombwell Town 0
2nd Sept Irlam 4 Thackley 0
6th Sept Rossington Main 0 Thackley 1
9th Sept Thackley 0 Horbury Town 0
16th Sept Frickley Athletic 1 Thackley 0

This result was followed by the opening round of the FA Cup, a 4-0 defeat at Irlam, a result not really unexpected, but a scoreline that flattered the Lancashire side.

The following league game produced another excellent performance away at Rossington Main, and another slender, but deserved, 1-0 victory. Six points from the opening two games, the dream continued.

League game three, Horbury Town at home, with neither side able to break the deadlock.

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www.pitchero.com/clubs/thackleyfootballclub

THACKLEY AFC SEASON TICKET PRICES 2025/2026

	SEASON	PRICE PER GAME
ADULT	£90	£7
CONCESSIONS	£55	£5
UNDER 16S	FREE	FREE

*Please note that Thackley AFC reserve the right to request proof of age and / or student ID
** Season ticket entitles you to entry to all NCEL Premier Division matches. Cup matches excluded
*** Under 16s free when accompanied by a paying adult

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