

The Trumpit

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Alvin Blossom 1949-2025

Issue 528 - February 2026



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The Trumpit is a free monthly magazine with 1200 copies available in over sixty local outlets plus an online version too. The aims are to inform, entertain and promote the local area.

The Bill & Bloss Community Fund honours the memory of the two previous Trumpit editors and is there to support local good causes.

The deadline date is typically the 20th of each preceding month although for new submissions as early as you can please.

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The cover picture was first published in the September 2025 edition, forwarded by a reader. It depicts the inimitable Alvin Blossom outside The Commercial in Thackley. Edited by Cathryn Bell.



Editorial

Sadly, between the last edition in December and this, we lost two people who were clearly well loved. In late November, former local butcher Barry Fenton, passed away. He was a cracking bloke: funny, warm and always to the point, even posing for the cover of the September 2020 edition with his unique take on social distancing.

One month on came more sad news that the founder of this magazine, Alvin Blossom, had also passed away. I cannot claim to have known him that well other than from the hilarious quizzes he hosted for a period in The Scruffy (White Bear). It was best to "see all, hear all and say nowt" so sharp was his wit. His verbal jousts with the various teams that contested the quiz at the time were great entertainment. Inimitable is the best I can offer.

As a modest legacy tribute to Bloss, the Bill Craven Community Fund will now be renamed the Bill & Bloss Community Fund recognising both my predecessors.

Life must go on and so a warm welcome to the first edition of 2026 and what I hoped would be the last of the City of Culture gravy train. But no! Apparently they still have money left to burn but rather than simply redistribute to local libraries, museums and art centres, it appears not so.

As many of you know, parts of the locality are classified as a conservation area and this should be something to be very proud and protective of. This is proper culture, not contrived, government-funded, fluffy stuff. So when a business flouts planning rules (at the time of writing) they display a contempt for those wishing this part of Bradford to flourish and not sink down the pan like others have.

The gaudy stickers covering the windows of a couple of new shops with no required planning permissions granted should be removed without delay, not ignored. If traders wish to benefit from trading here, then they should respect the rules we all have to follow to enhance the area. See Your Say for an update from a local councillor.

Still on the subject of conservation - and preservation - every six months or so, with help from a reader, we check the status of Idle Moor at the Land Registry which is the subject of continual interest from predators in the shape of major house builders.

There is nothing more to report for now but this is with the caveat that the register can be months out of date. Fingers crossed, no news is good news. may it stay that way.

Alvin Blossom

Daryl Ames

Reproduced from 1/1/26 with kind permission from the Bradford Telegraph & Argus.

Tributes have been paid to a former radio DJ and popular Bradford pub landlord who was known for his "highly developed sense of humour". Kevin Wood, who was better known as his radio DJ persona Alvin Blossom, died on Sunday, December 28, at the age of 76 following a short illness.

Mr Wood was born in Stafford but lived most of his life in Bradford before spending his last few years in Skipton. He worked as a BBC Radio Leeds DJ from 1978 to 1994, and he was also the landlord at the former Shoulder of Mutton pub, located on Leeds Road in Thackley.

His nephew, Dominic Crossley, from Giggleswick, spoke to the Telegraph & Argus about his uncle, saying: "He was a character. He took on the stage name 'Alvin Blossom' when on the radio. He went by that name officially. No one would have known that was Kevin Wood other than his family. We always called him Kevin."

"When he was pub landlord at the Shoulder of Mutton from 1987 to 1992, people just called him 'Bloss'. He was always entertaining which is probably why he went into radio. I remember as a child, you would walk into a room and he would always be cracking jokes. He had a highly developed sense of humour."

Mr Crossley said his uncle moved to Bierley in Bradford at the age of six months and lived there before he moved to Holme Wood and then Thackley. He worked as a DJ presenter and had a regular show at BBC Radio Leeds.

Mr Crossley said: "My uncle always told us he never had a producer and he did everything himself. He took me to the studio on Woodhouse Lane once and he certainly could do it all himself."



Mr Wood was passionate about the Thackley area and decided to work as landlord at the Shoulder of Mutton pub while still doing his Radio Leeds show on Saturdays.

"A lot of people in Idle and Thackley will remember some good nights out at the pub. He had a successful time there. It was a very family friendly place and it was a community asset. It was interesting having a semi-famous uncle."

During his time at the pub, 'Bloss' started up what is now The Trumpit (originally The Thackley Trumpit) as a pub flyer in 1987. After he finished at the pub and then as DJ in 1994, Mr Wood ventured into acting and script writing and was involved with a cable television channel based in Bradford.

Mr Crossley said: "We had some letters from his fans. They told us how much they enjoyed listening to his show. He was a bit of an inspiration to me. It was interesting having a semi-famous uncle."

Here are the funeral details for Friday 6th February 2026. My thanks to Dominic for providing these and the photo above.

11.30am - procession leaves Thackley AFC (football club), Ainsbury Avenue, Thackley at walking pace. Procession goes past his mum's flat (Ashfield Road) so we will pause there to remember her.

12.30 to 1.30pm - Requiem Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Leeds Road, Idle.

After the Mass, family go to Bowling Cemetery for a private burial (transport provided) at 2pm.

Thackley AFC will be open from 2pm for the funeral party which friends will go to straight away and family when we return from the burial, likely to be around 3.30pm.

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Your Say

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We had a brilliant memorial Quiz for Mick Cockroft. Dan and Nigel put together a real fun quiz. "Up the Chickens" were the winners, a team consisting Becki Killip, Richard Killip and Max Key.

We would like to thank everyone who took part and everyone who generously donated raffle prizes. A fantastic £600 was raised for Marie Curie. Thank you to the Trumpit for your donation. **Elaine O'Hagan**



What an excellent article by the Editor in the December 2025 edition headed "A Pivotal Moment For Bradford". It highlighted so much of what is wrong with our once great city, and the deluded opinions of the long-time Labour Council leader 'Hapless' Susan Hinchcliffe who must have her rose-tinted spectacles glued to her face.

Let's be honest, she and her lackey ARS (Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw) have presided over so many shambolic issues over the past few years that it beggars belief that either could stay in office.

They obviously have no shame - just keep taking the expenses! In private industry both would have been shown the door years ago.

The forthcoming Council elections will be hugely interesting and the outcome could be anything. Reform must be rubbing their hands although whether that would be a change for the better must be up for debate. The best bit though would surely be the removal of Hapless and ARS to give at least a glimmer of hope. **Bob Watson**

I think it (the decision on the decals on the High Street shop) would be subject to appeal although I am not aware that one has been lodged. As you suggest it is as likely that the owner is hoping that enforcement won't get around to doing anything in a hurry.

You might also be interested on an update on the shop at 16 The Green which we have been concerned about for some time. These decals were installed without planning permission being sought so the situation is somewhat different. Our understanding is that following intervention by the planners the owner here is going to put in a retrospective planning application. I would hope and expect this would be refused on the same grounds, but obviously it does kick it down the road a few more weeks. I believe this case is to be reviewed by planners at the end of January.

