

The Trumpit

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Issue 533 – July 2026





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Editorial

The Trumpit is a free monthly magazine with 1200 copies available in over fifty 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.

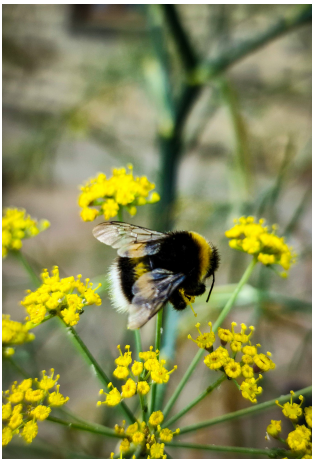
The deadline date is typically the 15th of each preceding month although for new submissions as early as you can please. Advertising prices (June 2018): Page £100; half £60; quarter £30. Discounts available for long-runs.

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Cartoons and Jokes: Facebook-Rude Jokes For Over Twenties
Reborn or otherwise credited.

Cover picture by the talented Cathryn Bell; see inside for contact details for your special day.



It is always great to hear a local business doing well, especially in these tough times. Add to that the undoubted negative impact of car park charges introduced in 2024 by the previous council administration in Idle and success is hard won. So the accolade of T&A Best Independent Retailer 2026 to Jodie Walsh of Top Knot in Idle village is a superb achievement, especially for such a young business.

Credit also to Jodie who is a tireless and selfless worker for the wider business community in the village and - one day - I am sure will achieve the goal of removing the ruinous legacy of the previous council. Contact has already been made with the new administration and we shall see what the outcome of this is.

Congratulations also to our three local Lib Dem councillors on their success in last month's delayed election. They do work hard for the area and, as ever, Idle & Thackley refuse to follow the crowd; good to be different.

A couple of months ago I was doing some "market research", in The Scruffy. My focus group, as much as it was, were insistent that I should up the circulation of The Trumpit as they had found copies hard to come by.

So, I gave it a go, upping the distribution from 1,200 to 1,300 although my gut feel always has been that 1,200 is about right given the local catchment area. Sometimes you have to try something just to see if it works; on this occasion I am not convinced so the circulation will be reverting to 1,200.

There is another factor; in the first three months of this financial year, the Bill & Bloss Community Fund has paid out an unusually high figure of £1,660, largely due to timings of promises made.

This is clearly not limitless and costs have to be controlled especially as advertising rates have not changed since 2018. I hope you understand but if you do struggle to get a copy why not take out a subscription to guarantee your copy? See details on this page.

Regulars will also recall we monitor the situation on Idle Moor so far as likely predators. Our six-monthly check reveals no change to the titles held with Bellway Homes still holding an option. We will keep monitoring this.

The Thackley Trumpit

The Trumpit was established 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 in a multi-page format with Bill Craven as co-editor. Bill started work with the Shipley Times & Express as a sixteen-year-old. Copies were sold for 10p eventually rising to 25p. At its peak it had a circulation of 300 copies.

This page is dedicated to the two of them and all who have contributed during the years to 2018...and beyond. The full 2000-2018 archive is on The Trumpit website.

This month here are some extracts from edition 270 (July 2003). As ever, your magazine failed the politically correct test with the joke below. Sincere apologies to all blondes.

There was a nice touch from "retired" gardening columnist Gordon with a letter of encouragement to his successor. Does anyone know if either are still around?

Dear Editor

When I picked up the June issue of Thackley Trumpet it was a nice surprise to see on page 6 that the garden section is still going on, thanks to Kate's Cuttings.

I hope Kate will enjoy the many gardens in Thackley and the surrounding areas, and all the many gardening friends which I made over the three years of putting Gordon's Garden together.

**I wish you, Kate, all the very best.
Gordon**

And finally, a fascinating Old Codgers piece by Alex Robinson that is well worth a read as is the rest of this blast from the past.

KILLER BISCUITS WANTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

Lisa Burnett, 23, a resident of San Diego, was visiting her in-laws, and while there went to a nearby supermarket to pick up some groceries. Several people noticed her sitting in her car with the windows rolled up and with her eyes closed, with both hands behind the back of her head. One customer who had been at the store for a while became concerned and walked over to the car. He noticed that Lisa's eyes were now open, and she looked very strange. He asked her if she was okay, and Lisa replied that she'd been shot in the back of the head, and had been holding her brains in for over an hour. The man called the paramedics, who broke into the car because the doors were locked and Lisa refused to remove her hands from her head... A Pillsbury biscuit canister had exploded from the heat, making a loud noise that sounded like a gunshot, and the wad of dough hit her in the back of the head. When she reached back to find out what it was, she felt the dough and thought it was her brains. She initially passed out, but quickly recovered and tried to hold her brains in. Lisa is a blonde.

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Bookworm

A Windhill Wanderer

Having thoroughly enjoyed *When God was a Rabbit*, which was Sarah Winman's debut novel published in 2011, I was delighted to be offered the loan of *Still Life*, Winman's magnificent offering from 2021. *Still Life* is not just a novel it is a warm, enveloping experience, the literary equivalent of a long, sun-drenched lunch in a Florentine piazza. Winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction, this 2021 masterpiece is a sprawling, multi-decade story that focuses less on dramatic plot twists and more on human connection, the "found family" and the transformative power of art.

The novel begins in 1944, against the backdrop of war-torn Italy. While Allied bombs fall around them, two unlikely kindred spirits meet in the wine cellar of a ruined Tuscan villa: Ulysses Temper, a young, gentle British soldier with a penchant for kindness, and Evelyn Skinner, a sixty-four-year-old art historian and connoisseur of life who has come to Italy to rescue masterpieces from the ravages of war.

This chance encounter sparks a brief but profound connection that shapes the next four decades of Ulysses' life. Winman instantly draws the reader in with this evocative, intimate opening before whisking us away to the smog-filled streets of post-war East End London. Here, Ulysses returns to his life at the "Stoat and Parrot" pub, a hub for a motley crew of eclectic, unforgettable characters including a sharp-tongued parrot named Claude.

