

# September 2025

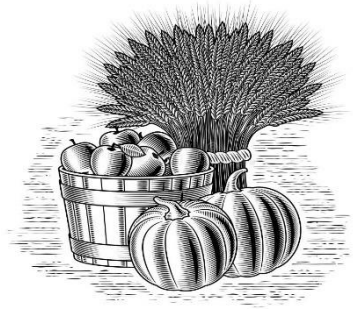
# THE FOUNTAIN

*The Parish Magazine serving the communities of the Fountains Group, Aldfield  
Sawley & Winksley (Fountains Parish), Azerley, Dallowgill, Galphay, Grantley,  
Grewelthorpe, Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton, Mickley & Studley*

**60p**

Dear All,

The Church of England is an odd institution. It is an official, national church, which has to keep its buildings up and running without any official, national support. It relies on voluntary contributions, and many of its buildings, including some in this area, are of unique beauty and historical significance. It is also an institution in which there are many different opinions about beliefs, practices and styles of worship.



These different opinions sometimes cause very public disagreements and squabbles. I think this is actually a strength, for it shows that we can seek to live out our Gospel message of love towards each other even in the midst of differing views, without pretending there is an enforced uniformity (impossible among people free to speak their minds). And of course, in common with other Christian denominations, at the heart of this message lies the belief that God is fundamentally a God of love, who has acted decisively to conquer the power of wickedness, hatred, and death itself, through living, dying and rising again in a human life, the human life of Jesus.

Quite how this conquest works is a mystery, which can only be expressed in

varied and more or less effective metaphors, involving concepts such as redemption, ransom or sacrifice. But for me, one of the greatest strengths of the Church of England is that, far from being an inward-looking cult or sect, it regards itself through its ancient parish system as responsible for the care of all those living within a geographical area.

So, this means that whether or not you come to church (though I hope you will), whether or not you want to help keep our beautiful buildings standing (and that would be nice too), we as the active Anglican Christians in this place will continue to try to be here for you all in any way you may feel the need for our support. And at the very least, we will keep you all constantly in our prayers.

**Adrian**

### **Services in Fountains Benefice in September 2025**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.”  
(Proverbs 3: 5a)

Sunday 7 Sept	9.00 am	BCP Holy Communion, Mickley <i>Andrew C</i>
	10.30 am	Morning Worship, Grewelthorpe <i>Adrian R</i>
		Holy Communion, Kirkby Malzeard <i>Andrew C</i>
		Morning Worship, Winksley <i>Liz J</i>
	2.00pm	Evening Prayer, along with Sawley chapel folk, Sawley, <i>Adrian R &amp; Ian Pruden</i>
	6.00 pm	BCP Evening Prayer, Dallowgill Chapel of the Resurrection <i>Liz J</i>
Sunday 14 Sept	10.30 am	Harvest Festival & Communion, Sawley <i>Andrew C</i>
		Morning Worship, Grewelthorpe <i>Liz J</i>
		Morning Worship, Kirkby Malzeard <i>Adrian R</i>
Sunday 21 Sept	10.30 am	Methodist Communion, Grewelthorpe <i>Ian Pruden</i>
		Morning Worship, Kirkby Malzeard <i>Liz J</i>

	Holy Communion, Winksley <i>Andrew C</i>
11.00am	Harvest Festival <i>Adrian R</i>
6.00 pm	BCP Evening Prayer, Aldfield <i>Adrian R</i>

Sunday 28 Sept 10.30 am Benefice Holy Communion, Aldfield  
*Ministry team*




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 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

Loving.  
Living.  
Learning.




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**For information about services please contact Revd.Andrew Cromarty on 01765 507479 or email [parishfountains@gmail.com](mailto:parishfountains@gmail.com)**

**From Ian and Helen**

We are so grateful to everyone for the support and generosity we were shown at the end of Ian's stint as Rector. It will seem a long time ago by the time this magazine appears, but we'll still be very aware of how much love we received. From plants to paintings (and plonk), out of your pockets and in your prayers, you marked our leaving with lavish kindness. As we said in the last magazine, we hope to stay in touch and we will be keeping the parishes and villages in our prayers. A phrase from 2 Thessalonians which I referred to in my final sermon sums it up: "We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord." And so, we will. God bless you all.