All this is clearly unsatisfactory, when owners can drag out the process like this and enforcement are so slow. We are planning to bring this up at the next council meeting. **Cllr Griffiths**

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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

This month here are some extracts from editions 264 & 265 (January & February 2003).

In the January edition was an old Trumpit from December 1990 reflecting how much the magazine had changed since those early days at the Shoulder of Mutton; fast forward to today and I hope you see the changes since.

The council were in the firing line as usual re a training trip to...Jamaica?

Q: Why would Bradford Youth Development Partnership want to send twelve young adults, with some Team Leaders, on a training course to become local Youth Leaders / Workers? Obviously, because we need enthusiastic, fully trained and qualified young people to 'get in there' and have a positive influence on young people locally, some of whom live in what can only be described as 'difficult conditions'.

This is an example of positive action, being taken at a local level.

QUESTION: Why did all these people have to travel to...Jamaica for this training?

Danny Darlington, one of the Team Leaders who went with them, said, "This was not a 'holiday'. These people worked really hard with young people, in high temperatures, from 7.30 am to 11.30 am, then again from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm and from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

I don't want to make any more comments about this on the 'phone. Let's meet after Christmas and I'll give you all the details about this training project."

ANSWER: It fairness, I only got through to Danny just ten minutes before he was about to break up for the Christmas holidays. I accepted his invitation, and we'll meet in January, face to face...to get all the facts.

The Eating Out review was from Kipling's at Greengates and was a glowing five stars all round. Good to see a local business still going strong after so long.

In the February edition the front page is dominated by a reply - of sorts - from our council on the Jamaica expedition. Some things, it appears, never change.

And, for balance, another long-standing pub-restaurant - The Stansfield - is given a review and another positive one too.

Still sticking to the longevity theme there was a piece on Thackley Shotokan Tigers, still going strong many years later.

In the small ads I spotted this and wondered if it was the same business still operating locally today - can anybody confirm?

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And finally, an anniversary for one of the oldest groups in the area - Idle & Thackley AODS - still going strong today - well done!

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of our Society, which was founded in 1928 by a group of music lovers, whose enthusiasm for singing outweighed their ambition or their charitable resolve. We have had various homes since our inception at Idle Parish Church, including the Upper Chapel, Idle Baptist Church, the Methodist churches in Thackley and Idle, and various school halls. We now have a more permanent home by securing a long-term lease on the upper floor of Idle & Thackley Conservative Club, where we have built a stage and dressing rooms and declared it "The Little Theatre." This is where we perform our annual pantomime and an autumn revue. Our large musical shows are performed at Bingley Arts Centre, this year we are presenting the ever-popular Oliver from 1st to 5th July. Being above the Conservative Club, means that a lot of us feel compelled to call in after rehearsals or meetings or for whatever reason we have been

there just to be sociable you understand. New members are always welcome, you don't have to appear on stage if you are a member, we are always in need of people who are willing to work backstage doing all manner of things, which enable us to put on a show.

We are also on the look out for a dog to take part in Oliver ideally it should be a Bull Terrier, be used to children and noise and not likely to bite Bill Sykes or anyone else for that matter.

After a break to enable the pantomime to take place, our junior section IT Kids re-opens on Tuesday 11th February, at 6.30 - 7.30 for 6 - 10 year olds 7.30 - 8.30 for 10 - 13 year olds and 8.30 to 9.30 for 13 + classes are in stagecraft, music, movement and drama, and cost £3.00 per week.

As I write this the opening date for the pantomime is hurtling towards us at a great pace and by the time you read this it will be almost over. Will let you know how it all went next time. Oh yes I will.



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Local News

My thanks to Councillor Sunderland for these two recent snippets which don't make for great reading. Hopefully, by the time you do read this we will have made progress towards restoring things as they were.

Firstly, the Quaker burial ground has been vandalised again. The stones stolen are flat and about 2 inches thick; these are oblong coping stones for this Grade 2 listed structure.

The site was last vandalised and subsequently repaired back in 2019 with the main work from volunteers.

Once again, local volunteers will be helping to restore the structure and The Bill & Bloss Community Fund has offered £100 for protective gloves and other equipment if needed.

Thanks to Tony Newsholme for rounding up a few volunteers and to Stratford Stone Sales for their invaluable help with the required stone proving community will always win out.

As Cllr Sunderland states: "Many thanks to you all - the burial ground is a much respected (by most folks) of our local history and we do wish to keep it."



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As if that was bad enough, more from our local councillor who is heavily involved with Springfield Community Centre on Thorpe Edge simply trying to improve life chances for young people in the main.

"Sadly the Community Defibrillator purchased by the young people at the Springfield Centre, with help from Hepworth and Idle Cricket Club has been stolen.

Goodness knows why someone would steal such a valuable community resource. Ours was particularly useful as it could also be used for children.

Since its installation it has been taken out and used by local people and the ambulance service on numerous occasions. Sadly it is no more until we get together sufficient money to replace it.

The Ambulance Service Community Resilience Team have tried to track it but to no avail so it has been reported to the Police as a theft. I also note that one has been stolen from a church in Shipley and am left wondering why on earth?"

It truly defies belief that morons could actually steal something like this and is a kick in the nuts for the good people at HICC who raised the funds here.

If anybody reading this wishes to try to raise funds for a replacement please get in touch for a donation.



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The Thackley Chef

Richard Aveyard - ACIEH

I start with a nod to the page opposite and a small tribute to the late Barry Fenton.

Try this recipe for a Three Bean Soup with dunking bread of course.

Equipment: large heavy bottomed saucepan; baking tray; clean bowl; ladle; spatula; tongs and warmed up soup bowls.

Pre-heat oven to 160C(fan)/180C/350F/Gas 4)

Ingredients: medium onion; large carrot; large potato (all three to be peeled, washed & diced to approx. 1cm chunks); 2tbs tomato puree; 2 bay leaves; 2 cloves garlic (peeled & chopped fine); 1/2tsp dried thyme and oregano or 1tsp dried Italian mixed herbs; litre vegetable stock; 1 tin each of chopped tomatoes, butter beans, borlotti beans & baked beans; 100g frozen peas; 3-4tbs olive or rapeseed oil plus extra 1tbs for finishing.

For the croutes: small sour dough loaf or French baguette torn into chunks; 1-2 cloves of garlic finely chopped; 2-3tbs rapeseed or olive oil.

Chef's Tip: You can choose beans of your choice and there are plenty of tinned options available in any supermarket.

Method:

1. Place sauce pan on to a moderate heat and add the oil (3-4 tbs) plus onions. Cook gently for 1-2 minutes then add the carrots and repeat. Add the potatoes - repeat - then add the garlic without burning.

2. Add the tomato puree, stirring regularly then add the aromatics.

3. Add the butterbeans and borlotti beans and stir in well. Add the tomatoes and swill out tin with a little stock before adding to soup. Add 2/3rds of the stock and stir well turning up the heat to bring up to a boil.

4. Once boiling reduce to a simmer and cook for approx. 10 -15 minutes.

5. As soup simmers add the torn bread to the bowl and add the oil, garlic and several good twists to suit your taste of salt and peppermills. Decant bread mixture on to baking tray scraping bowl clean.