While the backdrop of the story is historical, *Still Life* is fundamentally a character-driven tale about chosen family. Ulysses feels out of place in the grey atmosphere of London, especially given the complexities of his marriage to the spirited, somewhat chaotic Peg. The novel tracks how Ulysses, (together with his friend Cress and a young girl called Alys) eventually breaks away from the constraints of his old life and moves to Florence, the city that first ignited his love for art.

The move to Italy brings a vibrant change of pace. The characters build a life filled with laughter, art, music, and unconditional love, expanding their family to include local Florentines and expats alike. Winman excels at character development, crafting people who feel deeply flawed yet deeply human. She also excels at incorporating just a soupçon of magical thinking into some of her characters, Claude the parrot shared some characteristics with God, the rabbit in her earlier book.

Florence acts as a primary character in the book, brought to life through Winman's lush, sensory descriptions. She vividly paints the sensory experience of Italy: the scent of coffee, the feeling of sunlight on the skin, the architectural beauty of the Oltrarno district, and the bustling life of the piazzas.

Art is a central, recurring theme. Evelyn's early advice to Ulysses, that "beautiful art opens our eyes to the beauty of the world," echoes throughout the novel. The story explores how art offers solace and a sense of purpose during times of trauma, notably during the devastating 1966 flood of the Arno, where "Mud Angels" (volunteers) worked tirelessly to save the city's treasures.

Winman's writing is evocative and poetic, yet completely accessible. One distinctive element is that she often eschews traditional quotation marks, relying on the rhythm of the dialogue, which might require a few pages to adjust to but ultimately enhances the intimate, conversational flow of the narrative. It takes a great deal of skill to craft this in a way that will not confuse the reader. Winman nails it, many authors do not.

Still Life is a comforting, life-affirming epic, that celebrates the power of art to elevate us and the power of love to heal us. It is a story about how we can choose to assemble our own families based on support and loyalty, rather than bloodlines. It balances heartbreaking moments with humour (mainly courtesy of Claude) and genuine warmth. If you love stories that weave character development, vivid historical settings, and the enduring nature of friendship into a big old bear-hug of a book, this one is for you.

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Your Say

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In response to last month's tribute to the late Jeanette Sunderland there were numerous tributes on The Trumpit's Facebook page.

Here are a few:
Always worked for the area and the electorate, 365 not just the week before the locals.
Such a great lady and friend.
Worked tirelessly for the community.
...thank you for all you did for Apperley Bridge.
What a lovely tribute to a fine human being.

Thackley Thunder

What A Day!

The Thackley Thunder boys have played together since they were under 7s with Carl Priestley and Karl Parratt managing.

The boys have won numerous tournaments and stepped up this year to play a year up. Some of the boys have even been to Spain and won the Costa Dorada Cup.

In June they went for a once in a life time opportunity to play at Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium. The boys were very excited and barely slept.

To cap a great day they ran out winners on this pitch where the greats have played. It was a superb day for the boys and their coaches witnessed by all the parents too. The lads all took some grass off the pitch as a



We are super proud of these lads who have worked so hard as a team.

They even have their own team song on Spotify - We Are Thackley Thunder - and this was played when they raised the cup to cap off a brilliant day for local lads who have done themselves - and Thackley - proud.

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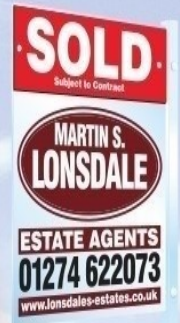


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Joe King

A man was sick and tired of going to work every day while his wife stayed home. He wanted her to see what he went through so he prayed: "Dear Lord, I go to work every day and put in 8 hours while my wife merely stays at home. I want her to know what I go through, so please create a trade in our bodies." God, in his infinite wisdom, granted the man's wish.

The next morning, sure enough, the man awoke as a woman. He arose, cooked breakfast for his mate, awakened the kids, set out their school clothes, fed them breakfast, packed their lunches, drove them to school, came home and picked up the dry cleaning, took it to the cleaners and stopped at the bank to draw out money to pay the power bill and telephone bill, drove to the power company and the phone company and paid the bills, went grocery shopping, came home and put away the groceries.

He cleaned the cat's litter box and bathed the dog. Then it was already 1 p.m. and he hurried to make the beds, do the laundry, vacuum, dust, and sweep and mop the kitchen floor. Ran to the school to pick up the kids and got into an argument with them on the way home. Set out some snacks and got the kids organized to do their homework, then set up the ironing board and watched TV while he did the ironing.

At 4:30 he began peeling potatoes and washing greens for salad, breaded the pork chops and snapped fresh beans for supper. After supper he cleaned the kitchen, ran the dishwasher, folded laundry, bathed the kids, and put them to bed. At 9 p.m. he was exhausted and, though his daily chores weren't finished, he went to bed where he was expected to make love -- which he managed to get through without complaint.

The next morning he awoke and immediately knelt by the bed and said: "Lord, I don't know what I was thinking. I was so wrong to envy my wife's being able to stay home all day. Please, oh please, let us trade back."

The Lord, in his infinite wisdom, replied, "My son, I feel you have learned your lesson and I will be happy to change things back to the way they were. You'll have to wait 9 months, though. You got pregnant last night!"

A man & a pretty woman who had never met before found themselves sharing a sleeping compartment on a train with the man on the top bunk & the lady on the bottom. During the night, man woke: "Sorry to bother you but would you reach into the closet to get me a 2nd blanket, I'm freezing!"

"I've a better idea" she replied, "Why don't we pretend we are married?"

"Wow what a great idea!" he said.

"Good" she said,

"Get your own blanket yourself, you lazy *****!!!"



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Tony Gough

What Will You Be Voting For?

It seems possible that Reform will have a majority in the next Parliament after the general election. Too often I've heard people say I can't stand the leader of one or other of the major parties. Consider what's happening to Keir Starmer, who led Labour to a huge majority.

Now he's reviled by a party that spends its time infighting and is divided by special interest factions. The Labour Party is a house divided that seems lost in personality conflicts rather than doing what it should for voters.

Similar personality problems seem to afflict Nigel Farage; so will you think about what a party is offering rather than just its leader?