## **From the churches' registers**

### **Weddings**

Carl Reid and Katie Metcalfe were married on 28 Saturday June at St. Cuthbert & St. Oswald's Church, Winksley.

Nicola Todd and Edward Coghlan were married on Saturday 26 July 2025 at St. James and the Methodist Church, Grewelthorpe.

### **Pat Willis - Celebration of Life**

There is to be a Celebration of Life Service for Pat Willis, from The Beeches, Winksley. It is to be held at St. Cuthbert & St. Oswald's Church in Winksley on Saturday 13th September 2025 at 11.00am.

Please wear bright colours and bring your happy memories of Pat. There will be refreshments in the Village Hall after the service.

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### **Launching the new 'Abbots' Way' Pilgrimage**

– the *first* of our three '*Fountains Ways – Ancient Paths for Modern Pilgrims*'

After months of planning, the 'soft launch' of the new 'Abbots' Way' will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, coinciding with the annual Yorkshire Churches Day. It is hoped that many folks from across North Yorkshire will join us for this special day!

Following a Lent study series on Pilgrimage and subsequent Pilgrimage from Winksley to Fountains Abbey, in 2024, 'Abbots' Way' aims to get people out walking in this glorious Nidderdale area, visiting four beautiful rural churches located in the Fountains Benefice - including William Burges' famous St Mary's, Studley Royal, by Fountains Abbey – and enjoying good local hospitality.

Recognising the growing interest in Pilgrimage nationally and internationally, the 'Fountains Ways' project group are working on a series of three interlocking Pilgrimages, of which this is the first. These will be formally launched, with the support of North Yorkshire County Council, particularly its NY Tourism team, by Easter 2026.

In addition to OS Map-bearing descriptive leaflets, church welcome boards will help the pilgrims both to view the buildings and engage with church community life. Church 'stamps' – like those used on the various *Caminos* – will, in time, be available to stamp pilgrim 'passports', and children's quizzes etc will offer young people a way of also participating. In time, and with NY Tourism support, the relevant information will be web-based, accessed via QR codes.

Tom Ramsden, Churchwarden of St John's Church, Mickley, Chair of YHCT, and co-leader of the group, commented, 'This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the churches, the heritage and the landscape of beautiful Nidderdale'. So, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, YC Day, a group of us will meet at Sawley, nr Ripon, at 10.30am (parking on the village green), to start an accompanied walk, and taking packed lunches. The first stop will be just nearby, at St Michael and All Angels, Sawley. The second church stop is St Mary's, Studley Royal (open 11.30am-3.30pm). *En route*, we may wish to make use of the facilities or purchase refreshments from the Fountains Abbey Visitors' Centre.

From there, we'll head towards St Cuthbert and St Oswald, Winksley, a beautiful early 20<sup>th</sup> Century 'Arts and Crafts' building (open from 1pm onwards). Additional toilet facilities will be available nearby. The fourth church visit is to St Lawrence, Aldfield, a fine 18<sup>th</sup> Century building with box pews and triple-decker pulpit, largely untouched since its construction. The final leg of the Pilgrimage will take us back across the River Skell, and up to Sawley.

The whole route is about 9 miles which we estimate will take about 6 hours, including breaks, walking at a gentle pace. There may be an option of losing a section, for those seeking something slightly shorter. The going is moderate, and there are a number of stiles to cross. Stout footwear is recommended, and waterproofs, in case of rain. The 'draw' at the end is The Sawley Arms, a much-appreciated local pub, with a cosy interior and decent exterior seating.