6. Place bread into oven and toast until you have golden brown tinges on the croute. Carefully turn your croutes with tongs to try and get an even colour.

7. Check your soup and correct if needed before adding the baked bean. Swill tin out with rest of stock and add to soup turning up the heat and stirring frequently to get to a boil. Cook for 4-5 minutes reducing the heat and skimming any scum that may appear with a spoon or ladle.

8. Turn off the oven but leave croutes in until needed. To serve decant into serving bowls and dunk away with your warm bread!



Now for a winter warmer pudding - baked ginger and syrup served with either custard or cream...delicious! Pre-heated oven as above.

Equipment: food mixer or hand mixer; pudding basin; 7-inch ovenproof dish; deep baking tray; spatula; sieve and kitchen roll.

Ingredients: 175g/6oz self-raising flour; 1/2tsp baking powder and 1tsp ground ginger sieved together; 175/6oz caster sugar and same for

margarine with a little extra for greasing; pinch of salt; 1tsp vanilla extract; 3 medium eggs; 3-4tbs Golden Syrup; 3-4 pieces stem ginger with 2 sliced and rest chopped in to small pieces (keep in a little syrup from your ginger jar to add later.

Method:

1. Lightly grease your pudding basin and place into the fridge until needed.

2. Cream margarine, sugar and vanilla until, light, creamy and fluffy.

3. Beat your eggs and, adding one at a time plus one tablespoon of flour at a time to your mixture, repeat until all eggs and flour used.

4. Add the milk al little at a time until you have achieved dropping consistency.

5. Add your chopped stem ginger and fold into your mixture.

6. Take your basin out of the fridge and place the slices of stem ginger into the bottom of the basin. Pour the golden syrup over the ginger pieces. Add the pudding mixture to your bowl, and using your thumb scrape round your basin

so when the mixture is free from the sides so you get an even rise.

7. Place some kitchen paper in the bottom of your baking tray and put your pudding basin on to the paper. Fill your tray with water 1-2 inches up the side. Carefully place into the oven's middle shelf.

8. Bake for approx. 20-30 minutes and keep checking water level. If browning too quickly cover with a sheet of kitchen. Test with your skewer by pushing only 2/3rds way down into your mixture until skewer comes out clean. Once pudding is cooked, carefully remove from oven and remove pudding.

9. Rest and turn out in to a serving dish.



In memory of Barry Fenton, a top bloke.

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While In China a man is very sexually
promiscuous and does not use a condom all the time he is there. A week after arriving back home in Sydney, he wakes one morning to find his tadger covered with bright green and purple spots.

Horrified, he immediately goes to see a doctor. The doctor, never having seen anything like this before, orders some tests and tells the man to return in two days for the results.

The man returns a couple of days later and the doctor says, "I've got bad news for you, you've contracted Mongolian VD. It's very rare and almost unheard of here, we know very little about it."

The man looks a little perplexed and says, "Well, give me a shot or something and fix me up, Doc."

The doctor answers, "I'm sorry, there's no known cure. We're going to have to amputate your tadger"

The man screams in horror, "Absolutely not! I want a second opinion!!"

The doctor replies, "Well, it's your choice. Go ahead, if you want, but surgery is your only option."

The next day, the man seeks out a Chinese doctor, figuring that he'll know more about the disease. The Chinese doctor examines his penis and proclaims, "Ah, yes, Mongolian VD. Vewy ware disease."

The guy says to the doctor, "Yeah, yeah, I already know that but what can we do? My doctor wants to cut off my tadger!"

The Chinese doctor shakes his head and laughs. "Stupid Australian docttah, always want opawate. Make more money dat way. No need amputate!"

"Oh, thank God!" the man exclaims.

"Yes," says the doctor, "Wait two week.....

One evening a family brings their frail, elderly mother to a nursing home and leaves her, hoping she will be well cared for. The next morning, the nurses bathe her, feed her a tasty breakfast, and set her in a chair at a window overlooking a lovely flower garden.

She seems fine, but after a while she slowly starts to lean over sideways in her chair. Two attentive nurses immediately rush up to catch her and straighten her up.

Again she seems fine, but after awhile she starts to tilt to the other side. The nurses rush back and once more bring her back upright.

This goes on all morning. Later the family arrives to see how the old woman is adjusting to her new home.

"So, Ma, how is it here? Are they treating you all right?" they ask.

"It's pretty nice," she replies. "Except they won't let you fart."

Yesterday my daughter e-mailed me, again, asking why I didn't do something useful with my time like sitting around in the garden bar and drinking beer isn't a good thing. She was "only thinking of me," she said and suggested, I go down to the old folks centre and hang out with the..old folks.

I sent her an e-mail telling her I had and that I had joined the Senior Parachute Club.

She replied "Are you nuts? You're 72 years-old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?"

I told her that I even had a membership card and e-mailed a copy to her.

Immediately, she telephoned me and yelled, "Good grief, dad, where are your glasses?! This is a membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club."

"Oh dear, am I in trouble," I said, "I signed up for five jumps a week!"

The line went dead. Life as a senior citizen isn't getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun to wind the kids up.



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A F | Ashcroft Relative | Dec 2025

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Bouncing Back?

How many of you can remember the Bradford's Bouncing Back campaign from the late 1980s? Or the Will Alsop inspired city centre Masterplan from 2003? Fast forward to today and, depending on what you believe, Bradford is poised to be reborn with a raft of new schemes and significant investment in the city centre.

Before the end of the year I was sent a copy of an article published in the November issue of Architects' Journal. Below I have tried to summarise the key points and leave you to make your own minds up.

The big regeneration bounce back: is it finally Bradford's time? Richard Waite

The phrase 'successful regeneration' is not how many Bradfordians would have described the efforts to revitalise its tired but once-grand city centre over the last two decades.

People can't forget the blight of the infamous and seemingly perpetual 'hole in the ground' – the giant and long hoarded-off demolition site that sat dormant for nearly 10 years before eventually becoming the Broadway shopping centre in late 2015.

Bradfordians also remember how the much-loved Odeon was very nearly knocked down to make way for a bang-average office scheme.

The City of Culture year helped focus minds and introduced, or reintroduced, many to Bradford's exceptional Victorian bone structure.

Today there's a pipeline of schemes which will continue long after the 2025 circus leaves town at the end of the year. Among these next-wave flagship projects are the City Village proposal and the Southern Gateway masterplan.

City Village, led by architect 5Plus and the English Cities Fund (ECF), was submitted as a hybrid application this summer and aims to bring 1,000 new homes into the city centre.

The Southern Gateway, meanwhile, is a giant 146ha chunk of urban redevelopment which

could also become the home to a new relocated (and much-needed) through-station south of the existing Bradford Interchange. Both schemes aim to bring more people into the central core.

The teams behind them know they will have to win hearts and minds and persuade Bradford's population, one of the youngest in the UK, that the city centre is a viable, safe and exciting place to live.

"Perceptions still need to change," says James Dinsley from ECF. "[The city's] had a tough run, but there are so many great things about Bradford. We actually feel a lot of the problems start with people from Bradford who have a negative view of the city."