Amongst Reform's election promises, albeit several years away are:

- stopping illegal immigration, by leaving the European Court of Human Rights. Migrants will be returned to the country of origin.
- cutting foreign aid to one billion pounds a year - saving six billion pounds a year - thirty billion pounds over the life of the next parliament.
- ending social security benefits and free housing for illegal immigrants.
- increasing the number of police on our streets and prison places available.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), organizational frameworks that seek to promote the fair treatment and full participation of all people, particularly groups who have historically been under represented, marginalized, or subject to discrimination will also be under scrutiny.

Reform will seek to reduce the cost of DEI estimated across the UK public sector with the Civil Service spending roughly £27m and the NHS allocating an estimated £40m each year toward diversity roles and initiatives. Bradford Council spends around £230k per annum.

THE NHS will continue to be free at the point of need but funding for the benefit of patients will be increased by reducing waste and excess management as well as extra funds diverted from savings on social security and spending on asylum seekers .

However as a relatively new and inexperienced party will Reform be able to achieve its ambitious aims?

Following its success in local elections voters will be able to judge how well the party does running local councils before they trust them to run the country. Inevitably scandals will arise that will damage them as with all the major parties but will financial scandals do more damage?


Nigel Farage was privately gifted £5m to pay for his personal security and this has generated scrutiny. In addition an individual donated £22m to the party. What influence will that give wealthy people like these over future policies?

Are we becoming just like America?



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The Thackley Chef

Richard Aveyard – ACIEH

A summer offering here which everyone can try inside or out - marinated skewers. I will offer you a choice of marinades to suit you with a flat bread recipe to add that finishing touch.

Mediterranean: 1-2 tbsp olive oil; 2tbsp lemon juice plus zest; 1-2 cloves fresh garlic chopped fine; 1tsp dried oregano, paprika, dried basil and fresh chopped parsley (for garnish); salt & peppermill; ; 2 red onions peeled with root removed and cut into chunks same size as meat on skewers; 1 red & green pepper chopped and deseeded with pith removed.

Oriental: 2-3tbsp honey; 1-2 cloves chopped garlic; 3-4tbsp dark soy sauce; 1tsp oyster sauce; inch of fresh ginger chopped fine; 1tbsp sesame oil; 1tbsp sesame seeds for garnish.

Middle Eastern: 400ml tub natural yoghurt using 200ml and keeping the rest for the dressing; 2 lemons using juice plus zest; inch fresh ginger chopped fine; 1-2 cloves garlic chopped fine; 1-2tsp chillies flakes; 1tsp paprika, ground cumin & ground coriander; 2tbsp vegetable oil; salt & peppermill; 1/2 tsp turmeric; 1tsp garam masala; 1-2tbsp chopped fresh coriander for garnish; 2 red onions peeled with root removed and chopped to size of meat cubes again; 2 green peppers; small cucumber deseeded and grated; 1tbp fresh mint chopped; 1/4 tsp red chilli flakes.

Now for the meat! This will serve approximately four people. Pre-heat your oven to 200C/Gas 6 or you can cook on the barbeque.

Ingredients: 12 chicken thighs skinless and boneless cut into 1 inch squares; 4 large metal skewers or 12 wooden (if using wooden they need to be well soaked in cold water).

Method:

1. Add the diced chicken to a bowl, then choose any of above marinades. Add your ingredients to your chicken,



mix well and cover for 2 hours in the fridge.

2. Prepare your chicken on to your skewers. For the mediterranean marinade alternate chicken with peppers and onions. For oriental skewer the chicken. And with the final option skewer the chicken alternating with the onions and peppers.

3. If cooking in the oven, place your skewers on a baking tray. While the skewers are cooking keep turning regularly for approx. 8-12 minutes, basting and coating well with any surplus marinade.

Note the Middle Eastern option has extra yoghurt to make a riata dressing which is simple enough. Add the rest of the yoghurt, to a bowl with chopped coriander plus mint and chilli flakes. Mix well and add the cucumber. Note in a clean cloth squeeze your grated cucumber removing most of the moisture before adding to the mix.

Flat Bread Recipes – Ingredients: 250g self raising flour sieved plus extra for rolling out; 1/2 tsp salt and baking powder; 200ml natural yoghurt; 1tbp vegetable oil and a bottle of oil spray for frying.

Method:

1. In a clean bowl add flour, salt and baking powder then mix adding oil and the yoghurt a little at a time until you have a soft dough.

2. Divide dough into 4 on a dusted clean surface then dust the dough balls and roll into circles. Rest for ten minutes before cooking and dust again. Place a thick bottomed frying pan on a medium heat spraying oil into the pan then add flat breads. Cook for 1-2 minutes each side until you see the bread bubbling.

You can now serve placing warm flat bread on to a plate to add to your skewers.

As a final touch, if desired, you can add the garnishes suggested above. Enjoy!



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Tales From The Scruffy



Don Corleone Jnr was back in residence at The Scruffy for the start of June as Fagin continued to tick off holiday destinations from his favourite book Judith Chalmers' Travels. Just in case things got out of hand without the controlling influence of The Voice of Reason, the Don had recruited professional hit man Knee Capper Kenny.

"Justa taka dem rounda de back. If dey get stoopid...you know whata to do!" said the Don.

This caused me an immediate problem as, on a rare visit behind the bar, the Don had pulled me a pint that was flatter than Cambridge. I thought about returning this but then considered the possibilities of either waking up with a horse's head from Idle Moor in my bed or being escorted around the back by Knee Capper Kenny.

I decided to drink in silence praying that he would be back this side of the bar when my glass had drained.

As ever the two usual giddy kippers were bouncing about behind the bar ever ready to mock the aged and afflicted of which there is a sizeable choice to pick from in The Scruffy.

Bright Eyes and Kiwi, old beyond their years, are not to be underestimated. Pay up, sit down and sup up...it's a throwback to the days of the gravel voiced Our Jackie, albeit somewhat younger and much, much louder.

Tipper the Stripper had taken note from last month's edition and had ditched the velour jacket for a chest hugging tee-shirt that said "Beware taking the p***! I go to the gym! Check these pecs out ladies!"

The Bank was still struggling from the global markets uncertainty and had ditched Suntan's offer to smarten him up, returning to his old It Ain't Half Hot Mum Don Estelle shorts. How can a poor man stand such times?



