

Together in Batley

Nov / Dec 2025 Issue #22 FREE



**Pg. 6 Out and
About**



**Pg. 8 More Out
and About**



**Pg. 18 Batley's
Boat**

Editorial

22nd edition Nov/Dec

Please carry on sending all the wonderful things you are doing in Batley.

23rd edition Jan / Feb, we need your contributions by Dec 1st. Please send your articles, notes, photographs, recipes, puzzles as attachments to the email togetherinbatley@gmail.com or come to one of our content workshops:-

Content workshops in the library;
Mon 24th Nov 1-3pm
Tues 25th Nov 10-12pm planning meeting
Thurs 27th Nov 10-11am+ book box
Fri 28th Nov 11-1pm

We hope copies will be available in the first week of Nov at Batley Food Bank, Batley Community Centre, Jo Cox House, The Park Café, The Salvation Army and Churches. If you would like to take copies somewhere so we can increase our reach to every community, please let us know: togetherinbatley@gmail.com

The paper will be online at
<https://togetherinbatley.co.uk>
with links from
<https://www.facebook.com/togetherinbatley/>

Please send your contributions as attachments with photographs attached to the email separately.
Articles 350 words with 2 photos 8x8 centimetres.
Group Reports 60 words with 1 photograph.
Book Review 150 words with 1 photograph.
What's on 12-20 words.
Thank you all for your super contributions!!

Cover: Real Gardener's Diary. See page 22.
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Disclaimer:

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Wendy's Letter

This is the letter that Wendy Storey sent to YOURS; She won Star Letter. Well done Wendy



Batley Groups



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

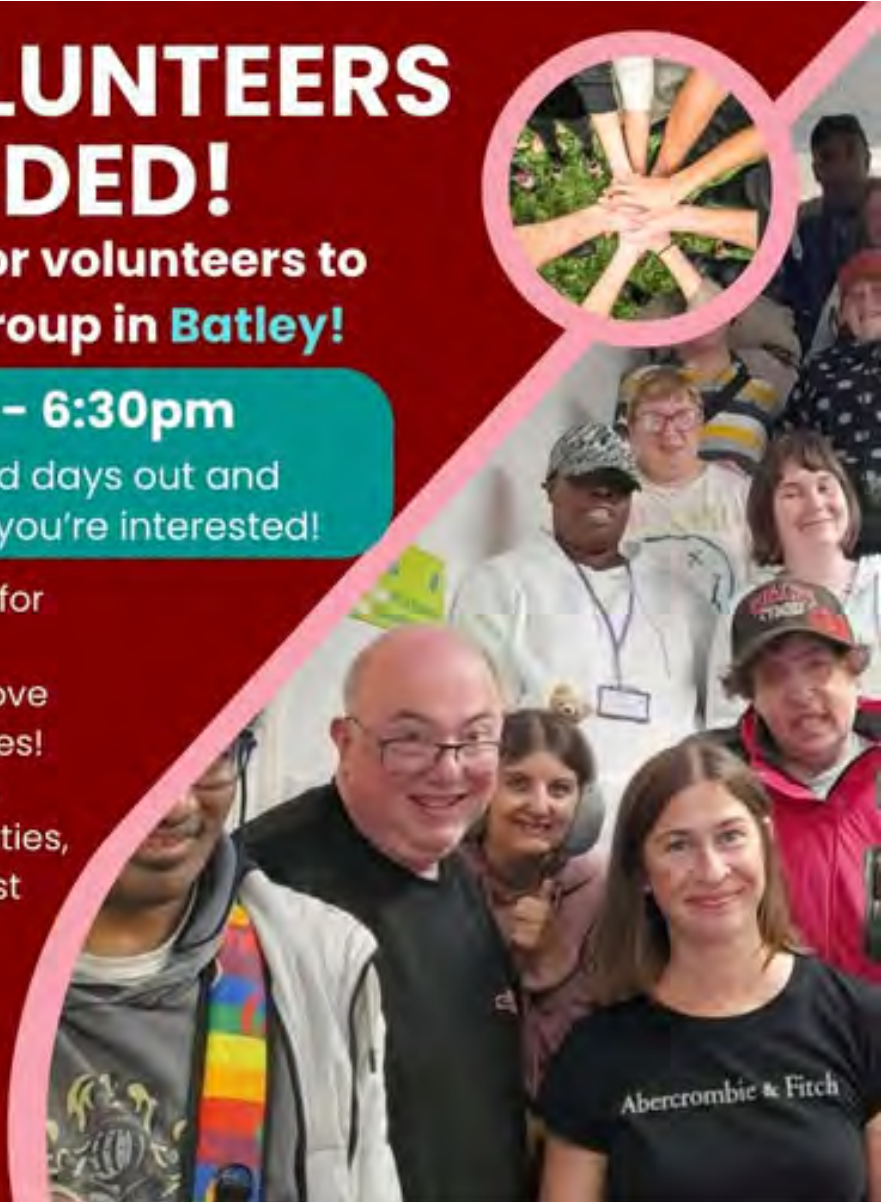
Mencap are looking for volunteers to support their social group in Batley!