ECF, a public-private partnership between Homes England, Legal & General and Muse Developments, is working with the council to try and achieve something boundary-pushing for Bradford: high-standard inner-urban housing.

More headline grabbing is the outline scheme for the brutalist 1970s Kirkgate Market site. 5Plus's scheme will see the monolithic concrete shopping centre flattened and replaced with around 400 flats with significant new public spaces...including green areas facing Darley Street market.

Dinsley insists City Village will not fall into the trap of previous disappointments. "The major difference here is that there's a delivery partner," he says. 'That's us. ECF is geared up to deliver exactly on these types of schemes [and has done so] across the country. More importantly, we've got funders on board [and others] who are clawing at us, trying to get involved in this scheme, which is also reassuring."

This next 'layer' includes the huge Southern Gateway on the fringe of the centre. It is among the largest of the 12 separate regeneration areas across Bradford.

The largely forgotten brownfield hinterland, squeezed between Manchester Road, Leeds Road, the existing rail corridor and Bradford Interchange, is currently home to light industrial estates, commercial warehouses and offices.

Bradford's core and the larger residential areas also contains pockets of housing, the main police station, a college and faith and community centres.

At the heart...will be a new city station - technically a 'multi-modal transport hub' - integrating both the high-speed Liverpool-to-Hull Northern Powerhouse Rail link and the West Yorkshire tram system between Leeds and Bradford. The government has already committed £2.5 billion to this new metro system.

And Bradford's 19th-century Little Germany area - the predominantly Neoclassical, city centre quarter that was once home to German merchants - has seemingly been on the verge of a renaissance for decades. The area reportedly has the highest concentration of listed buildings in Europe.

'We are having conversations with investors all the time, who are desperately keen to understand how our progress is going [on City Village] so they can ride on the coat-tails,' says Dinsley.

Editor's Comment - born in 1963 and not yet having escaped, I can reasonably claim to have seen enough to at least form a view.

The American author Bill Bryson was quoted in his best-selling book, *Notes from a Small Island* (1995); "Bradford's role in life is to make every other city in the world look better in comparison, even Pyongyang." This has always stuck with me. And this external perception remains to this day, despite the City of Culture jamboree that many felt no connection to at all.

To quote another literary masterpiece, *A Tale of Two Cities*, we have been cast into the shadow of Leeds for several decades now, not helped by the riots in 2001, which were devastating to the city's external image. If there was a hope that Bradford could cling to the coat tails of its brash, flash neighbour, this has not proven so.

And so here we go again with yet more grand plans and artists impressions with untold riches promised if we all just believe.

Would I be cynical if I suggested this has a feel of been here before? Only time will tell.



A photograph of a man with long hair and a woman in dental scrubs holding a green plaque that says 'HAPPY PATIENT'. They are standing in front of a dental practice sign that includes text like 'PRACTICE OF THE YEAR 2025', 'Dentistry For Those Who Don't Like Dentists', and the address '450 Highfield Road Idle, BD10 8RU'.

SEDATION - DENTURES IN A DAY - IMPLANTS - STRAIGHT TEETH



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Tales From The Scruffy



Expecting to find the idle version of the Marie Celeste the day after New Year's Day, it was a pleasant surprise to find that the local fellow alcohol dependents viewed an additional night in front of the television with the same horror as another mince pie.

I had watched so many episodes of Line of Duty, I was beginning to develop the Belfast drawl of DI Hastings, wagging my finger at the dog constantly accusing it of some new offence. "I'm only interested in bent dogs!"

Although the B&M Christmas tat was still in full view at The Scruffy, there was no finer glow than Dog Leg Dave and his golf widow, Ms Sixth Form 1979, sat in amongst the Nob Eds in matching pink sweaters, a modern day Jerry and Margot from The Good Life.

Dog Leg was considering options for the coming weekend as golf, due to the frozen ground, looked unlikely. Ms Sixth Form was already committed to a weekend with her favourite gin bottle, golf or no golf.

Outside the giant tree, seen from as far away as leafy Calverley, dominated the skyline. Inside we were all just adjusting back to some form of normality, the irony lost on most that we had to seek it via The Scruffy.

The golf committee had convened in the corner after a team trip to the best menswear shop around - Raymond Town in Ilkley - and were comparing bargains galore. What else to talk about with frozen fairways predicted for the weekend?



Five Pints had treated himself to a pair of trendy boots that his wife - Mission Control - had compared somewhat unfavourably to a pair of callipers. Cue uncharitable Douglas Bader quips all-round.

Another wag murmured that with a bit of glitter or tartan he could have been in a pop band back in the seventies and that by now he would almost certainly be in Strangeways.

As if to restore order the debonair Trowel wandered across to steal a few cheeky New Year kisses from women clearly defenceless, his Aramis 1965 overpowering them in an instant. At the bar Bonnie & Clyde were back in town and nobody was staking a claim to their stools or getting kisses.



Meanwhile, The Voice of Reason had been on a spending spree at Home Bargains in the hope of raising the hygiene levels of the locals, a sort of care in the community. We now had a luxurious Cherry and Snow Blossom soap by Imperial Leather; a 99p bargain and guaranteed to last till the end of summer at current usage levels.

Of course, talk could not avoid mention of Bloss and the sad news of his passing. So many funny stories, so much laughter created by one man. Many glasses were tipped in honour of a unique individual. Rest in peace!

It was a desperate move I will admit, but what to do on a soulless midweek January night? So it was that I pitched the notion that the pampered pooch needed some "socialisation" for her "mental health". The deal was done in a flash and off we went to The Scruffy to be welcomed by the ever-reliable Bright Eyes, yawning behind the bar.

A smattering of locals were in including The Bank, the face of capitalism, glowing like the FTSE 100 in Nob Ed Korna - white collar meets blue collar for a blind date. To balance out the social mix, in came heir to the empire of the exiled Fat Ping Pong of Pocklington. Artisan Yung Ping Pong was sporting a fancy handkerchief on his head, every bit as Gallic as his wavy moustache. Then it livened up...

Former wild child and now celebrity photographer Ms Bell wandered in with her usual "I slept in a barn" hairstyle nursing an injury. She sidled up to me and said: "I will tell you how this happened but you won't print it will you?" Of course not...read on please.

As wild water swimmers are invigorated by exposure to chilly rivers for their kicks, Idle's equestrian expert confessed that she often emulates Lady Godiva for an early morning hack around the barn. "Ooh the breeze gets everywhere!" she confessed. "And the bumpety-bump-bump...it's all a girl needs!"

Sadly, this time her favourite ride was not up for it and, after a few laps of the barn, she was thrown head over heels and landed with a large bump on the ground. A popped shoulder - fortunately for The Scruffy she can drink with both arms - was the result.

Inevitably Winnie needed relief, as I did after this tale, so we wandered out to the beer garden where, in a few months, crowds will gather again. I looked at the tastefully restored Scruffy and New Inn signage; the beautiful ancient Bell Chapel; Taylored Dental's classy building; and Towngate, the finest fish and chips around. Then I saw the flashing lights of the new amusement arcade looking like downtown Blackpool. and wandered how.