**Revd Andrew Cromarty, Associate Priest and Project Co-ordinator**

### **Sunday 5th October - Winksley Harvest Lunch**

Following the 11am Harvest Festival at Winksley church. At our service we will take donations of food and other useful items for the Ripon Food Banks. Please join us for this thanksgiving service, as we celebrate our farms and farming communities, and give thanks to God for the food that they produce, and the wonderful countryside that we live in.



## **'Kettle's On'**

**Winksley Parish Room  
Pop-Up Cafe**



**Tea, Coffee and Home-Made Cakes  
Books to borrow/swap**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October  
2-4pm**

**ALL WELCOME**

### **Fountains Book Club**

In June we read 'Cold Comfort Farm' by Stella Gibbons. It was chosen because people had read it many years ago and enjoyed it but it is interesting how the passing of time affects how you respond to a book. On rereading several couldn't understand why they had liked it, those reading it

for the first time did not enjoy it and only a couple still liked it. It was felt to be very much a book of its time. It is a comic novel that parodies the romantic ideas of rural living and is about a spoiled rich girl who becomes an orphan, refuses to work and goes to live with her family at the Farm where she then meddles with all of their lives. There were too many characters with unusual names to remember and nobody warmed to the main character. Some people did feel an affinity with the Farm itself. It is viewed as 'one of the best comic novels of all time' but this was not agreed with by us. If, however, you want to find out what happened in the coal shed then read it.

What is the point of life? Why am I here? What is heaven? If you fancy contemplating these questions then read our July book 'Five People You Meet in Heaven' by Mitch Ablom. A complete contrast to our June read but enjoyed much more. A fairground worker dies while trying to save someone at work and as he enters heaven there are five people waiting for him, each of whom either he had an impact on or they on him. He has to come to terms with the ramifications of all their actions and it makes the reader question how their actions might have impacted on others (having several ex-teachers in the group this was a scary thought!!). This book is written in a deceptively simple way, tenderly raising lots of very deep and thought-provoking ideas and questions. It is worth a second read once you have assimilated everything that happens.

For September we are reading 'The Light Between Oceans' by ML Stedman.  
**Libbie Davies**

**Galphay**

**Seven Twelve Five Pilates at Galphay Village Institute**

Every Thursday (9am)



## **Grewelthorpe**

### **Grewelthorpe Village Hall September 2025**

The Hackfall Café at the Village Hall welcomes customers for indoor and outdoor seating. OPEN Monday – Wednesday – Friday 11:00 am – 1:00pm Saturday – Sunday 11:00 am – 3:00pm

### **LIVE MUSIC Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September Gary Stewart**

Gary is a Scottish singer/songwriter who has carved out a strong fan-base in his adopted home of Yorkshire with songs about love & resilience. He performs regularly up & down the UK, performing Paul Simon's classic 1986 album 'Graceland'.

Influenced by the major singer/songwriters of the sixties and seventies, Gary writes, records and performs music in the Folk/Pop vein. The Scottish songsmith has released four albums to date, and is also no stranger to the festival circuit, having played *Kendal Calling*, *Green Man* and *Shrewsbury Folk Festival*, to name but a few.

For his visit to Grewelthorpe, Gary will be performing a set of his own songs plus a set of Paul Simon songs. A "not to be missed" evening!

Doors open 7pm for an 8pm start. Tickets £12 from the Village Hall during café opening or online from <https://www.wegottickets.com/grewelthorpe>



**THE BIG GREEN PIZZA TRUCK - GREWELTHORPE VILLAGE HALL**  
**FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> September– 5.30 to 8.30pm – Eat in or Takeaway**

Refreshments available at the Village Hall Café for eat in customers from 5.15pm. Hot and cold drinks/wine and beer.

**GREWELTHORPE VILLAGE HALL CAFÉ TALK – WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm**

**‘AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, ENCOUNTERS WITH DUKES, EMPERORS AND ADMIRALS ON A QUEST TO SEE EVERY BRITISH BUTTERFLY’**

Helen Hays is on a mission to see all 59 British Butterflies. It is a quest which has taken her to places she's never seen before, from the Chalk Downlands of Hampshire to the Lakeland Fells, via the West Country and the Norfolk Broads.