Thursdays : 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Weekend trips, day trips and days out and about are also available, if you're interested!

More2Do is a fun social group for younger adults with learning disabilities and autism. They love to try new and exciting activities! Your role as a volunteer would involve facilitating these activities, joining in, socialising, and, most importantly, having fun!

**APPLY USING OUR
APPLICATION FORM!**



Batley Groups



Wilton Park Conservatory: Help

We are making the transition from our Butterfly House to Wilton Park Conservatory.

Thank you to all our amazing visitors for the support they gave us as a Butterfly House and now as we transform to a conservatory.

We are now closed on Saturdays and Sundays, but we are still open as a coffee morning on Mondays from 10-12pm.

When we re-open on Sundays 12-4pm in April next year we will be giving our visitors the chance to handle plants, learn about them, take them away or even store them at the Conservatory.

At home as you prepare for the holidays or spring clean, if you have house plants that have become too large etc please drop them off at the conservatory on Mondays.

Any keen gardeners who have spare seedlings in Spring please could you share them with us so we can pass them on.

Thanks tons: looking forward to seeing you all in April!!!!!!

Out and About in Batley



Coffee Morning at Trinity Church Batley Car



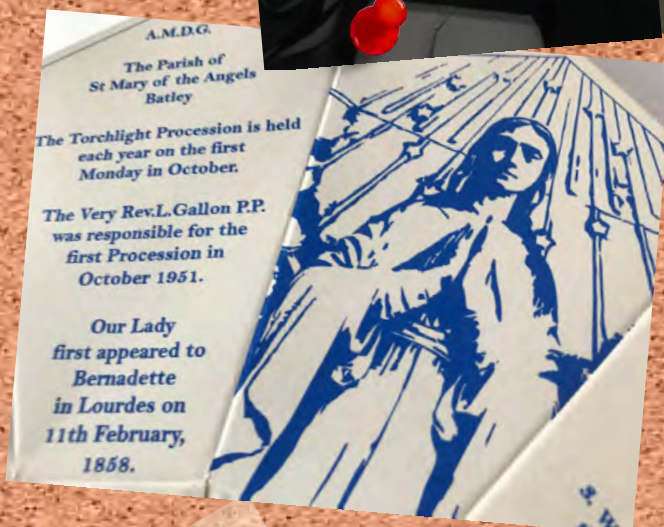
MacMillan coffee Morning Batley Library



Out and About in Batley



*Torch light procession,
Batley*



BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR. Do you want to celebrate the good news stories and amazing people in Batley? Email togetherinbatley@gmail.com to find out the details

More Out and About's!!

Activities for children this summer included: Woggle Hopping Festival, decorating ducks, make a game and:



Boxes and Bolts Batley Library



Shabang Batley Library





**WHAT IS
THIS??**



**WHERE
IS THIS??**



What's On! *Each Week Nov / Dec*

Every Monday:

Gym. 9.30-10.30am.