With the domestic football season now over for at least a few weeks, the local Sky Sports addicts were homeless until the longest World Cup in history commenced.

You know when the ritual humiliation of the national football team is close when scores of fat lads start coming in your pub dressed in replica shirts the price of a weekend away for two...something pointed out to them on a regular basis by their other halves simultaneously with England getting stuffed.

How long will England last this time before the media feasts on tearful fans?

I looked out of the window only for the view to Leeds to be blocked by Fagin's jungle, a collection of triffid-like weeds that would make The Trumpit's gardening guru Doug Deepley weep. Maybe they could host I'm An Idle Celebrity Get Me Out of Here in there? One day we might find someone sleeping there.

Given Sweet Caroline's return from rehab, my donation of vegetable plants to Timberlake seemed unnecessary. It was back to the menu of choice: Carling and Chinese.

Soon it was midweek and sixty-nine hours since my last pint of Golden Best, a worthy replacement for Black Sheep which seems to have vanished post the latest takeover.

In honour of both ales contribution to the human race I have renamed this Golden Sheep which the yoof behind the bar seem to find amusing...or sadly pitiful...take your choice. With rain threatening, the pooch was disinterested and had dug her claws into the tarmac; after the third refusal, I was solo.

It had been a long day at the editorial desk thanks to Microsoft's decision to ditch the Publisher tool, used to create The Trumpit for the last eight years. Into a brave new world I had dived, Affinity to be precise, and, as IT is hardly my strong set, it is step by painful step.

I pulled up a stool as Kiwi, skipping homework again, pulled a creamy pint with great care. Soon, regular stool huggers, Bonnie and Clyde, rolled in throwing their loose change on the bar top as drinks were ordered. The speakeasy was in full flow now, the pub one of the last bastions of freedom of expression in our confused his/her/it's society.

It wasn't long before party animals The Trowel and Jiving June arrived closely followed by Greenfingers, taking a sabbatical from the allotment but still dressed like a tramp.

Outside the rain had abated and the sun was popping out yet again. Inside, a strange world was being sorted bit by bit and it would all be better tomorrow.

Come the weekend and Don Corleone Jnr had been released home, up the hill to the sink estate to again wait hand and foot on Princess Prosecco. Fagin and The Voice of Reason were back in town, tanned, relaxed and just about de-stressed enough to rejoin Nob Ed Korna.

Another rainy weekend rolled up and Suntan finally cracked. I was off to Idle Travel and two hours listening to the smooth sales patter of CEO Tony, the most media friendly guy I know. As my eyes glazed over at the multitude of choice available I was ready to stick a pin in the map and Tony. it was...Ibiza...again...at 63!

With the island of white powder looming, one last Sunday afternoon - at least for a fortnight - was there to savour. As ever the Golden Sheep was on form and the old place was bursting at the seams, nobody foolish enough to brave the beer garden not even for a look at Fagin's version of Jurassic Park.

Tipper was in negotiating mood. "Put me on the cover again son, you know you need to!" He had his favourite Erik Estrada (you have to be of a certain gage to recall) sunglasses on and was clearly trying to avoid somebody...again. In a nutshell his proudest moment, as a Trumpit cover model, was revealed.

Amongst the Sky Sports party was my old school pal Ernie - for he drove the fastest milk car in the West! Ernie got the name because his surname rhymed - sort of - with the hero of Benny Hill's 1971 Christmas number one.

We were only in Standard 2 (Year 3) in those days but the name stuck like glue. Ernie's remaining years at St Francis Primary and beyond were cursed by Benny who was castigated in later life for the horrible crime of making us all laugh back in the days of the seventies when, trust me, there was not a lot to laugh about.

And so, after a week boiling in the sun, we returned to the usual warm welcome from Bright Eyes who had dressed up like a tennis player for the day. When I mentioned Annabel Croft (again you have to be of a certain age) it was wasted. She halted in mid-pull knowing I needed that pint far more than she needed any grief from an old drunk.

"Where you been?" she asked as if my tan was not self-evident. When I replied Ibiza tears of laughter ran like a river down her face. "At your age?" she said still crying buckets.

It ain't what you do it's the way that you do it sprang to mind but, once more, I knew this would be lost. Bring back Our Jackie I mused as, at last, I got my beer.





Jane Gray
 TRANSFORMATIONAL COACH
 This LightheartedLife
 ■ hello@thislightheartedlife.co.uk

A few years ago, if you'd asked me how people change, I'd probably have given you a list. Read the book. Take the course. Learn the technique. Follow the five steps.

And yes, all those things can be helpful; I've noticed something interesting over the years.

The biggest changes in my life didn't come from trying harder; they came from seeing something differently.

Have you ever had one of those moments?

A conversation, a quiet walk, a chance remark from a friend, and suddenly something clicks.

Nothing outside has changed, yet somehow everything feels different.

A problem that seemed impossible no longer looks quite so frightening. A relationship makes sense in a new way. A decision becomes obvious. It's as though a light has been switched on.

I've started to think that life is less about collecting answers and more about becoming available to fresh insight.

We live in a world that encourages us to search constantly for solutions, yet some of the most profound changes arrive unexpectedly, without effort or planning.

And from that moment on, we can never quite see things the same way again.

Perhaps that's why growth often feels less like becoming someone new and more like remembering who we were all along.

From my heart to yours,
 Jane

Gambia



News here from local charity the Gambian Schools Trust who are holding their annual garden party to raise funds for the great work they do in the Gambia. You are all invited to tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes at 12, Briarfield Avenue, Idle, BD10 8QR, August 29th.

The garden will be open from 10am to 5pm – everyone is welcome – a small donation of your choice would be great. If you also have any books to donate please bring along as these are simply not available in rural Gambia.

The Trumpet is happy to donate a modest £100 once again through the Bill & Bloss Community Fund. This will go towards essentials like pencils and writing materials for the youngsters who rely on the charity.

The charity is celebrating this year – 80% of graduates from their rural schools going on to further education are girls.

This is symbolic, as it is breaking the tradition of arranged marriage in early teens.