I end with sad news - far too much of it this month for a man to bear. The Scruffy's very own Bet Lynch - Young Bet - is leaving after 13 years dishing out far more abuse than beer to long-suffering punters.

Having never been on a customer service course in her life, you always took your chances whenever approaching the bar with Young Bet in situ. A good day and you might just get away with a beer. On any other day, you took your chances.

Classic responses that would have made Heineken's HR Dept shudder included: "What do you want?" "Are you lost?" "The New Inn's over the street!" And then she would grip the beer pump, biceps bulging, before pulling one of the best pints around. I will so miss them!

She also gave The Trumpit her daughter, Auburn Em, our one modest success story, going from an occasional blog, via The Trumpit, to a real journalism job in the Big City. And never did she claim an agent's fee, at least bar the odd one in liquid form.

As the senior citizen behind the bar she has seen countless come and go so The Scruffy without Young Bet will not quite seem the same. The good news is she drinks like a fish and so we are guaranteed to keep coping a bit of abuse the other side of the bar.

There are new challenges ahead with her growing dogging business - if you go down to the (Thackley) woods today - meaning a life of fresh air, mucky boots and countless poo bags.

I wish her well and, on behalf of The Trumpit, thank you for years of fun and many great pints. Keep dogging!



Trumpit Money

The Year of the Housing Market?

The UK housing market finds itself at a pivotal point. While the Chancellor's Autumn Budget was a quiet one for our industry, the real optimism lies in what this could mean for mortgage rates.

Rachel Reeves's commitment to lowering inflation is the green light the Bank of England needs to continue its course of gradually lowering the base rate; reductions are anticipated throughout this year.

If things go as planned, the base rate could settle at around 3.5% by the summer, firmly cementing itself in the 'new normal' rate environment of 3-4%. This would mean we're another step closer to removing the affordability barrier that's been restricting market activity for the last two years.

Another huge jump forward in breaking down affordability barriers is through the range of new mortgage products out there, and the great strides lenders made in 2025. Notably, the launch of higher loan-to-value products has been a lifeline for those who struggle to raise a deposit under specific circumstances. The market has also been strengthened by the entry of new lenders - something which should be applauded and that I sincerely hope continues into 2026.

Furthermore, the way the mortgage industry continues to embrace technology is accelerating at pace. The speed and adoption of AI by lenders to streamline the time it takes to process a mortgage application is beginning to yield incredible results, with some providers already offering 24 hour mortgage offers.

While the overall sentiment post-budget was to 'keep calm and carry on', we have to admit that the outcome was somewhat underwhelming, providing minimal impact for prospective and current homeowners.

However, the Chancellor did deliver a 'rabbit out of the hat' in the form of an annual reduction in energy bills, as well as reinforcing her commitment to ongoing investment in planning.

As always, the devil will be in the details, so we'll wait and see to establish the impact once the dust settles.

Where the budget fell short was on implementing long-overdue, much-needed reforms for our industry. While acknowledging other pressing national priorities was understandable, the opportunity was missed to deliver significant changes the market desperately needs:

- A reform to current Stamp Duty regulations could have been the difference between someone deciding whether or not to purchase a property. Brokers will continue to constantly badger for this change, as it would massively stimulate market activity.
- The current council tax system is incredibly outdated. While the Budget touched on the need for an overhaul, a meaningful commitment to tackle this remains an aspiration.
- The distinct lack of support for landlords cannot be ignored any longer. It's time for the government to make upcoming legislation work for both landlords and tenants, so we can create a fairer experience for all.

Despite these missed opportunities, the news that inflation is receding, and interest rates should follow, means a quiet revolution for the housing market is on its way. With affordability improving due to lower rates, the overall outlook for 2026 remains one of cautious optimism.

With new mortgage products, a gradually declining economic forecast, and increasing affordability on offer, seeking expert mortgage advice has never been more important.

Whether you're thinking of buying for the first time, need to remortgage, or are planning to relocate, a mortgage broker can act as your trusty guide to navigate this fast-paced market, ensuring you secure a deal that works for you and your financial situation.

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Walks in Yorkshire

Intrepid Hike Beyond The Signposts

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.

It's a bit alarming when you set off on a path that's clearly defined and well waymarked, only to find both path and markings peter out.

At such times you have to consult your map closely, be intrepid and soldier on.

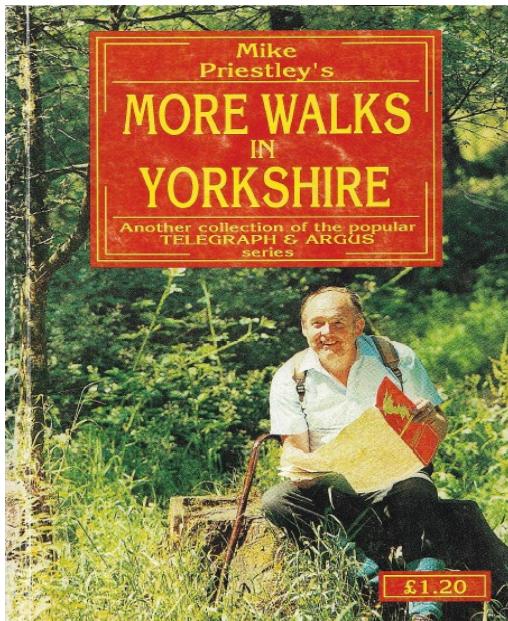
I found myself in this sort of situation when I explored Ponden Clough, just beyond Stanbury.

I parked in the big carpark behind Ponden Mill, and started out upon the broad track which leads past the dam and along the side of the reservoir - a reservoir which, on a red-hot mid-September day, was disturbingly low.

The track swung round to cross the head of the reservoir then climbed up to pass the 17th century Ponden Hall and the farm beyond, where a friendly tethered dog wagged its tail at me and another, not so friendly, barked

loudly from inside a barn.

Not far along the track from here, a footpath signpost indicated a left turn to Ponden Kirk, up another good track. Through the green gate at the top, I followed the yellow waymarked arrow



straight ahead on a grassy track with the wall to my right,

At the wall corner, I kept straight on then soon turned left, following the arrow to Ponden Kirk across rough moorland without any clear path, heading for the jagged stumps of a broken-down wall on the skyline with a ruin to the left of them.

Halfway there, I spotted another marker pointing the way straight ahead then another post with two arrows - one indicating ahead, the other to the right.