Batley Sporting Foundation.

Breakfast, dinner and pudding

10.00-12.00pm Batley Care and

Drop in at Central Methodist Church

Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00pm

Wilton Park Conservatory

Coffee Morning 10.00-12.00pm

Bleak House, Wilton Estate

Keep Fit 12.00-1.00pm

Over 50's Group 1.00-4.00pm

Mature Movers 12.00-1.00pm

Line Dancing 7.15-9.15p

Trinity Centre Batley Carr

Movement and Games. Chair based
exercise 10.30-12.00pm

Batley Community Centre RVS

St Mary's Theatre Group. 7.00pm

Social Club and Parochial Hall.

This Way For English. 1.00-4.00pm

Andy's Man Club. Join the

Conversation 7.00pm

Batley Library

Henry 9.00-11.00am Manorfield I&N
School

Gardening 2.00-3.00pm Manorfield I&N
School (term time only)

Batley Mencap. Social evening
6.00-9.00pm at Chickenly Community
Centre

Community Choir 7.15- 8.45pm

Term time only

Community Room, Batley Parish Church.

Community Café. Coffee, tea, pies
peas and cakes. 10am-1.30pm (hot food
served until 1.00pm)

Friendship and Fellowship afternoon
1.30pm-3.00pm includes speakers,
quizzes activities and occasional outings

Salvation Army

MASC Batley Karate Club
4.00-5.00pm and 5.00-6.00pm

£5 Michelle 07932650854

Bingo from 8.00pm £3 a book

Social Club and Parochial Hall

Fitness for Ladies 5.00-6.00pm

Al Hikmah Centre IMWS

Baby Clinic 9.30-11.30am

Carlinghow Academy

01924 326371

Open Gym 9.00-10am Ladies only

Gym 5.15-6.15pm Learn Together

Craft Club 12.00-2.00pm

M.E.N. Men Only Gym 6.30-7.30pm

Over 55's Gym 6.30- 7.30pm

Open Circuit 7.30-8.30pm

Batley Sporting Foundation

Pilates 12.30-1.30pm

Batley Community Centre RVS

Stay and Play 1.5-3yrs 1.00-3.00pm

50p Warwick Rd School

Fri 01924 455593

Batley and District Camera Club

7.30-9.30pm

North Kirklees Family History Group

10.00-12.00pm

Batley Community Centre

Lunch and Bingo 11.00-2.00pm at

Church Ablaze, Wellington Street

Yoga 1.00-2.00pm at Trinity Centre

Contact Alida at 07401 964218

Every Tuesday:

RAFA Coffee Morning with singing every
other week 10.30-12.00pm

Rhyme Time 1.00-1.30pm

Batley Library Term time only.

Over 50s Luncheon Club 12.00 2.00pm

Two course meal £6

Yoga Class 1.00-2.00pm

Trinity Centre

Tiny Readers 9.00-10.00pm Manorfield
I&N School (term time only)

What's On! *Each Week Nov / Dec*

Every Wednesday:

Little Lambs Toddler group 9.15am-

11.00am £1.50 per child

Salvation Army

Singing for Fun 2.00-4.00pm £5

with Anthony 07876267267

Fit Steps with Karen 5.45-6.45pm

dance fitness £5 07973242684

St Mary's Rock and Roll Club

8.00pm £3

Pool in the lounge 8.00pm 50p

St Mary's Social Club and Parochial Hall

Social Dancing Space 2.00-4.00pm with

Trevor

Trinity Centre, Batley Carr

Crafty Ladies 1.00-3.00pm

Church Ablaze, Wellington St.

Project empowerment 10-1.00pm

Manorfield I&N School (term time only)

Peer Talk 11.00-12.30pm

For those living with depression and anxiety.

Brimer Hall, Central Methodist Church

North Kirklees Family History drop in

10.00-12.00pm

Batley Community centre.