Fatim Sey, trainee teacher (pictured with Trustee Hilary Lawther), was one of the first pupils when we built Jamwelly Lower Basic School in 2012, and is back in the school to do her teacher training.

This winter we will be building two more school libraries taking our total to 21. For more please call 07932 650644 or visit:

www.gambianschools.org.
 Facebook Gambian Schools Trust



More Bookworm

The Traitors Circle by Jonathan Freedland is a true story about a little-known group of German anti-Nazi resisters who met secretly in Berlin during the Second World War. The result is a gripping account of courage, betrayal and moral responsibility under dictatorship.

Freedland's background as a journalist and thriller writer is obvious in the short chapters, cliffhanger endings and vivid scenes, but there is no artistic licence at play here. Everything is meticulously researched.

At the centre of the book is a gathering that took place in September 1943: a seemingly harmless afternoon tea attended by aristocrats, diplomats, intellectuals and civil servants who opposed Hitler's regime. Unknown to them, one of the guests was an informer for the Gestapo.

From that moment, the group's fate is sealed. Freedland structures the narrative like a suspense novel, opening with the shadow of betrayal hanging over the story and then gradually introducing the people involved, their motives and the risks they chose. He does a great job of combining historical detail with storytelling.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its cast of characters. These are not conventional action heroes or famous military plotters. Most of them are members of Germany's educated upper classes: countesses, diplomats, teachers and widows of prominent officials.

Freedland is particularly interested in how ordinary social gatherings became acts of resistance in a police state where careless words could lead to imprisonment or execution.

Figures such as Hanna Solf, Elisabeth von Thadden, Otto Kiep and my particular favourite Countess Maria von Maltzan emerge as deeply human people trying to preserve decency in a society collapsing into brutality.

Freedland also succeeds in showing how complicated resistance inside Nazi Germany could be.

Some members of the circle had once supported the Nazi regime or at least cooperated before becoming horrified by its crimes. These people are not presented as saints; we see them as flawed individuals who gradually realised the true nature of Nazism and decided they could no longer stay silent. That moral evolution gives the book much of its emotional power.

Readers are forced to ask themselves uncomfortable questions: what would it actually take to resist tyranny when doing so could cost you your career, freedom or life? It seems particularly poignant in this case, as these people were not suffering physically under the regime. Their social class protected them.

They could afford to eat in high-end restaurants unaffected by food rationing, they still had access to beautiful clothes, fine wines, cigars, the opera and the theatre. They could travel and go on holiday. All they had to do was ignore what was happening outside of their world, but they chose not to and risked everything as a result.

There is the broader question here: how significant was this resistance movement really? Freedland clearly admires his subjects, and rightly so, but some readers may wish for more analysis of how these aristocratic circles fit into the wider picture of German resistance to Hitler.

The members of the "traitors circle" were courageous, but they were also relatively isolated and ultimately unable to stop the Nazi machine. I suspect that the larger political impact was miniscule, the number of lives saved almost negligible, but that isn't the point of the book.

What lingers after finishing *The Traitors Circle* is not simply admiration for the people involved, but sadness at how rare such resistance was. Freedland repeatedly reminds us that Hitler retained enormous support within Germany for much of the war. Against that backdrop, the courage of those who refused to conform becomes even more remarkable.

It is both a compelling work of history and a warning about the fragility of moral courage. In the world we currently live in. I think it is a timely reminder that following the herd is not necessarily the right thing to do.

(My holiday read and hard to put down— Ed)



For allotment holders the world over, the common theme has to be the weather. When I started last month's piece, May was looking cold, damp and miserable; yet it ended with a ferocious heatwave causing all manner of challenges on the plot.

Managing an allotment in the face of such changeable conditions is some challenge; okay, not like going to the moon but please stay with me.

If you cannot get down every day, there are ways you can help yourself so far as those plants that do require looking after. Here I am really talking about those in the greenhouse where temperatures can easily push 100C.

Tomato plants are very high maintenance. Never let them dry out, but don't overwater too. I find the best way to avoid this is by standing the pots, with holes about 1/2" from the bottom, in shallow trays full of water. The plants will drink when needed and you can usually go two-three days without topping up.

When the first fruits appear start feeding your plants from the top of the pots - broadly once a week - but continue to water from the base. The same applies to cucumbers although these can be more sensitive so avoid watering to close to the stem.

With tomatoes remember too to nip out side shoots on your cordon (upright) varieties; these grow at roughly 45% to the main stem and will sap the main plant of energy.

No such problem of you are growing the tumbling (small) varieties but a bigger challenge to keep baskets well watered if you are growing in these.

By now the greenhouse, so far as a plant nursery, should be fairly empty leaving you to focus outside.

If you have been salivating waiting for the first crop of early potatoes, watching all the television ads for Jersey Royals since around April, now is our time. And you can guarantee what you produce will taste like nothing else. Don't be too tight though - share these as a rare pleasure perhaps with a bit of mint from the herb bed?

Peas should be ready by now and, although podding is a somewhat laborious process, it helps that you - as the Boss - can pinch a few as you sit there. Again, they taste supreme.

Check on your French beans for those that have not come through and, if you have substitutes, use these. If not plant again.

Keep picking your salads to encourage new growth and consign the thought of the sweaty supermarket bag until winter. These should keep cropping into late summer and beyond.

Finally, the most important bit of advice. Put your feet up and enjoy the sight of a blooming allotment - there is little better in my mind.

What to sow in July:

Outdoors - peas, sprouting broccoli, French beans, turnips and kale. Keep renewing salad plants too.

Eccleshill Horticultural Society is based on Harrogate Road membership is a modest £3 annually. The society shop opens on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10-12. One of the benefits of membership is access to the Dobies seed catalogue and a 50% discount off packet seeds. Well worth it.

Thackley's community gardening swap shop meet at Thackley Cricket Club on the last Sunday in the month until the last one in September. This is an opportunity for local residents to come together to swap, sell or buy any surplus plants, seeds, equipment etc.

More Joe King

Four friends spend weeks planning the perfect girls' getaway trip; shopping, casinos, massages, and facials. Two days before the group is to leave Mary's husband puts his foot down and tells her she isn't going.

