

Together in Batley

Mar / Apr 2026 Issue #24 FREE



**Pg. 6 Out and
About**

Pg. 9 Good Luck!

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Editorial

24rd edition March/April 2026

Brilliant: We have received wonderful articles for this edition. Thank you all – amazing!
Our next edition will be dedicated to the memory of Jo Cox our Member of Parliament who was tragically killed 10years ago.

Please share with us your memories of Jo.
The email is as usual: togetherinbatley@gmail.com

We hope copies will be available in the first week of March at Batley Food Bank, Batley Community Centre, 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 image: Japanese quince in bloom

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Disclaimer:

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A super Litter picking story:

The winter holidays in Batley are usually known for rest and festivities, but for Muhammad Qasim Sheikh, Abdul Hadi Hussain, Abdul Basit Hussain and Horain Shahzadi it was the perfect time for action. They noticed that the winter winds had blown debris against the blue wooden hoardings and stone walls of Talbot Street, and they decided to take matters into their own hands.

Starting at one end of the block, the group moved like a well-oiled machine. Horain and Abdul Basit focused on the smaller details, ensuring the sidewalk was spotless, while Muhammad Qasim and Abdul Hadi handled the heavier lifting. Despite the grey sky, the vibrant green and blue of their coats stood out as a symbol of hope and activity in the quiet street.

They spoke about how much better the street looked with every step they took. To them, this wasn't just about picking up rubbish; it was about showing respect for their environment and setting an example for others. By the time they finished, the transformation was clear. The area looked cared for, and the heavy bags they stood beside represented hours of selfless service.

As they posed for a photo to remember the day, their proud expressions said it all. Muhammad Qasim, Abdul Hadi, Abdul Basit, and Horain showed that the best holiday gift you can give is a helping hand to your community. Their story is a reminder that when neighbours work together, even a cold winter day can result in something beautiful.



Batley Groups

Batley History Group

Speakers

Council Chamber, Town Hall, 7.00-7.30

£2 members, £4 non-members,

Membership £10

23rd March	Simon Roadnight	Project update
27th April	Susan White	Commercial St.
18th May	John Roe	History of BRLFC
	22nd June	to be arranged
27th July	AGM	Members evening

Every body welcome.

Bumbles: Traditional and Fast food Collection or delivery.

44 Soothill Lane Batley
01924 760042

Their menu includes:
Bangers and mash
Cottage Pie
Braised Steak
Stew and dumplings
Corned beef Hash
etc

Batley Groups

Line Dancing

**Monday afternoon
2.00-4.00pm
And or Wednesday
8.00-10.00pm
Staincliffe Cricket
Club.**

Sequence Dancing with Trevor

**Wednesday Afternoon
2.00-4.00pm
St Mary's Batley**

Art Class

**Methodist Church, Green
Lane, Westborough.
Friday 10.00-12.00pm
£3**

**The group don't meet on
the 1st Friday of every month
as there is a coffee morning
in the church.**

Over Sixties Keep Fit Classin the church.

**Monday morning 10.30-11.30am
St Pauls Church Hall, Kirkgate,
Hanging Heaton (behind the
Church)**

For more details: 07950368831

Out and About in Batley



Keep Batley Tidy Group



Claire Hurst: a valued member of the volunteer team at Batley Library.



Make a difference award winners with the Mayor of Kirklees



Out and About in Batley

*singing at Batley Library
Coffee Morning Tues
Morning*



*Wilton Park
Conservatory coffee
morning*



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



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Private and Confidential

23rd January, 2026

Dear Eva and the Together in Batley Team,

The King has asked me to thank you for your lovely letter, with which you so generously enclosed a copy of the twenty-second issue of your local paper, Together in Batley.

His Majesty is most grateful to you for taking the trouble to write to him as you did. I can tell you that The King is always deeply touched to hear of those who devote enormous amounts of time and energy to community-spirited endeavours, and greatly appreciates the tremendous care you have taken to produce Together in Batley, which will have undoubtedly made such a difference to so many individuals in your local area.

Thank you, once again, for sending your message to His Majesty, who has asked me to pass on his warmest good wishes to everyone at Batley Library.

Yours sincerely,

James Dawson
Head of Royal Correspondence

Eva Kujawa and the Together in Batley Team

Library Campaign's competition

Batley Library won one of the 10 main prizes in the national competition for Together in Batley.