Every Thursday:

Open Gym 9.00-10.30am

Ladies Only Gym 5.15-6.15pm

M.E.N. Men Only Gym 6.30-7.30pm

Wellbeing Walking 10.00-11.00am

Over 55's Gym 7.00-9.00pm

Open Circuit 7.30-8.30pm

Batley Sporting Foundation.

Luncheon Club, 2 course meal

11.30-1.00pm. Please book.

Batley Community Centre RVS

Community Café Light bites +

10.00am-12.00md café for cakes coffee and sandwiches

12.15pm-1.30pm for activities with something different each week of the month.

Salvation Army.

Community archive with support 10.00 - 12.00pm

Long Covid Support Group 11.00-12.00pm

Story Time 10.30- 11.15am term time

Step by Step Job Club 10.00am

Stop smoking 1.00-2.30

Batley Library

Slimming World with Lynn

9am/11am/5pm/7pm 07988662052

St Maty's social club and Parochial Hall

Batley Youth Hub survival skills, sport, food, music, games 6.30-8.00pm

Fearless People Yorkshire.

Sensory Play for children afternoon

Bleak House, Wilton Estate

North Kirklees Family History Group.

10.00-12.30pm tel 917414

Batley Community Centre

Wellbeing walks 2.00-3.00pm

Wilton Park Batley adults 18+

Kirklees Wellness service

01484 234095

Stay and Play free 9.00-10.00am

Or 12.15-1.15pm Al Noor Nursery,

Community Centre, Hyrstlands Rd

07661735370

ESOL 9.00-11.30am Manorfield I&N School

Macrame 9.00-11.30am Field Lane J I&N School (term time only)

Every Friday:

Crochet Group 10.00-12.00pm

Sporting Memories 10.00-11.00am

Free Bingo 2.00-3.30pm Monthly

Batley Library

Walking Rugby 12.30

Batley Community Centre

Batley Sporting Foundation

Get Active Owls for over 50s.

10.00-3.00pm 014844766131

Batley Sports and Tennis Centre

Rock and Roll Band nights.

monthly 7.30pm

Mick Ingram Tribute Nights

Monthly 7.30pm

Tickets £8 and £10

St Mary's Social Club and Parochial Hall

The Craft Club 5.00-7.00pm

Under 8s only with parents

Bleak House, Wilton Estate

What's On! *Each Week Nov / Dec*

Ladies Rounders Team
Batley Ninjas 8.00pm
Batley Tennis Club
07514372582, 07961449236

Gardening Group 9.30-12.00pm
Meets in Town Car Park Apr-Oct
Batley Community Alliance
richardmartin01@btinternet.com

Singing For Wellbeing 1.00-2.00pm
sINGspiration Rosewood Centre
Dewsbury District Hospital

Art Group 10.00-12.00pm
Trinity Centre, Batley Carr

North Kirklees Family History Group
9.30-12.00pm
Batley Community Centre

Drop in Breakfast and Lunch 9.30-12.30pm
Church Ablaze, Wellington st.

Coffee Morning
10am-11.30am - Brimer Hall
Entrance side red door
Batley Central Methodist Church

Every Saturday:

Lego Club 12.00-2.00pm
Trading card Club 2.15-3.45pm
Crafts 2.00-4.00pm (last Sat of every month)
Batley Library

Every Sunday:

Ballroom Dancing with Trevor 7.45pm
£3. St Mary's Social Club, and Parochial Hall.

Lego at the Museum 12.00-4.00pm
1st weekend every month

Butterfly House open 10.00-4.00pm
Top of the park Free

Junior Park Run 9.00am 4-14yrs
Wilton Park
Friends of Wilton Park.