Mary's friends are very upset that she can't go, but what can they do? Two days later the three get to the hotel only to find Mary sitting in the bar drinking a glass of wine.

"Wow, how long have you been here, and how did you talk your husband into it?"

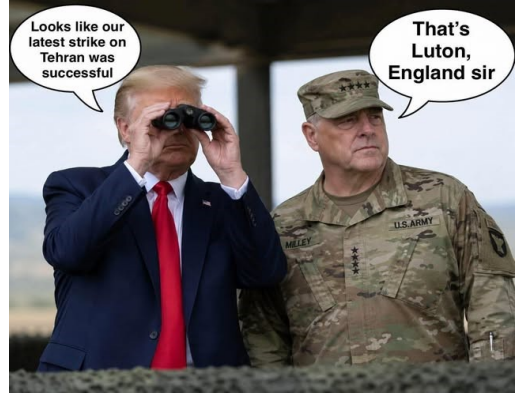
"Well, I've been here since last night. Yesterday evening I was sitting on the couch and my husband came up behind me and put his hands over my eyes and said 'Guess who?'

"I pulled his hands off to find all he was wearing was his birthday suit.

"He took my hand and lead me to our bedroom. The room was scented with perfume, had two dozen candles and rose petals all over.

"On the bed, he had handcuffs and ropes! He told me to tie and cuff him to the bed, so I did. And then he said, 'Now, you can do whatever you want.'

"So here I am!"



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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 more details please see the website - <https://bradfordramblers.org.uk/>

There is far more detail than is possible to include here. July's walks are as follows:

- 1st - Calverley Woods
- 15th - Bay of Biscay and Chellow Dene
- 23rd - Hawksworth
- 29th - Thornton Moor.

It's a great way to get out into the fresh air and also meet new people.

Regularly featured on this page is local charity Support The Animals Rescue Shop based inside Old Mill, Victoria Road, Eccleshill.

Open Monday to Saturday (closed Tuesdays) 9.30am to 16.30pm and Sundays 11.00am-15.00pm. They have three floors stocked with great value and really do have some interesting and quirky stuff in amongst - such as the bike pictured here. Pop in and have a look - from a book to a bike!



Idle Post Office

Twenty-five years serving the community. You can now do your day-to-day banking at your local post office. It's a free and easy way to access your bank account for personal & business customers.

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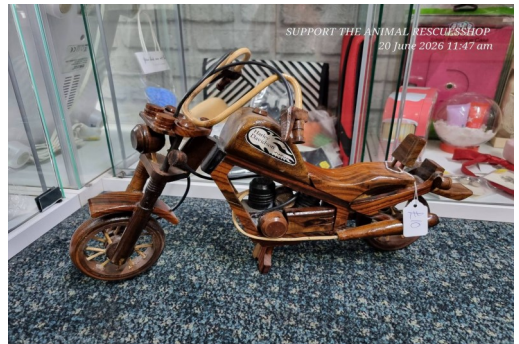
Idle Post Office

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Tel: 01274 613561

Paying cash in?



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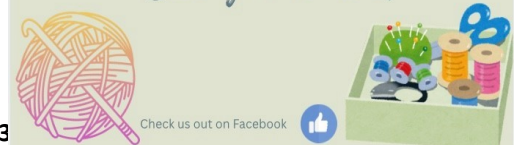
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Walks in Yorkshire

Luddenden Dean – Wool Orphans

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.

One of the beauties about walking is that you pass through the countryside at a slow enough pace to allow you to savour those magical moments which can turn a pleasant outing into a special one.

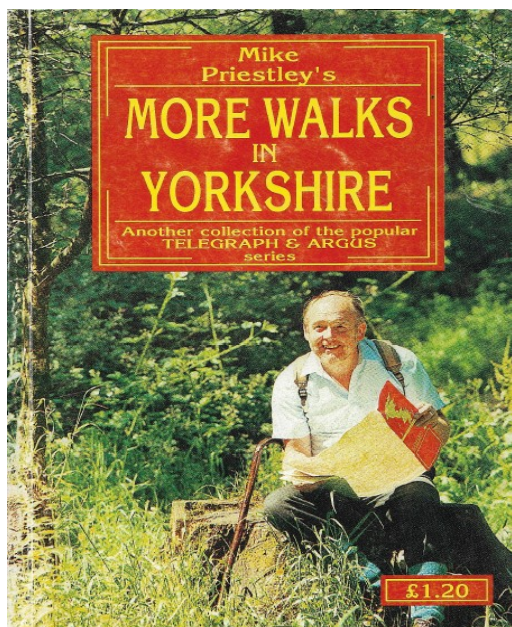
If I had been driving along the track which winds its way down from the head of the Luddenden Dean valley, I would not have turned my head to catch a better view of the jay which chattered off into the trees and seen, flying across its slipstream, a green woodpecker – only the second bird of this species I've ever come across.

What an uplift that sighting gave me! There are great benefits to be had from being a simple soul rather than one of life's sophisticates.

My walk had begun at the car park at Jerusalem Farm, which you reach by driving to Luddenden Foot, turning right and following the road into the hamlet of Booth and then forking left along the narrow Jerusalem Lane.

Immediately below the carpark is a picnic area with a playground, but my path lay towards the gate with its unusual upward-opening hinger stile which led to a track sloping down to a bridge over pretty Luddenden Brook.

Across the bridge, I turned right and followed



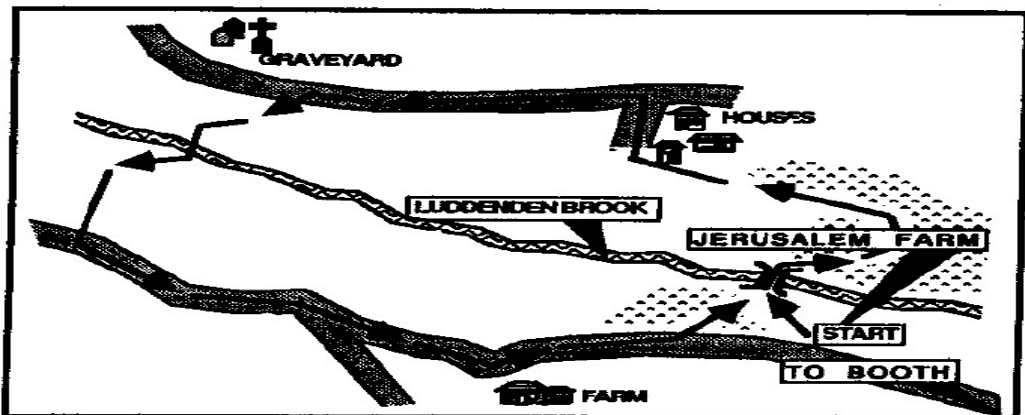
the path which soon climbed up through the wood towards a T-junction, where a left turn found me soon with mixed woodland of oak, holly and birch to my right and fields of grazing sheep falling away to my left on the valley bottom.