The prize was £600 which will go towards one of our issues this year. Thank you Eva for creating our entry.

Thank you to the library campaign for organising the competition



To Batley Man Leon Greenwood
Well done!!!!!!
Leon is part of the Bobsleigh Team
going to the Winter Olympics
All the very best of luck from Batley!!!

Woggle Hopping Festival 2026 Wilton Park, Batley

Batley's 2nd Woggle Hopping Festival will be held on Sunday July 26th from 12.00-2.00pm in Wilton Park, Batley.

- There will be:
- Parkor
 - Face painting
 - Bouncy Castle
 - Fun games for children and adults
 - Crafts
 - George Corner play
 - Yorkshire dialect poems

A free day out for all the family

WHY MY CAT IS CALLED BURMA.

I have lived in Batley all of my life.

I am the product of conflict. Had the two world wars not happened then I would not have happened. I would not be here.

In the Autumn of 1914 my grandmother, Bertha Maria Louisa Van Denbroeck, fled Antwerp, Belgium when the German army invaded the country. She was aged thirty one at the time. She settled in Hayes, Middlesex and couldn't speak a word of English. Around 250 000 Belgians were evacuated to Britain. They arrived in the port towns of Folkstone, Margate, Dover, Grimsby and Hull. They made a significant contribution to the war effort because of their skills in the textile industry. Most of them settled around London but many moved North to Yorkshire and Lancashire where their knowledge was in the textile mills. Some of them worked in Batley and the surrounding area. After the war around 90% of them returned to Belgium. My grandmother stayed in England. Here's why.

My grandfather, Henri Johannes Royer, also from Belgium, was already living in England at that time. He had come to England with his twin brother to work for Ambrose Heals in Tottenham Court Road. He was a cabinet maker and French polisher. Heals has an outlet in the Red Brick Mill. My grandmother and grandfather already knew each other from their time in Belgium as they were from the same district of Borgerhout in Antwerp. They met in London and were married three months later in 1915. My mother, Elizabeth Hendrika Royer, was born in June 1916.

She was born in a building in the Mile End Road that had been a workhouse. The people living there had been sent elsewhere so it could be used as a hospital to treat wounded soldiers returning from the Western Front.

My father, Harold Shepherd Cade, was born in Batley Carr in 1915. When he left school he became an apprentice painter and decorator with Ruddlesden's in Dewsbury. At the start of WWII he joined the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with many other Batley men and after basic training was deployed to Burma to become part of what became known as "The Forgotten Army." The 14th Army which served in Burma was a multi-national force comprising Indians, East and West Africans, Chinese and Nepalese Gurkhas. My father had the greatest respect for the Gurkhas who became known as the "bravest of the brave."

My father was one of the first soldiers to be shot by the Japanese during the Burma campaign. In a way it saved his life as by the end of the war only three of his platoon were still alive.

Heavily outnumbered the 14th Army fought what was to become the longest retreat under fire in British military history constantly pursued by the Japanese Imperial Army. Led by Field Marshal William Slim and under constant pressure he turned a disintegrating and dispirited force into a spirited fighting unit and led them over 1000 in 100 days through jungle and appalling weather and was able to turn what could have been defeat into a stunning victory when, reinforced by Indian troops, the Japanese were halted in a battle fought on the Kohima to Imphal road thus preventing the Japanese from invading India.

My father missed all of this. He was evacuated to the hill station town of Shimla in the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India. There he was treated for his bullet wounds, septicemia and dysentery. He was in hospital for six months. After recovering he was declared no longer fit for active service and was given an office job in the headquarters in Shimla. He helped with writing up Lord Louis Mountbatten's diaries. Mountbatten was Supreme Allied Commander of the South East Asia Command and played a pivotal role in the Allied effort to liberate Burma which was then a part of the British Empire. After the horrors of the jungle Shimla must have seemed wonderful to my father. It was like an English village had been dropped in the hills of India. It had parks, a bandstand, a cinema and a theatre and houses which would not have looked out of place in the Cotswolds.

While working in Shimla he became best friends with Ernest Bender who was a Londoner. Ernest was engaged to a London girl. His fiancée worked for Victor Speegel, an esteemed London fashion house. His fiancée's best friend was Elizabeth Royer, my mother, who also worked there. Ernest suggested that my father should write to my mother and they became pen pals. They met when the war had ended and married in 1949. I was born in 1953 thanks to events which happened in two world wars.