Ladies Rounders Team
Batley Ninjas 10.00am
Heckmondwike Grammar School
Junior Team 11.00am
07514372582, 07961449236

List of Providers:

- * Batley Community Centre 07726 771936
- * Batley Library ring 01484221000 and ask for Batley Library
- * Batley Sporting Foundation ring 07808 055022 or email info@batleysportingfoundation.org
- * Bleak House, 200a Ealand Road, Wilton. WF17 8JL
- * Carers Count <https://carerscount.org.uk>
- * Friends of Wilton Park fowp2015@gmail.com
- * IMWS [https://www.imws.org.uk/contact us](https://www.imws.org.uk/contact-us)
- * For Manorfield I&N School 07497 512801
- * RVS ring 07884 114853
- * Salvation Army ring 01924 443716
- * St Mary's Social Club and Parochial Hall, Melton St. www.stmarysocialclubbatley.uk ring 07896 974492
- * Trinity Centre ring 01924 437331
- * Bagshaw Museum, Wilton Park, Batley.
- * Batley Community Alliance Volunteers, richardmartin01@btinternet.com
- * For Field Lane J I&N School 07497 512801
- * North Kirklees Family History Group. Tel 01924 917414

What's On! *Special Events Nov /Dec*

Batley Library Events:

Mondays: :

This Way for English 1-4pm

Digital Support 10-12pm 1st Sept

Meet Try Learn 1-3pm

Singing Group 1.45-4.15pm

Chess Club 1st Sept and then every 2 weeks 5-6.30pm

Andy's Man Club 7-9pm

Tuesday: **Ex RAFA tea and cake 10-30-12pm**

Social Conversation in English 10-12pm

Thursday: **Step by Step 10-12pm**

Storytime - term time only 10.30-11.15am

Stop smoking 1.30 -2.30pm

Friday: **Sporting Memories 10am**

Crochet 10am

28th Nov and 19th Dec - Bingo 2pm

Saturday: **Lego - 12-2pm**

Trading Cards 2.15-3.45pm

Craft club - 27th Sept and 25th Oct

Kirkwood Coffee Morning Fri 24th October

Hallowe'en Craft Sat 25th October

20th Dec Christmas Concert 2-3pm

More Dates for your diary:

*** Turn on of Batley Lights 28th Nov
Batley Market Place.**

*** HeeleyBatley's:**

Farmers Market 29th November.

Christmas Market

5-7th December

12th-14th Decemberr.

Look out for Car boot sales.

*** Tues 25th Nov and Tues 30th Dec
6-8 Free, warm 3 course dinner
at PKWA Centre off Manor Way
Batley**

*** Batley Churches dates page 20
The Kirkwood dates page 16
Other dates page 18**

Friends of Batley Library presents...

POETRY WORKSHOPS

With Poet & Author
Mohamed Saloo

Join this interactive poetry writing workshops and free your writing skills. Two sessions will take place in November with poet and author Mohamed Saloo and is suitable for new, experienced or the curious.

15th November: Chit Chat Poems
22nd November: Styles and Structures

Places are limited and registration is essential.
The workshop is open to adults and children over 8 years-old. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Book your place via
the Eventbrite link or
at Batley Library



FREE EVENT

Saturday 15th November
Saturday 22th November

2.15pm - 3:45pm
at Batley Library,
14 Market Pl, Batley
WF17 5DA

Limited places
Registration essential



www.mohamedsaloo.co.uk



The Kirkwood news

Please help The Kirkwood:

- Play the Xmas Super draw and you could win up to £3,000.
- Running enthusiasts: we need you. Please run for Kirkwood. Choose which 2026 races to bid for.
- Please join in the Kirkwood cuppa near you.

Celebrate precious moments and keep memories alive in our Light up a Life services:

Sat 6th Dec Kirkwood Gardens, Dalton

Sun 7th Dec Long Causeway Church,
Dewsbury, 10.30

Kirkwood Gardens 5pm and live
streamed.

Celebrating Celia Moorhouse

BBC Make a Difference Award Winner

Celebrating Celia Moorhouse: BBC Make a Difference Award Winner

The Batley community has reason to celebrate as one of its most dedicated volunteers, Celia Moorhouse, has been recognised on a national stage. At 80 years old, Celia has been named the winner of the BBC Make a Difference Award for Volunteering, honouring her outstanding contribution and lifelong commitment to her community.