A stile straight ahead led into a grassy lane and, as it rose, to delightful views of the valley with its copses and its remote houses on the heather-capped far hillside.

The path, part-paved in places, passed the end of a rather splendid house called The Hullet to become a paved track soon leading up to the road.

Turning left here. I walked along between willow herb borders until I came to the graveyard of a Wesleyan chapel built in 1828 but long gone with wind-tossed weeds occupying the space where the pews once stood.

The graves, rightly left in peace among the undergrowth rather than "tidied" as some are, include a memorial to seven orphans employed in the Wainstalls mill of I & I Calvert who died between 1892 and 1895.



They were all girls, the oldest 17 and the youngest 12.

Feeling vaguely melancholy about this, I retraced my steps briefly to a stone-roofed garage just below the road and climbed over a stile by the front of this into a field.

A half-right route took me across the field to a broken-down section of the wall and, keeping on the same direction, between stone gateposts into a grassy lane between walls.

At the bottom of this I turned left down the meadow to a wooden stile which led to a packhorse bridge over the brook.

Across this, I followed the path ahead which soon turned up towards a wall with an iron gate in it.

At the wall I turned right and followed it to where a stile on the left led into a field, and headed up the field to a rather rickety stone gap-stile at the top.

I was now in a rough lane where, turning left, I found myself heading back down the valley and studying the route I had been taking on the other side.

What tranquil spot tis is, a little world of its won where people once lived and died without evert string much beyond its enfolding hills.

I walked along the track now, heading back for the starting place. A bright orange layered fungus protruded from the stump of a branch on a tree trunk.

A few spots of rain began to fall, but any gloom I might have felt about that, and about sweating profusely in my cagoule on a hot day, was dispelled by the sight of that woodpecker s it hurtled into the trees to my right.

The track eventually became a tarmac road running between heather and gorse and the one side and rowan, willow-herb and still-green swelling rosehips on the other. At a fork I took the left-hand branch.

Not far past a farm at a bend on the right, I came to trees on the left and a gap-stile and a path leading diagonally down through the wood to the bridge below Jerusalem Farm where the walk had begun.

As I headed back up towards the carpark, I listened to the laughter of the children playing on the swings by the water and thought about those seven orphans of a century ago for whom the rigours of life in the mill and that remote valley proved to be too much.

Time: One hour 15 minutes approximately.

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



Trumpit Money

Your Self-Build Journey

Six months ago, I wrote a column about the appeal of self-build projects and the importance of preparation before starting the process. I was speaking from a professional perspective, helping clients navigate the funding and planning.

Fast forward to today, and I'm now firmly in the middle of a self-build project myself - which has given me a whole new appreciation for just how important preparation really is. If anything, it has highlighted even more how crucial planning, flexibility, and specialist advice are.

Having a clear and realistic budget is absolutely essential, but just as important is accepting that those figures will almost certainly move. Construction costs have changed dramatically over the last few years. Labour costs, material prices, and wider market conditions mean projects today can look very different financially compared to when the original plans were first drawn up.

The key is not just having Plan A, but also understanding what Plan B might look like. If costs rise by another £30,000 or £50,000, what does that mean in practice? Is it feasible to borrow more? What would the additional monthly costs look like? Could you make adjustments elsewhere in the build without compromising the overall vision?

These are conversations worth having early, rather than when invoices start arriving. Before you put a spade in the ground, you need to go through every possible scenario around costs and affordability so there are no nasty surprises.

Another thing that has become very clear is that self-build should primarily be about creating a home, not chasing profit. If this wasn't a forever home, I probably wouldn't be doing it myself. The reality is that self-build is no longer the straightforward profit-making exercise it may once have been.

Costs are higher, margins are tighter, and there are easier ways to make money in property. What self-build does offer, however, is the opportunity

to create something completely personal. Your heart often overrules your head in ways it never would on a standard development project. You make choices because they matter to you and your family, not because they maximise resale value.

Another major takeaway has been the sheer amount of specialist advice involved.

Throughout this process, I've spoken to architects, planning consultants, engineers and even highway experts about details I would never previously have considered. One recent example was discussing the size of the driveway and the turning circle needed for vehicle access. It's not the sort of thing most people naturally think about when imagining their dream home, but it can have a significant impact on planning approval and site layout.

Have contingencies built into your budget, revisit your numbers frequently, and be flexible enough to adapt when costs or circumstances change. Most importantly, surround yourself with experienced professionals who can guide you through areas you may never even have considered.

On the finance side specifically, self-build mortgages remain a specialist area. Rates are typically higher during the construction phase, as they're structured differently from standard residential borrowing.

As always, speaking to a broker should be your first port of call if you're considering going down the self-build route. They can talk you through the financial aspects you'll need to consider, help you understand the funding options available, and assess the long-term affordability of the project.

Self-build can absolutely be worth it in the long run, but it's not a straightforward road to navigate. It's easy to get swept up in the excitement of designing your dream home, but the reality is that self-build projects are complicated, expensive, and full of unexpected twists. The more preparation you do before that first shovel hits the ground, the smoother the journey is likely to be.

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

What's On

The Commercial-free bar snacks Friday to Sunday plus lots going on here at Thackley's original local pub.

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

The George-19th from 1pm a fundraiser to purchase a defibrillator for the pub with live music and a raffle plus a World Cup theme.