Along the way she has made new friends, had a few scrapes and massively increased her step count, in the search for some of Britain's most beautiful insects. Helen will talk about some of her memorable journeys and reveal how many of the 59 she has managed to track down.

Entry: £3.50 (includes glass of wine / soft drink)

**Mobile Phone and Computer Questions? Help is still at hand**

One of Mashamshire Community Office's Digital Champions, has kindly offered to continue to volunteer their expertise in Hackfall café, on alternate Mondays. Please ask in the Café for the dates. No appointment needed and remember: there is no such thing as a daft question! We now have a Village Hall iPad, so access to the internet is provided, even if you don't have your own device.

**Regular Classes**

Pilates with Elizabeth Mondays 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September. 7:30pm - 8:30pm.

Ducklings Play Group Thursdays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September. 10:30am – 12:00. A drink and snack will be provided. £2.00 per session. All welcome.

Pilates with Gill Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 6:30pm-7:30pm.

Earthpath Drumming Circle: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September. 7pm All welcome. £5 No experience necessary & spare drums will be available. Contact: Jane 07920196710

Grewelthorpe WI Thursday 4th September: "The Curse of the Sticky Toffee Pudding". Malcolm Ware will talk about his exploits as a food critic and journalist. Contact Mary Wilson 01765 650474 or Terri Duncanson email [terridunk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:terridunk@hotmail.co.uk) Tel 07821162401 New members and guests are always welcome. Guests £4.

Community Lunch Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September in the café. A homemade 2 course hot dinner and pudding, served by our friendly Hackfall Cafe volunteers. £6 per person. Extra portions for freezing can be ordered in advance. Call Susan Rizos on 01765 658200 to order your meal. Please state any dietary requirements.

Grewelthorpe Gardeners' Club. Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Dee Venner will talk about the National Garden Scheme and her rewarding and inspiring role as County Organiser for North Yorkshire. Talk starts at 8pm with refreshments available from 7.30pm. Members free. Guests £5. New members and guests are always welcome. No need to book. Contact Mike 01765 658990 or Delia [delia.jerome21@gmail.com](mailto:delia.jerome21@gmail.com) for queries/information.

**VILLAGE HALL WEBSITE** For more information about activities, events, facilities and to access our online booking system visit

[www.grewelthorpevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.grewelthorpevillagehall.co.uk)

**WHAT'S ON IN GREWELTHORPE** If you would like to be kept up to date you can subscribe to this e-newsletter by request at [whatsongrewelthorpe@gmail.com](mailto:whatsongrewelthorpe@gmail.com)

## **St James' and the Methodist Church Grewelthorpe**

**Thank you.....**

For all those that have supported us in any way at our recent events.

**Dates for your diaries.....**

We really appreciate your support as we continue our efforts for fundraising for the refurbishment to our Church.

**Afternoon Tea served in Church Saturday, 6th September 2-4pm.**

Please join us and indulge in a delicious afternoon tea.

Music by Richard Connor.

Only £12.50 per person £7.50 per child. Treat yourself to a glass of prosecco too! Tickets from Susan Rizos 07740703868

**Autumn Lunches for 6 weeks, Each Monday 8, 15th, 22nd, 29th September 6th, 13th October.**

In Grewelthorpe Church 12.00 – 13.30

Come and enjoy delicious home-made soups, a bread roll and choice of desserts, tea and coffee.

Donations towards Church Funds. Everybody welcome

**Yorkshire churches Day**

**Saturday 13th September 10-4pm**

**Sunday 14th September 12noon – 4pm**

If you would like to know more about the renovations that are planned for our Church or that are already happening, then please pop into Church on either of the above dates and see our exhibition.

Light refreshments available on both days.