Celia's story is one of compassion, resilience, and an unwavering belief in the power of community spaces. A long-standing member of the Friends of Batley Library (FOBL), she previously served as Chairperson, where her determination was pivotal in saving the Batley Library building from closure. Thanks to her leadership, the library continues to thrive as a much-needed resource, bringing people together across generations. But Celia's contributions extend far beyond committee meetings. She is the creative force behind the Together in Batley magazine, a free publication that she not only produces but also personally distributes. Her aim is simple but powerful: to connect people, especially those who are vulnerable or without access to the internet. Each issue celebrates local stories, groups, businesses, and activities, ensuring no member of the community is left behind.

At the library itself, Celia's warmth and creativity shine even brighter. She runs the popular Lego Club, where children gather to build, play, and learn, and she also cares for the much-loved Butterfly House, now the Wilton Park Conservatory, where she transported insects so young visitors could enjoy hands-on educational experiences. These activities bring joy to families while sparking curiosity in the next generation.

What sets Celia apart, however, is her genuine kindness. Known by many in Batley, she always takes the time to stop for a chat, offering a smile and a listening ear. For countless people, she has made the library feel like a welcoming home – a place where everyone belongs.

Winning the BBC Make a Difference Award is a fitting recognition of Celia's tireless efforts. Her work embodies the true spirit of volunteering: giving time, energy, and heart to improve the lives of others. As the library and community continue to flourish, Celia's impact will be felt for years to come.

In celebrating her achievements, we also celebrate the value of community action, and the extraordinary difference that one person can make. Congratulations, Celia – Batley is proud of you!





Funded by Sport England




LUKESLADS

VETERANS

For veterans, by veterans
We're proud to launch Lukes Lads Veterans
Every Thursday 19:30
Fitness for all abilities, Wellbeing chats in a safe
supportive space
Jo Cox House, Batley, WF17 5DS side Entrance
Referrals only - no drop ins
Make a referral via our website:
WWW.tcd-charity.co.uk
Please help us spread the word
someone out there may really need this today







HELP^{the} HOMELESS & VULNERABLE YORKSHIRE

2025 Dates

Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) said:
"He is not Muslim
who eats his fill when his
neighbour is hungry"

Enjoy a FREE warm 3 course dinner!

■ TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2025

■ TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2025

■ TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025

■ TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2025

■ TUESDAY 27 MAY 2025

■ TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2025

■ TUESDAY 29 JULY 2025

■ TUESDAY 26 AUGUST 2025

■ TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 25

■ TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2025

■ TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 25

■ TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER 25

6pm till 8pm

Venue
PKWA Centre (Indoors)
Off Manor Way, Batley, WF17 7BX

FREE Taxi...
Outside Dewsbury Town Hall - 5:40pm
Return to all locations at - 8:00pm

FREE HAIRCUT! FREE HENNA!

Organised by Purpose of Life, supported by:












07498 914 738 saj@POL.org.uk www.POL.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1148827



Birstall WOODTURNING Club

Winter Fayre

Mirfield 2025

Saturday 22nd November
10am til 3pm

Join us for a day of demos,
have-a-go sessions, children's activities & stalls,
plus, our usual tea, coffee and excellent cakes
will of course be on offer too.

LIVE demos by club members

Unique handturned gifts

Unit 46 Holmebank Mills,
Station Road, Mirfield. WF14 8NA
///depth.craft.sandpaper

Only a few minutes walk from Mirfield train station

Mega raffle

Tombola Tombola Tombola

Have a go on a lathe!

TRICK OR TREAT

LYDGATE LODGE CARE HOME
SOOTHILL LANE, BATLEY

FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER
FROM 5 - 6.30PM

IT'S GONNA GET SPOOKY!

A bag of treats... or maybe tricks...
or maybe both...

Batley's Boat: HMS Badsworth

HMS Badsworth was an escort destroyer of the TYPE II Hunt Class. Cammel Laird laid down her keel on 15th May 1940.