Over the years I have spent a lot of time in Antwerp visiting relatives. I have been fortunate enough to visit Shimla where my father served most of his war years and it didn't disappoint. It was just like he described.

I have also visited Burma where my father was shot. I have no idea exactly where that happened but I have visited the war grave cemeteries and seen the row upon row of war dead. It was a very emotional experience. My father could have easily been buried there and I would never have existed.

When my granddaughters gave me a kitten for Christmas three years ago I named her Burma in honour of my father.

When you go home, tell them of us. and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.
the Kohima Epitaph.

What's On!

Each Week Mar / Apr

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

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

Digital support 10.00-12.00

Singing Group 1.45-2.45pm

Chess Club 5th of Jan then every 2 weeks 5-6:30pm

Batley Library

Batley Mencap. Social evening

6.00-9.00pm at Chickensly 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

Beginner's Maths 9.00-11.30am

Measure and make sewing course

1.00-3.00pm

Manorfield School

Trinity Over Sixty's class at

St Pauls Church Hall Hanging Heaton

Contact 07950368831

Coffee morning

St Thomas Church. Grosvenor Rd

2.00-3.30pm

Line Dancing 2.00-4.00pm

Staincliffe Cricket Club

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.

Tiny Readers 9.00-10.00pm Manorfield

I&N School (term time only)

group 2-3.45pm Manorfield I&N School

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

Lunch and Bingo 11.00-2.00pm at

Church Ablaze, Wellington Street

Tiny Readers 9.00-10.00

Knit and crochet 10.30-12.00pm

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

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

Crafty Ladies 1.00-3.00pm

Church Ablaze, Wellington St.

Peer Talk 11.00-12.30pm

For those living with depression and anxiety.

Brimer Hall, Central Methodist Church

What's On!

Each Week Mar / Apr

Sequence dancing with Trevor
2.00-4.00pm
St Mary's Batley

Fields creative walks 9.30-12.30
Manorfield school from Feb 4thpm
And Field Lane School 12.45- 2.45

Line Dancing 8.00-10.00pm
Staincliffe Cricket Club.

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
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

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

Craft Club 9.00-10.00am
Field Lane school
ESOL 9.00-11.30am Manorfields
And Field Head School 12.30-3.00pm

North Kirklees Family History Group.
10.00-12.30pm tel 917414
Batley Community Centre

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

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

Art Class 10-12 £3
Methodist Church, Green Lane
Westborough.
Except 1st fri in month.

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

What's On!

Each Week Mar / Apr

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

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

Wilton Park Conservatory

12.00-4.00pm

Plants and crafts.

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 Mar / Apr*

HELP the HOMELESS

8th
YEAR!
SINCE 2018

Soul Food
UK Project

Community Cohesion
Initiative

& VULNERABLE YORKSHIRE

2026 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 27 JANUARY 2026
- TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026
- TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2026
- TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2026
- TUESDAY 26 MAY 2026
- TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2026
- TUESDAY 28 JULY 2026
- TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2026
- TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 26
- TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026
- TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 26
- TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER 26



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

Activities/Competitions + FREE Henna!

Organised by Purpose of Life, supported by:



Romantica



Drug and Alcohol Service
Kirklees



one community

ASDA



MORRISONS
TESCO

Purpose of Life



07498 914 738

saj@POL.org.uk

www.POL.org.uk



Registered Charity No. 1165627

REAL GARDENER'S DIARY, SECRET GARDEN JANUARY 26

"IF WINTER COMES.....can Spring be far behind?"

Well, let's hope not, because this winter has been not so much extreme as disheartening- just damp, and cold, and dull, and if I were not busy I would have fled South, to somewhere lighter, just to avoid the constant urge to hibernate.

The good news is that most growing things have continued growing, and the daffs are tall, strong and raring to go. The primroses never stopped blooming, and snowdrops shooting up like little rockets. Something is having a go at them, and finding them unpalatable, probably squirrels. I understand grey squirrels are quite tasty -anyone know a good recipe?

There are yellow buds on the willow tree. The top of it is right outside my bedroom window, and I am woken at first light with bluetits noisy amongst the yellow flowers which burst in profusion all over it. The tree generously feeds: bees and other insects, tits, various, 2 aggressive robins, blackbirds on a casual basis, and waxwings. Pigeons maintain territory at a distance, and visiting cats just hang around, hoping. It needs trimming back, but I have a real fondness for Nature out of control. Not only does it require minimal effort, but is always far more entertaining.