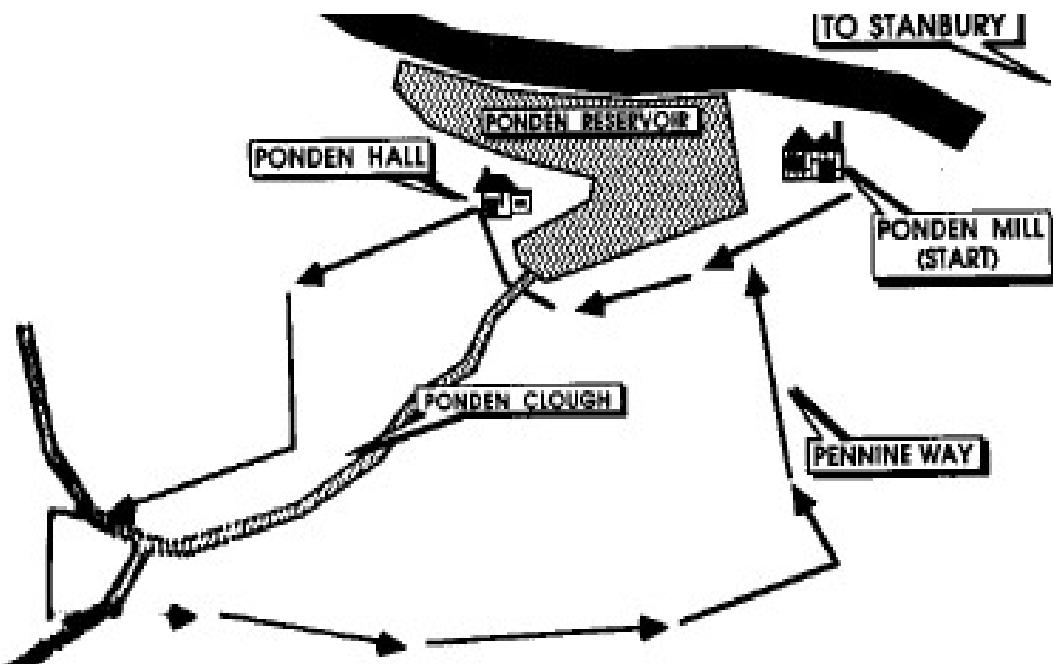
I continued straight on with the wall to my left until another marker pointed along a well-worn track to the right.

This ran along the contours up Ponden Clough, with the beck trickling down in the distance at the foot of the steep bank with its bracken and stunted trees,

The track ended at a small quarry, from where it became a thin path leading to the top of a small dam filled with rubble washed down by the floods earlier this year when it rained heavily.

I picked my way across the rubble and found





that the path continued downstream along the far bank until it came to another dam across Middle Moor Clough as it tumbled down to join the other stream and become Ponden Clough Beck.

I crossed the top of this too, and then trod very carefully on the other side because here the path was rather hard to follow and somewhat precarious as it led beneath the vertical rock faces with a sharp drop to the left.

I hadn't seen a waymarker for some time and wondered if I'd lost my way as I followed the meandering path up the hillside to where it joined a more clearly defined sloping ridge to reach the moor top.

The views from here were superb, back over Ponden Reservoir and up the valley to Keighley and the hills beyond.

There was also, in the middle distance, another waymarker with an arrow pointing straight ahead. I had been on the right path all along.

Another marker, and another, found me continuing on this narrow and winding path

with a wall eventually to my left until I came to a ladder stile by a farm.

Over this, I kept on along the farm track past another farm with its own little conifer forest and then down to Buckley Green Farm, beyond

which there was a road.

I didn't take that road ahead, though. I turned sharp left, almost doubling back behind the farm and continuing down the track to the gate at the end, just before which

an arrow next to a stile showed that the combined Bronte/Pennine Way followed the ancient walled lane down to join the reservoir-side track, where I turned right back to the car park.

Time: 1 & 1/2 hours approximately.

Sincere thanks

to Nigel Burton,

Editor of the

Bradford T&A,

for allowing The

Trumpit to

publish Mike's wonderful walks.

T & A

Bookworm

A Windhill Wanderer

I have read many memoirs, but never by people I haven't heard of. Somehow, I found myself reading: *The World According to Andy Carter*. Forty-seven mini-chapters are under various headings such as: "Dead Cats up Trees" and "Vinegar, Haggis and Fish".

I'm not sure what I expected from a book written by someone I thought I had nothing in common with. Andy is sport obsessed (I'm not and he also thinks golf is a sport); he had wanted to be a firefighter since he was a child (why would anyone choose such dangerous work?) and he dislikes dogs (dogs are the best). However, what I got was a very welcome walk down memory lane in the company of someone I have much in common with.

Let's start with Andy's childhood. It began in Baildon in 1961, and the description of where he lived and what he and his friends got up to was like my early years in Windhill. The 3-bed semi-detached sounds like my family home; the large oval "island" where he used to play, sounds exactly like the island round the back from my house. Reading about it was pure nostalgia. As was the description of Andy being scrubbed down each day whilst sat on the draining board with his feet in the sink – I'm glad I wasn't the only one who got that treatment!

Further memories were evoked when he talked about going to see Bradford Northern play for the first time. I had a friend who loved rugby league and she dragged me along to a Northern match. In Andy's case he loved it – I didn't, but it was still nice to remember the day.

Similarly, Andy started out as a Leeds United fan, as did my dad; both switched allegiance in later life to Bradford City, probably because it was closer to home and the tickets were cheaper in a much lower division. Andy's time in the Scouts reminded me of my brother's many years in the same organisation, it seems to have brought great joy to so many young men.

When it came to work, Andy was a technician at Leeds University and was sent on day-release to study for a BTEC qualification. I was sent there too, when I was working for a bank. I had forgotten all about that, but Andy's memories awoke my own.

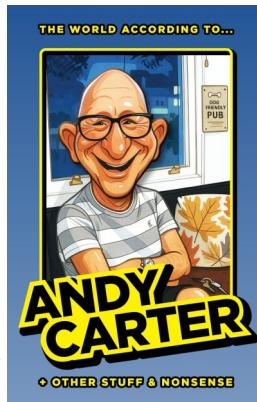
Later on, he talks about discovering his favourite beer – Tetley's Mild. Both my parents loved that; I think it was a staple at The Great Northern pub near Thackley Corner, where they went for a midweek pint. He also speaks fondly of the beer festival at The Queen's Hall in Bradford and an event at The Norfolk Gardens, both places I hadn't thought about for many years.

Andy is justly proud of his long service as a firefighter and the pranks that Blue Watch played on each other. He says next to nothing about the dangerous side of the job, which I suspect was a conscious decision to keep the book light-hearted. Just the sound of a fire engine sends shivers down my spine, but I'm very grateful that there are people out there who feel differently, so if you read this Andy, thank you for your service.

I am so pleased I read this book. Andy sounds like a lovely man. A devoted son, husband and father, a great friend and someone who sees the best in everyone. It made me laugh out loud, but more than that, it made me remember what it meant to grow up in and around Bradford. It will obviously be a godsend for future generations of Andy's family, but I think anyone interested in people will get a lot out of it.

I do hope that one day Andy gets his slot on Desert Island Discs (Chapter 27), but now that I know which tracks he will choose, I will give that episode a miss!

As for the rest of the book, I'm going to quote Andy and his philosophy on life: "Well! That's bin a gud 'un!"



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Major Tom and Carol

The Middle Years

The Trumpit is always keen to promote local talent. Here is the latest book by Paul Allen, a retired Baptist Minister living in Idle. Having lived here for the last 26 years, Paul takes services at Idle Baptist Church and Idle United Reformed Church. This is the second book of a trilogy with a summary from Paul below.