Batley responded to the Warship Week National Savings campaign in March 1942 and adopted the ship'

She served with honour during the war round England, the Mediterranean and in Russian waters. She was loaned to the Royal Norwegian Navy on 8th August 1944 and re-named HNoMS Arendal and was de-commissioned from the Royal Navy in 16th Nov 1944.

She was finally scrapped in 1965



Christmas at Batley's Church of England's churches

Church Open Day

Batley Parish Church will be running a church open day on 8 November from 11am to 2pm. There will be activities, stalls and refreshments, so please come and visit us, and see Batley's only medieval building. All welcome!

Christmas Services

Batley's Church of England churches are preparing for Christmas with a programme of services for all ages! At Batley Parish Church, St Paul's Hanging Heaton, St Thomas' Batley and St Andrew's, we'll already have lots of Christmas services planned:

Sunday 7 December 11am All Age Carol Service (Batley Parish Church)

Sunday 14 December 4pm Christingle (St Thomas' Batley)

Sunday 21 December 9:30am Carols at the Crib (St Thomas' Batley)

Sunday 21 December 4:30pm Candlelit Carol Service (All Saints)

Sunday 21 December 4pm Christingle (St Andrew's Purlwell)

Christmas Eve 4pm Christingle (St Paul's Hanging Heaton)

Christmas Eve 4pm Carol Service (St Thomas' Batley)

Christmas Eve 4:30pm Christingle (Batley Parish Church)

Christmas Eve 11:30pm Midnight Mass (Batley Parish Church)

Christmas Day 9:30am Holy Communion (St Andrew's Purlwell)

Christmas Day 9:30am Holy Communion (St Thomas' Batley)

Christmas Day 11am Holy Communion (St Paul's Hanging Heaton)

For more information, please visit our website: <http://batleychurches.wordpress.com>

Angel Festival at Batley Parish Church

Are you loving angels instead? Or would you just like to get into the holiday spirit? We're hosting an angel festival in Batley Parish Church, with displays of angels from different community groups. There will be lots of activities and events in the first two weeks of December and we'd love to welcome you.

Full details will be available on our website (<http://batleychurches.wordpress.com>) and on our church's Facebook page closer to the event. Please contact our vicar (frjonathanbish@gmail.com or 07772 601259) if you'd like to get involved

WELCOME TO VOLUNTEERING COURSE

This course is ideal for anyone living in Kirklees who is new to volunteering or anyone who would like some help with getting ready to volunteer.



Course Content:

- Find out more about the range of volunteer roles available in Kirklees
- Learn about how charities work and the different policies and procedures you may be asked to follow as a volunteer
- Visit a charity and find out about their volunteer programme
- Gain a character reference to support your volunteer applications
- After the course you will be offered help to find a volunteer role that suits you.

This course is **FREE** and takes place in Batley library (WF17 5DA) (travel expenses paid) on Thursdays 10:30am-12:00pm starting on Thursday 6th November 2025 for 5 weeks.

To book your place or ask any questions
Email: volunteer@tslkirklees.org.uk
or Text/Whatsapp: 07776588691



Opening doors, connecting people, supporting you



Third Sector Leaders Kirklees is a
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number: 1162592

During Heritage Open Days Week (12th September onwards) there was a display describing the amazing buildings around the Market Square. The display has been turned into a book which is available to view at the library.



Batley Market Square

Batley Market Place has long been the heart of the town, a sloping cobbled square positioned between the Town Hall and the Carnegie Library. Its role as a trading hub grew in tandem with Batley's rapid expansion during the 19th century, when the shoddy textile industry brought prosperity and population growth. The construction of major civic landmarks around the Market Place reinforced its status as a centre of both commerce and community life: the Town Hall, built in 1854, symbolised local governance, while the Carnegie Library, opened in 1907, reflected philanthropic investment in education and self-improvement. Together, they framed the Market Place as a civic and social stage.