The Highfield-DJ & Karaoke every Friday from 7:30pm; Quiz every Wednesday from 8:30pm; Live Sports – World Cup showing on all screens throughout July.

Please see Community News page 23 for lots of places to meet over a brew. Listings here are free for venues and acts alike.

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Thackley CC

TCC is the place to be this summer packed with sport, entertainment & community! There's never been a better time to visit us.

Come and see our newly refurbished club areas and enjoy our fantastic new drinks range in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Whether you're supporting our cricket, rounders, or softball teams, catching up with friends, or simply enjoying a drink in the sunshine, there's something for everyone at the club this summer.

Football fans won't want to miss out either. We'll be showing all the major FIFA World Cup matches on the big screen throughout July, creating the perfect match-day atmosphere. Plus, with both SKY Sports and TNT Sports now available, you can catch all the biggest football fixtures and sporting events live at the club.



Looking for a new challenge? We've recently installed a brand-new pool table and are looking for players interested in joining a new Thackley Cricket Club Pool Team, launching this September. If you'd like to get involved, simply contact the club for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

IBIZA NIGHT- Saturday
25th July

Get ready for one of the biggest nights of the summer! Join us for a fantastic Ibiza-themed party with great music,



great company and a brilliant atmosphere. Tickets are available from the bar for just £5 – don't miss out!

LIVE MUSIC - Saturday 1st August

We're delighted to welcome Sienna Craven for a fantastic evening of live entertainment. Bring your friends and enjoy a great night of music at the club.



Whether you're a sports fan, music lover, pool player, or simply looking for a great local venue, Thackley Cricket Club has something for everyone.

Come down, get involved, and be part of the buzz this summer at Thackley Cricket Club!

Contacts List:

- Thackley Phoenix Ladies Rounders Club
Julie Baraniak-thackleyprc@gmail.com
- Thunder Cats Ladies Cricket team
Andy Mills-andy@hq dental.co.uk
- Titans Softball team
Mark Sugden-suggycricket@gmail.com
- Club President
Michael Shields-shields.michael@gmail.com

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Slimming World

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Liz 07719 437486

5.30pm

St James Community Hall
Beaufort Grove, Off Bolton Road
Carol 07713 978045

Tuesday ~ Idle

5.30pm

Idle Baptist Church
Bradford Road, Opp Co-Op
Liz 07719 437486

Friday ~ Shipley

7.30am, 9am & 10.30am

Caroline Street Social Club
Liz 07719 437486

Saturday ~ Bolton Outlanes

8am & 9.30am

St James Community Hall
Beaufort Grove, Off Bolton Road
Carol 07713 978045

Saturday ~ Heaton

8.30am & 10am

St Martins Church
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(cont'd from p32) A more restrictive barrier was sought. A chance meeting after a home game in the Ainsbury between Thackley Treasurer David Stott and Aire Valley Forge owner Paul Munton revealed that, as an apprentice, Paul made the turnstile gates for the club over twenty years ago.

As the conversation continued, Paul agreed to design, make and install a new gate for the club as part of a sponsorship deal. It certainly turned out to be a striking structure and creates an eye-catching entrance.

There is much written about AI these days and being an octogenarian, this expression meant very little to me. In actual fact, until recently, I read it as AI, and believed it was something to do with the size of paper.

However, having a little time to spare, this being the close season, and no matches to attend, I thought I would delve a little deeper into this modern phenomenon which is causing so much concern.

After trying to understand this 'computer science' for a short time I thought I would put it to the test and I put in a request for AI to write me a poem about Thackley Football Club thinking there would be little response. However, to my surprise it came back with the following within five seconds!

In the heart of North Bradford, where the red and white fly high there's a spirit at the Dennyfield that money just can't buy. From the Northern Counties Premier, where every point is earned, it's a home of grit and loyalty, where many a page has turned.

The faithful stand together through the Yorkshire rain and sun, the roar of "Come on Thackley!" until the final whistle's done. From the legends of the committee, who've served for seventy years to the "young gits" bringing energy, through the triumphs and the tears.

Now Jamie Price is at the helm, a new chapter to be told. With the same old Thackley passion and the same heart, brave and bold. Whether battles for the title or a narrow escape from the drop, the heartbeat of this village club will never, ever stop.

So, here's to every volunteer, every player on the grass, to the pints at the clubhouse and the perfect winning pass. Thackley AFC, more than just a name or score, You're the soul of our community, forever and much more.

The first home friendly is on the 11th July against last season's League Champions Liversedge kick off is 3.00pm. We look forward to welcoming both old and new supporters.





A new season is about to start with Thackley's first pre-season friendly scheduled for Wednesday 1st July at Ilkley Town. It seems no time at all since the end of last season and that Saturday afternoon at the beginning of April when Thackley survived relegation by the skin of their teeth.

During the last month or so, the usual player action has been in full swing. Clubs, approaching new players and offering untold riches to persuade them to join them, whilst trying to retain their own players from the temptation from such approaches.

As in the professional game, money certainly does play an important part in player retention and recruitment even at this level.

Bradford and the surrounding area is rich in semi-professional clubs, all vying for the same players which makes the bidding wars much more difficult.

Thackley will not know for certain until the end of July how successful they have been in trying to retain members of last season's squad and who has been recruited to strengthen the team.

One player that they know will not be returning is striker Toby Marriott. Toby was Thackley's second top goal scorer last season netting nine times. He has moved back to live on the east coast and, due to the travelling involved, has decided to join Bridlington Town.

At the time of writing all that I know about the squad for the coming season is that the majority of last season's players are back.

However, one thing I can tell you is that Thackley will be starting the season with a new gate. The old barrier gate, which allowed pedestrian access, has long been abused by vandals resulting in damage to the ground and property.

Thackley AFC Pre Season Friendly Fixtures

Wed 1st July Ilkley Town v Thackley KO 7.45pm

Sat 4th July Steeton v Thackley KO 3.00pm

Sat 11th July Thackley v Liversedge KO 3.00pm

Tues 14th July Wombwell Town v Thackley KO 7.45pm

Sat 18th July Thackley v Harrogate Railway KO 12.30pm

Mon 20th July Thackley v Bradford Park Avenue KO 7.30pm

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