Tom Jamieson had grown up in Keswick in the Lake District; he was the only son of a Church of England Priest and a nurse. Tom was educated at Richmond Hall School in North Yorkshire; he continued his education at the University of Manchester. After training at Sandhurst Tom met Carol, a surgeon, in Scarborough when he was on leave; they fell in love and married. Tom served in The Gulf War, but he was badly injured and afterwards not fit for active service, so he trained as an assistant padre.

Tom went on to serve in Bosnia and was awarded the DSM and promoted to Major. As he was not fit, he returned to his school, Richmond Hall and Carol left the health service. Tom taught engineering and set up a business for the school rebuilding classic cars. He advanced rapidly in academia and became a house master, then second master and finally headmaster. In their personal life Tom and Carol were blessed with twin girls and two boys. Under his headship a new science block was built, a computer suite developed and a performing arts centre built.

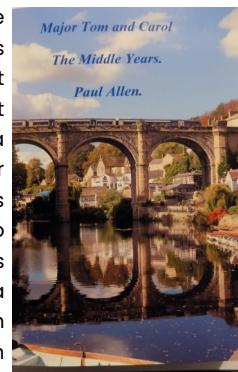
There would be many twists and surprises in Tom and Carol's life together. A sixth former was kidnapped and held for ransom, and James Richardson who had served in the Royal Engineers with Tom rescued two children from under the ice of a lake in the school grounds. An apprentice on the engineering course graduated to a career as a professional footballer, a sixth former became an opera singer, and another sixth former became a super model.

There was steady trickle of former scholars returning to teach; most notably, one who had left and become a professional tennis player and achieved the status of British number one. Two of the biggest surprises were finding that a member of staff was an MI5 sleeper and Tom being awarded a knighthood. There is however an old saying, 'it isn't over until the fat lady sings'!

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A Bradford-based cheerleading school is celebrating a historic achievement after earning a coveted bid to compete at the Allstar World Championship in the United States in April 2026.

Relentless Cheer and Dance (RCD) has secured a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity after years of relentless hard work, dedication, and perseverance, with the team pushing through setbacks and turning challenges into success.

The team has become the first RCD squad ever to win an international bid placing them among the very best cheerleading programmes from around the globe.

While the opportunity is an outstanding one, the journey to America is entirely self-funded. To make their dream a reality, the team has reached out to local businesses for sponsorship and has organised a series of fundraising events.



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Fundraising efforts are ongoing as the athletes work towards meeting the significant costs involved in competing overseas.

The team has expressed immense gratitude to everyone who has already offered support, whether through sponsorship, donations, or words of encouragement.

"We are so thankful to everybody who has reached out in supporting us on our journey to the World Championships. This opportunity means everything to us, and we're determined to represent Bradford with pride."

As preparations continue, Relentless Cheer and Dance hopes the local community will rally behind them as they chase their world championship dream and showcase Bradford talent on an international platform.

The Bill & Bloss Community Fund is pleased to be able to donate £250 and wishes the team all the very best come April. Bring it home!



December has a way of pulling me into what I call a pit of despair.

Not because anything is wrong, but because endings have always stirred something deep in me.

It's as though it gathers the year into one place. Gratitude, sadness, relief, joy - all arriving together.

The awareness that nothing lasts forever becomes sharper. Like a long goodbye.

Amongst the heaviness, there is also joy - a deep sense of gratitude shines a light on all that has been.

And then in roll January and February. The welcome signs of newness. Expansive energy. Grounded. Creative. Alive.

Not a rush to action but more of a settling in to allow the unseen to develop. The seeds already moving beneath the surface. It's a season of hibernation and of possibility.

As the days get longer, allow yourself to settle into enjoying the stillness, ready for the new energy of the Spring.

And as always, if there is anything I can help with, please reach out.

Our February WISSH-Women's Inner Stillness & Success Hub will be on the

11th February at the Stansfield Arms from 10am-12pm.

Jane.



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Community News



If you are free on a Wednesday or Thursday evening why not join a friendly local group exploring Bradford for a 2-hour mid-week walk? All walks are approx. 4 to 5 miles starting at 7pm.

For a list of walks scheduled for February please see <https://bradfordramblers.org.uk/>

We Need Your Help in spreading the word about S.T.A.R.S.! Friends, we're proud of what Support The Animal Rescues Shop has achieved—helping 11 animal rescues, reducing landfill waste, and offering great deals.

However, many local people are still unaware of our existence! If you haven't found us yet, we're located inside the old mill on Victoria Road, Eccleshill, Bradford BD2 2BT.

Our opening hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM, and Sunday from 11 AM to 3 PM; we're closed on Tuesdays. Come and see us please.

Listings here are free for all local community groups – please get in touch.



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The Commercial

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What's On

The Commercial-free bar snacks Friday to Sunday plus lots going on here.

Idle WMC-Thursday quiz (8.45pm) and bingo night (7.15pm).

The George- 1st Charlotte Nicholson & Jezz 6.30pm; 8th Stew Turner 6.30pm; 15th Face The Strange 6.30pm; 21st Son's of Robin 9pm; 22nd Jerrad Barracough 6.30pm; 28th Age No Concern 9pm.

Silence are playing The Bridge Tavern, Bradford Saturday 28th February.

The Highfield-Quiz Night Every Wednesday from 8:30pm! £200 Jackpot up for grabs. DJ & Karaoke Every Friday from 7:30pm!

Remember this is a free page to publicise what's going on at your venue.



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As I started to pen this piece, the ground was hard as rock, the sanctuary of the allotment a distant dream. But fear not because soon we will be back and now is a good time to take stock and not get too far ahead of ourselves.

Of course, if you are Monty Don and have the benefit of a heated greenhouse, you can start to sow a few seeds but for most of us it is stealing a bit of space on the windowsill for now. Because of this, it is a good idea to sow whatever you plan in a modest manner, knowing as we do, that casualties are at a peak in these early months.

And, if you stick with this column throughout the year, please bear in mind that I am a mere novice compared to Monty. For me it is simply the joy of being out and about on the plot, enjoying the odd success and, year by year, just getting a bit better.

To start the year lets recall a disaster - the Christmas spuds began well with strong plants but, in a flash and well before the frost, the plants were decimated. How or why I have not got a clue (help?) but it may be that I filled my bed with 100% homemade compost which could have been too strong?

Normally I would have been coaxing sweet peas planted last autumn, but having seen how cheap these are set against all that effort, I've decided to buy in this year.

If you have not already done so, especially if you are starting off on the kitchen window, make sure your seed trays are clean. You should also be on the lookout for seed potatoes to get them chitting depending, on whether you are planting first or second earlies or main crop. It is a good time to save a few empty egg boxes. Keep them in a cool shed or garage for around six weeks and then they will be ready to plant out.

I will be sticking with a second early - Charlotte - planting early April aiming to get them on my plate through July and August.

Onions can be started in seed form as early as January indoors but if you prefer sets i.e. small onions, then March is still okay. I set mine off in cells, transplanting around April.

So far as what to get started under cover you could try the following; early peas (in cells), broccoli, sprouts, leeks and early season salads. I would avoid thinking about tomatoes until March at least and probably cucumbers the month after.

Broad beans, which always seem reliable, are hardy enough to plant outside but sow a couple each station and have some sown in cells just in case.