Market-day life here was vivid and atmospheric. Stalls were quickly erected on wooden frames and covered in fabric, strung with chains of light that gave the square a magical feel, especially in the dim winter evenings. Traders sold goods that carried a strong local flavour, from pies and tripe to comics, with some stalls remembered fondly for their quirky buy-and-return systems. The market was further strengthened by Batley's strong transport links: the opening of the railway station in 1848 and tramway services made the Market Place easily accessible and reinforced its role as a bustling market town.

As Batley gained borough status in 1868, the Market Place became more than a trading centre—it was a civic stage, a place where democracy and local identity were expressed. Over the 20th century, the market retained its essential character. Photographs from the 1950s show the enduring layout of stalls set against the backdrop of grand Victorian buildings, a reminder of the continuity of town life.

Batley History Group offered a Walk through Batley's Past at Batley Cemetery, and Bagshaw Museum created a family friendly Building Trail and a Guided Museum Tour while The Friends of Batley Station celebrated with a Past and Present day

REAL GARDENERS DIARY/SECRET GARDEN/AUGUST 25

Secret as it is, there is nobody to complain if it gets a bit overgrown, as now; grass might quit at high temperatures but speedwell doesn't, nor do nettles, thistles, and a whole raft of other stuff unwelcome in my nice variegated sward.

Best to haul the lot out in armfuls and chuck it on the bonfire, hoping for rain so that I can plant up with primroses and violets on the edges. These are incredibly hardy and lovely natives and do better than anything else in unpredictable seasons.

I think it best to study a garden like this one, which still has bits of original woodland, and find out what does well rather than trying to impose petunias on it -the wind would blow them to fragments anyway.

Speaking of odd weather, it has been a good year for berries, rather early but prolific, and the scruffy plum tree which excited me enough to paint it in the spring has produced some strong flavoured plums, very bitter until very ripe, so it's a race between me and the wasps.

I haven't had much time this year to mess about trimming and weeding. Result -less bird damage on the strawberries, riotous juicy blackberries -and actual apples after 5 years! Can't find the gooseberries, but then, you can't have everything.

During my 50 plus years of exile, I dreamed about this garden and the peace I got from being in it. Of course, I didn't think about slugs, aphids, and giant dead Ash trees -even so, it's still my haven.

Sue Gillespie 18/08/25



WOGGLE HOPPING FESTIVAL

Sunshine, blue skies, green grass and red letter boxes welcomed crowds into Batley's Wilton Park on Sunday August 2nd to enjoy the UK's first-ever Woggle Hopping Festival. The day's fun was a tribute to Batley Scoutmaster George Corner who invented the sport as a way of channeling his own irrepressible energy.

George's idea was to leapfrog over any object which was the same height as a woggle, which is the loop holding a Scout's neckerchief in place.

Woggle-making was a craft on offer on the day for everyone to make their own and try their skill at leaping over custom-made red letter boxes which were part of a parkour's circuit with professional trainers on hand.

The fun spread out over the grass with giant Jenga blocks, Batley beach, tin-can skittles, bean bag throwing, a bouncy castle, face painting, coconut shy and games of skill for all ages.

A play, "Skip" written by local poet and author Mohamed Saloo was performed by a cast of volunteers, telling the story of George's life and times.

Enthusiastic parents told the organisers they could not believe the event was free and were amazed at the range of games on offer. One parent said,

"Playing outside is something kids don't have much chance to do these days. The whole family is having a go!"

The event, which was jointly organised by the Friends of Batley Library, the Friends of Wilton Park and Batley History Group, is now set to become an annual date on Batley's calendar for the summer holidays.





Kirklees
Families Together

Helping local parents, children and young people to thrive.

Our single gateway gives you access to a wide range of services, information, advice and support for you and your family, including:

- One-to-one support
- Guidance around being a parent or carer
- Support with young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health

We support families with children or young people aged 0-19, or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Scan the QR code to get in contact through the Kirklees Families Together Gateway:



Or telephone:
01484 456823
www.kirklees.gov.uk/families-together



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