I have planted snowdrops, violets, Paperwhites, lilies, roses, Hamamelis, winter jasmine, honeysuckle, marigold -where they will survive and thrive without fuss. I'm not, by nature, lazy; it's just, at 75, I don't waste energy. I've still got plenty to do which must be done, and my garden is my relaxation.

I have grown a whole lot of tiny trees from fruit stones, and transplanted little ash, beech, sycamore and hawthorn saplings from the paths they like to sprout on and naturally, they are all good and wet -but I'll have to wait until leaf time before I sell them off. I hope to spread them around as hedging plants, and just imagine how nice if one of those fruitstone bushes bore plums, nectarines, or peaches, well-protected by the hawthorn. Lots of nectar, and Party-Time for bees and other pollinators.

Bean -planting time this week. Last year everything was done far too late and didn't crop until late October, and then not very well. I will plant pansies etc directly into borders, where the roots will get down deep, and I shan't need to lug bathwater around to keep them alive.

Back in the 18thC, the builders created a cistern to water the orchard, fruit and vegetable plots, and the large greenhouse, with it's figs and grapes still fruiting even in Grandad's time, and up to the 1960's. There were always odd dry spells here, so at some point I might rig up a well-head because that cistern stays at the same level, no matter what the rainfall.

Of course, I could possibly rig up a drainage system running from the bathroom to the garden, but the probabilities for disaster are pretty high, so maybe not!

Happy Gardening!

Sue Gillespie 20/01/26



What have our Schools been doing?

At Purlwell, we foster a **love of reading** through many activities including weekly reading mornings, storytime, book areas and school library visits. It was super to see so many families getting involved in the FRED Project and promoting a love for reading at home. The hall was packed for the FRED Celebration Assembly!

We believe reading for pleasure is especially important to nurture learners' imagination and curiosity. They develop language, confidence and empathy, as well as skills they need to succeed across the curriculum. Most importantly, we want every child to see reading as something joyful and exciting!



Automata Project, Inspired by the Fifa World Cup

In Design Technology, our Year 8 learners have recently completed an exciting Automata project inspired by the FIFA World Cup. The project began with learners exploring existing products to gain inspiration and understanding, followed by writing a clear design specification.

Learners then developed their own creative design ideas, sketching and annotating them by hand, using pencils. From these ideas, they produced a final working product, using cams and mechanical systems to bring their designs to life.

During the making process, learners developed valuable practical skills and techniques, including the safe and accurate use of the coping saw and belt sander. The Automatas were constructed using MDF, with paint and Posca pens to add colour, detail and imagery.

To conclude the project, Year 8 learners evaluated their finished products and proudly took them home to share their work. A fantastic demonstration of creativity, problem-solving, and practical design skills.



What have our Schools been doing?



Reception had great fun listening to Supertato and decided the Evil Pea must have been everywhere, causing mischief all around the classroom and even leaving Mrs. Hall splashed covered in pea juice. Very funny!

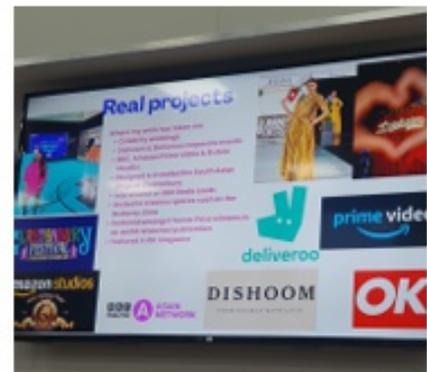
Careers Breakfast

Our first Careers Breakfast of the year was a great success! We were thrilled to host over 60 learners for an inspiring morning session featuring guest speaker and Creative Director, Sofia Sarwar. The room was buzzing with ambition as Sofia shared insights from her own professional journey and careers in the creative industry, reminding us all that a career isn't a fixed destination, but a continuous process of growth, building skills, and refining your craft. The feedback from the session was incredibly positive.

Learners walked away with three powerful slogans to guide their future paths:

- Trust your gut
- Persist through challenges and see them as learning opportunities.
- Stay unique

A huge thank you to Sofia Sarwar for her time, her expertise, and for helping our learners kick off the term with self-belief. Your journey reminded us all that a career path isn't a final destination, it's a continuous process of building and refining your skill set.