**Next G-Club Wednesday 17th September 6-7pm held in Church**

The children's monthly club at St James and the Methodist Church Grewelthorpe is called G-Club and is open to all children of primary school age. Come and join us in Church for fun, games, singing, stories, and a snack. Contact Susan Rizos on 0774073868 or email

[susan.rizos@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.rizos@btinternet.com)

**Easy Fundraising**

St James and the Methodist Church, Grewelthorpe are now registered with easy fundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 8000 retailers will donate to us when you use easy fundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!!!!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we would really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It is completely FREE and only takes a moment. It's easy to do, and just by doing your weekly food shop online via Easyfundraising will help us maintain the church's fabric and building for all the community to benefit.

You can find our easyfundraising page at

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-james-and-methodist-church->

[grewelthorpe/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_content=email-1](http://grewelthorpe/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-1)

Thank you so much! To access the website easily use the QR code below:



### **Knitters required Can you help?**

Wendy Richardson in Ripon is looking for people to knit trauma teddies, amputation socks, baby clothes or knitted hats for Humanitarian Aid Huddersfield to Ukraine

If you can help, please contact Wendy for details by ringing her on 07507 323344

**Kirkby Malzeard**

### **Mechanics Institute Village Hall: September 2025**

Wednesday 3rd: **Kirkby Malzeard WI 7.15 pm**

Saturday 6th: **Flower & Produce Show 13.30 - 16.30 pm**

Friday 12th: **Music Night 7.30 pm**

Tuesday 16th: **WI Skelldale Group 7 - 8 pm**

Friday 26th: **Quiz Night 7.30 pm**

Saturday 27th: **MacMillan Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon**

Monday 29th: **Parish Council Annual Meeting 7.30 - 10 pm**

### **Regular Classes:**

**Table Tennis** - Monday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th 10 - 12 noon

**Pilates** - Monday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th 4 - 5 pm

**Coffee, Click & Connect** - Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th 10 - 12 noon  
**Lunch Club** - Tuesday 2nd, 16th  
**Yoga** - Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th 9.30 - 10.30 am  
**Table Tennis** - Wednesday 10th, 17th, 24th 7 - 9 pm  
**Monthly Tunes Evening** - Wednesday 17th 7 - 9 pm  
**Wl Scrabble** - Thursday 4th 2 - 4 pm  
**Yoga** - Friday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th 1 - 2 pm

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS- SAVE THE DATES!**

#### **FOREVER MAUD FESTIVE CANDLE-MAKING WORKSHOP**

**Sunday 12th October 2—5pm at the Mechanics Institute**

£35pp

To book email: [forevermaud@gmail.com](mailto:forevermaud@gmail.com)

#### **PHEONIX BONFIRE - Saturday 1st November 2025**

**6pm North Close Farm**

Bonfire to be lit at 6.30pm by kind permission of the Mawer family

Fireworks, sorry no sparklers.

Food, Drink, Everyone welcome

The village community rubbish collection will be taking place on the morning of Saturday 1st November at 10am.

#### **PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION SUMMER BALL 2026**

**will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

<p>A Village Croquet Session is held every Sunday from 2-4 pm on the playing field. All welcome.</p>
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## **Kirkby Malzeard Bowls Club**

Roll Up to try this fun activity for all ages and abilities!!

Experienced or Novice, ALL are welcome.

Tuition and equipment provided.

Open practice Sunday and Mondays from mid-April.



KMBC is located at Highside Playing Fields.

For more information:

[ric.hill.4567@gmail.com](mailto:ric.hill.4567@gmail.com)



## **The Kirkby Malzeard WI At The Mechanics Institute**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.15pm

Medical detection Dogs- a talk- Speaker's name to be confirmed.

October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.15pm

KMWI AGM – followed by social time.

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### **"Coffee, Cake and Chat"**

Please come and join us in an informal service of hymns and a thought-provoking talk by Rev. Ian Pruden in the Coffee Lounge at The Mechanics Institute in Kirkby Malzeard on the last Sunday of the month from 9.15a.m - 10a.m. Coffee and cake will be served mid-way in the service.