As ever there is plenty to do on the plot and February is the ideal time to put some much needed goodness back into your soil. Don't bother at this time adding any supplements - such as fish blood & bone - it will wash away.

Tidy up and focus on removing weeds. If you can get some well rotted manure spread evenly over the soil this will also give it a much needed boost but it will need time to rot down properly before you start sowing directly.

Finally, its is always a good time to look around the plot and see what you can re-use or salvage as everything becomes more expensive year by year. Equally, hanging on to dozens of old pots you will never need just clutters the place up - get rid and get organized in plenty of time for the real fun.

Eccleshill Horticultural Society is based on Harrogate Road membership is a modest £3 annually. The society shop opens on Sunday mornings from 10-12 until March.

Thackley's community gardening swap shop will soon be starting up - watch this space.

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Tony Gough

Misogyny

Misogyny is a strange word first used in the 17th century; it means a strong dislike of women. A misogynist believes that women are inferior and should always be subject to the will of a man.

A misogynistic person has a deep-seated prejudice against women and girls, often believing men are superior and treating women with contempt, controlling them, or seeing them as objects, stemming from stereotypes or personal experiences.

This manifests as sexist jokes, undermining women's opinions, belittling them, controlling their behaviour, or objectifying them sexually, and it can exist consciously or unconsciously.

In 1918 most men were given the right to vote in parliamentary elections at age 21, while women were denied the same right until they were 30. Fortunately the act was amended 10 years later and in 1928 women were allowed to vote aged 21.

This unlikely attitude seems to have frequently been in the news recently in regard to the Tate brothers.

Andrew Tate, a former big brother contestant from 2016, and his brother, had arrest warrants issued against them by Westminster magistrates court in March 2024 relating to numerous allegations.

Misogyny can keep women at a lower social status than men, thus maintaining the social roles of patriarchy. It's been widely practised for thousands of years. In the Victorian era women rarely owned property and were generally seen as the property of their husband as were any children of a marriage.

Prejudice against women existed until quite recently. A typical example involved an aunt of mine in the 1960s who applied for a mortgage to buy her first house. She was a teacher earning a good salary, providing double the deposit required and fulfilled all other criteria. But because she was an unmarried woman, my father who was a shopkeeper with a family, had to sign to guarantee her debt!

So why does misogyny appear to be on the "up"? Many think the availability of online pornography is the cause. For example, schools are now teaching adolescent boys that the behaviour they see in online pornography is damaging for them. It's not real nor normal behaviour and not a part of the loving relationship they will develop with their life partner.

Misogyny may be becoming more prevalent because equality for women in work and life generally leaves some men feeling inadequate in their own life expectations.

Finally, my favourite observation on the nonsense of misogyny. God promised men a good and obedient wife in all corners of the world. Then god made the world round.



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These hopes were transferred to the away trip to Penistone Church the following Saturday. A dominant first half display yielded nothing and Thackley were caught out with a second half strike, that finished up being the only goal of the game. So, not the start to the new year anyone had hoped.

Currently, Thackley are in a reasonably safe position, twelfth in the table and nine points above a relegation place. However, they do need to start picking up points to ensure they retain their place in the Premier Division next season.

Thackley Ladies are currently on the crest of a wave and have had an excellent 2025. They topped the table last season, winning promotion to the Premier Division of the WRCWFL, dropping just two points all season, along with winning the League Cup.

West Riding County Women's Football League - Premier Division (19/1/26)							
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Thackley	10	9	0	1	36	27
2	Knaresborough Town	8	7	1	0	17	22
3	Leeds Medics & Dentists	10	6	2	2	20	20
4	Wyke Wanderers	10	5	3	2	14	18
5	Silsden	11	5	2	4	10	14*
6	Sherburn White Rose	9	4	2	3	7	14
7	Golcar United	9	3	1	5	-18	10
8	Harrogate Railway	8	2	2	4	7	8
9	Forge Way	10	0	2	8	-41	2
10	Skipton Town	13	0	1	12	-52	-2*

* Deducted 3 pts.

This season they have continued in much the same vein, losing just one of their ten league games to date and still in both the League and County Cups.

Unfortunately, over the Christmas period we have lost two Thackley old boys, Bob Dover and Alvin Blossom.

Bob played for Thackley in its Yorkshire League days. He was a full back in Peter Glover's well drilled defence for over a decade. At the end of his playing days, he was appointed manager in 1980, a position he held for two years.

Bob will be best remembered for his surging runs down the wing and crossing the perfect ball into the box. Whilst at the club Bob was the recipient of two prized club awards – the Basil Sugden Memorial Trophy in 1973 and the Edgar Lancaster Trophy in 1978.

Bloss, as he was affectionately known, never donned a Thackley shirt, but was active behind the scenes as a committee person and as bar steward.

His claim to fame was as a DJ for Radio Leeds before taking over as landlord of the Thackley Shoulder.

After leaving the pub he was a regular DJ at the club, later taking over as bar steward.

Bloss will always be remembered with affection and as a real character at Thackley.

Bloss's funeral service is at the Immaculate Conception Church, Idle at 12.30pm on Friday 6th February.

Thackley AFC Fixtures

Sat 7th Feb Thackley v Golcar United KO 3.00pm

Sat 14th Feb Campion v Thackley KO 3.00pm

Sat 21st Feb Thackley v Pickering Town KO 3.00pm

Tues 24th Feb Wombwell Town v Thackley KO 7.45pm

Wed 4th March Thackley v Tadcaster Albion KO 7.45pm

Thackley AFC Ladies Fixture

Sun 1st Feb Guiseley Lionesses v Thackley KO 2.00pm (LC)



The first issue of 2026, so may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. On the field, Thackley will be looking for a happier time in this new year than they had in the final weeks of 2025.

Of the six games they played since the last Trumpit and the start of 2026, they managed to accumulate just four points.

With four defeats and just one win and a draw, it was not the sort of form in which they were hoping for.

Following disappointing defeats against Rossington Main and Horbury Town, both below them in the table at the time, Thackley succumbed to a seven nil battering from Frickley Athletic in early December.

Remarkably, they went to Knaresborough Town the following Saturday and came away with a well deserved 3-1 victory.

The following week they took a point from promotion hopefuls Barton Town Tadcaster Albion fell victim to an icy followed by losing out at local rivals pitch.

Albion Sports on the final Saturday in December.

Into the new year, and hopes were that Thackley could put this run of disappointing results behind them. The new year started with an away point at Bottesford Town. An equalising goal in the ninety seventh minute robbed them of two points.

Thackley AFC Latest Results

22 nd Nov	Thackley 1	Rossington Main 3
29 th Nov	Horbury Town 4	Thackley 2
6 th Dec	Thackley 0	Frickley Athletic 7
13 th Dec	Knaresborough Town 1	Thackley 3
20 th Dec	Thackley 1	Barton Town 1
27 th Dec	Albion Sports 3	Thackley 0
3 rd Jan	Bottesford Town 2	Thackley 2
17 th Jan	Penistone Church 1	Thackley 0

Perhaps, Thackley's luck had not improved but their performance had, an away point is always acceptable.

Hopes to build on that result were scuppered by the weather, when the

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