The Trinity Centre - End of an Era

The Trinity Centre, Upper Road, Batley Carr officially closed to patrons on the 31st December 2025 after 27 years operating as a Community Centre.

It has seen many active committee members over the years who have given their time and talents into organizing Community events. We have been proud to host both community group activities as well as celebratory parties for both local organizations and individuals.

Many friends have been made, and as well as support given to us by local charities and the local council, we have made the Trinity Centre a success.

One individual who has had a leading role in this achievement is Mr William Thompson, ('Bill').

He, along with John Smith ran the local Neighbourhood Watch group for Batley Carr. Bill was coerced into joining the newly formed Trinity Centre Committee from almost the start in 1998. This was a Church of England initiative by the Team Parish of Dewsbury being driven by the Rev.d John Hawley and Captain Richard Martin from the Church Army.

After a successful career in the engineering industry and wishing to put his time and energy in serving the local community Bill was welcomed with open arms.

With Bill's management background and practical skills he helped forge ahead the concept that by providing local people with a warm space and a variety of activities we could offer residents the chance to mix with others, develop new friendships, promote wellbeing, combat loneliness, bringing the community closer together.

This could also bring down some of the cultural barriers in an ever changing local population, long before the phrase 'social cohesion' was invented.

There have been many changes to the building over the years making the Trinity Centre as a venue accessible to all. Installing a new lift was one, getting a disabled ramp to the side of the building was another. In a building of this age (1842), there are bound to be many challenges, and there were.

Throughout this 27 years, Bill in his role as Chairman has steered the committee forward, pushing for change, suggesting new initiatives and bring about Charity Status in April 2020.

The longest serving activity during this time was the weekly Luncheon Club. Originally, overseen by Bill and his wife Kathleen, and later, by others.

The idea was to provide a two course roast dinner every week at a minimal cost to local residents over fifty. He realized that many local people live alone and may not want to cook a joint of meat.

Week after week, whatever the weather that joint went into the oven by 7.30am to be enjoyed later at lunchtime.

Other groups have had a long standing booking with us, and they too have contributed to the life and upkeep of the Trinity Centre often supporting other activities as well. Many people in this country serve their local communities in unpaid roles, not wanting recognition, but with the commitment that by doing so it will enhance the lives of others. Bill is a good example of this, showing us that by doing so we can make a difference.

The building we operate from is owned by the Church of England but due to falling Church attendance at Sunday Services the decision was taken to close the building. This meant the Trinity Centre also needed to close.

Although this is sad it was not unforeseen and it is our hope that whatever beckons the future of the building, in whatever capacity, it will still continue to serve the local community.

As for Bill, though his legs are a little weak at 94, his mind is still active and I am sure he will not be idle for long.



MILESTONE ACHIEVED WITH GRADUATION

My graduation ceremony today. I felt so happy wearing the graduation cloak for the first time!

It's my first-ever graduation and I'm truly grateful and proud of this moment.



EXPLORING THE WILD SIDE OF WONDER

We had a wonderful time at Ponderosa Zoo today. The gorilla statue gave us a scare at first, but it was all part of the fun! I saw so many animals that I've only read in books, what an amazing experience



A Lovely New Beginning: Iyadh Salook's Journal Episode 2

A DAY FULL OF FUN AND FESTIVITIES

We were excited to go to the gala, there were so many fun things like bouncy castles and marry-go-rounds and lots of stalls to explore



A LOVELY DAY AT OAKWELL HALL

We visited Oakwell Hall, beautifully preserved Elizabethan manor house, and enjoyed a peaceful walk through the surrounding country park, where we picked raspberries and blueberries.



Weekly Dementia Support Groups

Bringing together people living with dementia, their carers, families, and friends to provide support in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Day	Time	Where
Monday	10:30am - 12:30pm	Cleckheaton Library
Tuesday	10:30am - 12:30pm	Dewsbury Minster
Tuesday	1:30pm - 3:30pm	Batley Community Centre
Wednesday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Focal Centre, Lindley
Wednesday	1:30pm - 3:30pm	Holmfirth Methodist Church
Friday	12:30pm - 2:30pm	Cleckheaton Library

To book a place & for further information contact:



Phone:

**07814 862472 - Regan
07977 996800 - Fatima**



Email:

kirkleesdementiasupport@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

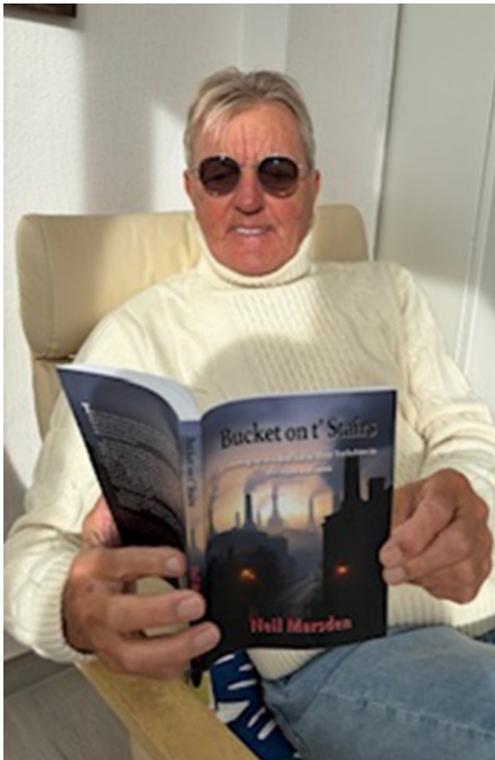
PHOTO'S FROM AROUND BATLEY

What a memory!! Have you any photos of your family experiences you'd like to share?



This is Batley Station underpass. Will this be lost when the new bridge is built?

Bucket on t' Stairs by Neil Marsden



in his own words, Neil Marsden writes, “Ah were born a while ago, in 1950, in mucky Batley in heart o’ West Yorkshire.” He grew up in Batley and lived there until leaving for university in Reading, and his memoir Bucker on t’ Stairs is a vivid, absorbing account of his life in the town during the 1950s and 1960s as well as his struggles with being deaf.

The book brings a long-vanished Batley sharply back to life. Told entirely in Yorkshire dialect, it captures the humour, hardship, and everyday realities of growing up in a working-class town, from childhood scrapes to moments of warmth and belonging. Marsden writes with honesty and affection, allowing the reader to experience Batley as it was lived, not as it is later remembered.

What makes the memoir particularly compelling is its sense of place. Batley Baths, the Variety Club, the streets, shops, and mills all emerge vividly from the page. The rhythm of daily life is there in the background sounds of clacking looms and steam engines, alongside the comings and goings of Irish families and the arrival of Pakistani shopkeepers, reflecting a town already shaped by movement and change.

Although I have only lived in Batley for the past three years, I found myself completely drawn in. The descriptions are so rich and precise that I felt transported into a world I never knew, yet could clearly imagine. I read the book from cover to cover in just two days and did not want it to end.

This is a book I would strongly recommend to anyone who wants to rediscover Batley as it was fifty years ago, to readers interested in local history, and to anyone who values well-told stories of small-town life in Yorkshire.

You can purchase the book here:
<https://shop.bookmundo.com/en-GB/search?query=Neil+Marsden>

We will also be getting a copy for the Batley Library which is being donated by his publisher David Rose. Thank you David.



A Cold Morning Discovery at Wilton Park

One cold morning on my day off, I decided to visit Wilton Park. It had been many years since my last visit, and I felt drawn to take a quiet stroll and reconnect with a familiar place. As I wandered through the park, I found myself a little lost — but with just enough determination to find my way back.

That journey led me to the Wilton Park Conservatory.

From a distance, I noticed the striking red door and felt compelled to walk towards it. Stepping inside turned out to be the highlight of my morning. I was welcomed by some of the most wonderful people, and Trish, in particular, was amazing — she made me a great cup of coffee and invited me to join the coffee morning.

I had a lovely time getting to know everyone and was made to feel genuinely welcome. I'd like to thank everyone who took part in the coffee morning; you are all doing fantastic work, and the sense of warmth and community was truly special.

It was also wonderful to hear that the council has kept the conservatory open — a real testament to the dedication and hard work of those involved. Well done to everyone who continues to invest their time and energy into keeping this community space alive and thriving.

The Wilton Park Conservatory is a place that deserves to be promoted more widely within the local community, and there is real potential to reach out to more volunteers who want to be part of something meaningful. I'm very much looking forward to visiting again soon.

kind Regards

Imran Hussain



**Wilton Park
Conservatory Coffee
Morning
Is an RVS Coffee
Morning
10-12pm at the
Conservatory at the top
of the park.
It is a dog friendly
space with Bramble
comforting us all
especially those
struggling with
dementia.**