The next services will be on:                      Sunday, 28th September,  
                                                                         Sunday 26th October  
                                                                         Sunday 30th November

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### **Kirkby Malzeard C of E Primary School**

The Children from the Federation of Kirkby Malzeard and St Nicholas West Tanfield put on a fabulous production of 'Moana' at the end of the summer term. It was a delightful story and so well performed by the children. The singing from the choir and the individual performers was outstanding and

everyone attending the two performances enjoyed their trip to the 'west end' well really Masham Town Hall. All those involved should be extremely proud of themselves for presenting such a professional show. We can't wait for the next production to come around!

A very big Thank you to The Friends of the school who helped so much with refreshments during the production. The school really appreciates the huge amount of help given by The Friends of the school and all the parental support given throughout the year that helps to make the school extremely successful.

At the end of summer term there were many goodbyes. The Year 6 children departed ready to spend their first year at secondary school and we wish them well in all their new adventures. We also said goodbye to Mrs Martin who has supported so many pupils at the school during her time there. The school is hugely grateful for all that she has done.

For more information about the school please email: [admin@kirkbymalzeard.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kirkbymalzeard.n-yorks.sch.uk) or call: [01765 658329](tel:01765658329) or follow us on @KirkbyMSchool to see lots of other amazing learning opportunities for our children. You can also learn more about the school on our website: <http://www.kirkbymalzeard.n-yorks.sch.uk>

## **Sawley**

### **Sawley Village Hall September 2025**

**Monthly Games night on the green** - Friday 12th from 6.30pm

#### **Dominoes**

Tuesday 2nd Sept 1.30pm

Friday 19th Sept 7.30pm

Tuesday 7th Oct 1.30pm

**Bowls** - Tuesdays at 7.30pm

## **Sawley Village Hall is 30 years old in October**

Save the date - Saturday 18th October. There will be a celebration including:

Family games  
90's themed disco  
Prize for best 90's outfit  
Check out your wardrobe for 90's garb  
Food  
Celebration mugs

Watch out for more information.

## **SAWLEY ARTS GROUP**

### ***Sawley Arts Group Biennial Exhibition***

*Sawley Village Hall*

*October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2025*

Featuring our members' work from the last two years' workshops including studies of the wonderful Veteran and Ancient trees of the Skell Valley supported by the Skell Valley Project.

You can make a leaf or creature for our Big Oak Tree, which stretches from the beautiful Village Hall floor to the panelled ceiling above. The other tree will feature poems about nature chosen or written by our members and presented as a Poetree. If you would like to add one, bring it along and add it to the tree!

We are also featuring work from our amazing local artists. Come and have a coffee and a chat. This only happens every two years, don't miss it!

Needle felting, quilling, mosaics, sketching, painting, modelling, ceramics, collage, crochet, patchwork, lino cut printing, construction, poetry. Find it all here 10.00am – 4.00 pm

Free entry, donations towards costs welcome.

**Harvest Festival Lunch, Sawley Village Hall, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September**



Following the 10.30am Harvest Festival Service folk will be invited to head over to the village hall, for the lunch which follows. For catering purposes, it would help Christine Dent and Angela Wray to know rough numbers. If you plan to come, please either call Christine (620208) or Angela (620617). Donations are invited to cover hall hire costs, etc.

### **SAWLEY METHODIST CHAPEL SERVICES**

September 7th at 2pm Rev Ian Pruden - US at St Michael's Church, Sawley

September 21st at 2pm Rev Ian Pruden - Holy Communion (Dedication of joint church)

### **Sawley Moor Lane Diary for September**

This has been a most splendid summer for butterflies and day time flying moths. They have been abundant and restricting lawn mowing has paid dividends this year. The honey scent of Buddleia has brought heaven sent Admirals, Tortoiseshells, Comma, Peacocks and many whites flocking to feed and we have had the widest variety of bees and flies for many years. My despair at the low numbers of insects from two years ago is drifting into the distance.

We hosted a small group of Nidderdale Birdwatchers to walk our patch and my diary entry follows. It was a lovely summer's evening.

Our patch walk - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July, Sawley Moor Lane

We began the evening with a stroll around the Flexman's garden, discussing wildflowers and butterflies and the evening Plume Moths flying up from the long grasses in the wildflower patch. Rattle was still in flower but the orchids were mainly happily going to seed. A Monday evening in late July was never going to give a long bird list but the stroll up Moor Lane produced sightings of hares, rabbits, a kestrel across the field in the far hedgerow, a curlew, pheasant, swallows at the top of the lane and some finches which were definitely green or gold!! Very hard to decide as they were on telegraph wires silhouetted against a bright sky.

When we arrived at the Nature Reserve at Picking Gill we found a very appropriate toad near the ponds and a fine collection of insects on ragwort flowers. A quick demonstration of a top of the range smart phone produced wonderful close ups of soldier beetles and, by pressing the "what-in-the-world-is-this-creature?" button, an

identity to a green beetle with the grand name of *Clostoratomus norwegicus*. It was far prettier than its name.

Picking Gill is the site of a former stone quarry. At the lowest point is the Wine Wife Well – really a stone framed spring that never runs dry even in the severest drought, then a middle level by the road and a fine rise of land above. You can gaze up through the branches of the oaks from the bottom or across the canopy at the top. It is a site of great calm and very appropriately here you can find a memorial to the three men from the Sawley area who were killed in the First World War and whose names are remembered on an old stone gate post that probably came from the quarry. A stone gatepost that they all would have known because it came from Butcher's Field where animals were brought before being walked down to the village slaughter house.

The walk back down the Lane was easy and relaxed walking between drifts of both kinds of willow herb, knapweed and greater burnet saxifrage at its frothy best.

There were three more hares in the fields and then a real treat – two kestrels were calmly watching a new sown field from the advantage position of a huge ash tree, a close and clear view for the birdwatchers, unless the birds were marking off the humans on their lists.

The evening concluded with nibbles and a glass of wine outside on a lovely summer's evening.



### **Harrogate Easier Living Project (HELP)**

#### **Here to HELP**

We know many people across the district are in need of practical and emotional support in their day to day lives but don't necessarily know where to turn. Our Here to

HELP team are available from 9am to 3pm Monday to Thursday on 01423 813090 to share information and signpost people to local services and activities. We can also share details of community groups and events you might be interested in joining. For those who are digitally connected we have an online directory 'Where To Turn' [www.hadca.org.uk/wheretoturn](http://www.hadca.org.uk/wheretoturn)

## **Help at Home**

Our Help at Home service helps people across the Harrogate district have a safe, accessible and secure home environment to support their continued independence. Our part time handy man and volunteers support people with practical help around the home including gardening, decorating and odd jobs. It's often the smaller tasks that prey on the mind of people struggling to maintain their property themselves. By removing slip and trip hazards, and making spaces more accessible, we also help to improve residents' living environments and their confidence to live independently. We do have a waiting list for jobs but are able to fit smaller, odd jobs around the larger jobs. If there's a job you need help with, please call the Help at Home team on 01423 813096 or visit [www.helpripon.org.uk](http://www.helpripon.org.uk)

Here to HELP and Help at Home are services provided by Harrogate and District Community Action [www.hadca.org.uk](http://www.hadca.org.uk)



LITTLE SEED FIELD  
WEDDINGS • GLAMPING • FARM  
*Making Memories Wildly*  
**EVENT SPACE**  
**FOR HIRE**

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The next issue of The Fountain will be the October 2025 issue.

**Items for this should be sent to the editor by 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Mrs Sharon Wood, West Farm, Galphay, Ripon HG4 3NJ

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