



THE SCARECROWS ARE BACK!



Cononley's Scarecrow Festival is back this year. Over the weekend of 30th April to 2nd of May, there is going to be a "Right Royal Festival" of Kings and Queens, real and imaginary, around every corner in Cononley. All weekend, people can follow their maps to choose their favourites, and on Monday 2nd May there will be lots of activities and refreshments at the Institute. We

would like as many people as possible to make scarecrows so there will be a workshop on 3rd April 4-6pm to help people get a start and give out materials to make your scarecrow. All funds raised go towards maintaining and developing the Cononley Village Institute.

If you would like to help with baking, help on the day, with the duck race or the raffle, or just want to make a scarecrow, please contact us through Facebook – Cononley Village Institute - or email cvicononley@gmail.com.

MUSIC MAYHEM SATURDAY 2nd APRIL 2022 🎵 🎹

Please note the new date for this fun music event, showcasing local talent. Anyone who wants to perform in front of a friendly audience - from beginners to pros - is welcome to join in, singing, playing an instrument, dancing, soloists, or groups. If you need accompanying, just let me know. The Cononley Singers will have a couple of slots, along with the Battling Basses, the Amazing Altos, all the regulars and some brilliant newcomers. The evening session will kick off at 7pm, with Richard and Maureen kindly running the bar, and end at 11pm with Auld Lang Syne. The afternoon session, from 4-6pm, is for children, beginners or adults who want an even smaller audience! Entry is FREE. Please contact Joan on 07718874600 or jandjnicholson@gmail.com for any queries or to book a slot.



CONONLEY POST OFFICE

Just a reminder that this excellent weekly full service is at the New Inn every Thursday, 10am-2pm, run by Graham who comes down from Settle.



FRIENDS OF CONONLEY STATION



The official opening of the revamped entrance to Platform 2 took place on a wet Saturday morning

last month. Using Neil Turner's wonderful otter photograph, Emma Slater designed and produced a welcoming sign which is complemented by attractive planters and Hayley Wood's beautiful mosaics. This once sad and derelict space has now been transformed into a bright and welcoming area. Huge thanks to Marten Lougee for organising the project, volunteers Hayley, Kevin, Emily & Joseph Wood, members of the Footpath Group, Neil Turner and Emma Slater. Financial support came from Craven District Council's Locality Fund, Friends of the Airedale Line, Northern Rail and proceeds from the 2020 Cononley Wildlife Calendar. If you would like to get involved in this ongoing project, please text 07813393381.



COMPOST COFFEE MORNING 12TH MARCH 🌻

This is more about compost than coffee! From 10.30am until 12.30pm, experts will be on hand to talk about various systems including bins, bokashi and wormeries, and a chance for people to discuss how, where and what to compost, and what to do with it, including seed sowing. Composting at home is a sure-fire way for individuals to influence climate change and biodiversity and it's not as hard as people think. Entry is FREE.



WE'RE BACK! 📺

"Mothering Sunday" Cert 15 - Sunday 20th March. An intense love affair between housemaid and upper-class boy next door.
"King Richard" Cert 12 - Sunday 24th April. How Richard Williams turned his two daughters into tennis stars.
Bar and ice cream as usual. For more information: Facebook: Cononley Cinema Club or cononleycinemaclub@btinternet.com



VOLUNTEERS TRANSFORM DEAD EYE POND

Dead Eye Pond was previously owned by Mr & Mrs James Throup who gave it to North Yorkshire County Council, by deed of gift, on 24 May 1989. The land was then bought by Cononley PC for a nominal sum in 2001. Since then, efforts have been made to make the area more accessible and improve it as an area for flora and fauna to flourish, however over the last two years, the PC and local volunteers have put in a lot of time and energy to develop the area and finally make it accessible to residents again.

A steering committee was set up and plans developed in conjunction with many experts in and outside the village. Specialists from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, The National Trust, Environment Agency and the Wild Trout Trust have been engaged to formulate a plan for Dead Eye for both short- and long-term improvements.



In December 2020 a group of hardy volunteers removed overgrown vegetation which re-opened the official access path. Following this, a further group of

volunteers planted over 300 trees in Spring 2021. In the autumn, more vegetation clearance was undertaken to allow a contractor to fence off the area in October 2021. In line with expert recommendations, the area is now segregated from farm animals and almost ready for opening up to members of the public. Public access to Dead Eye is only from Ings Lane (which is a continuation of Shady Lane) via the PC access route which is now named Throup's Track. The PC wanted to acknowledge their kind donation from the family in 1989. Further work is planned in early 2022 before an official opening in the spring. If you would like to help, please email friendsofdeadeye@gmail.com. To attract more wildlife and improve the health of the nature reserve, future jobs include more tree planting in the hedge along the access path, dredging work, monitoring natural vegetation, and creating a planting plan. The installation of a dipping platform and a viewing area will enable the public to make the most of and enjoy this valuable nature reserve, although dogs are strictly not allowed.

Huge thanks go to Dan Timbers and Mike Latham who have worked tirelessly to research, plan and coordinate these improvements for the benefit of our community, local environment, and wildlife.



FANCY TRYING SOMETHING DIFFERENT...?

...then come along to Louise's Samba Drumming Classes every Wednesday, 7pm at the Institute, for all ages from 11 years. No experience is necessary, and all equipment (apart from ear plugs) is provided. The first class is free, then £33 for 6 weeks (£5.50 a week). One regular says "It's great to do something different whether you are musical or, like me, never played anything in your life. It's a great sound, and really enjoyable when we all get the beat together. All we need is some Brazilian sun to go with it!" To find out more please contact Louise on 07974782229 or louise.a.smart@gmail.com



#OURCLEANRIVER LITTER PICK, SAT 9TH APRIL 2022

Please join us at 10am on Saturday 9th April, outside the village shop to take part in #OurCleanRiver campaign, organised by the Aire Rivers Trust.

Areas will include Cononley Beck and the stretch of the River Aire from the train crossing on Crosshills Road to the end of Shady Lane. We will be joined by other groups along the river from Leeds to Skipton, all hoping to clear the river of litter and debris to prevent it from getting washed downstream and harming wildlife.

This event will also coincide with the Keep Britain Tidy's **Great British Spring Clean** campaign. Litter pickers and bin bags will be available from 8th - 10th April to allow residents to do other areas of the village at their own pace over the course of the weekend.



CONONLEY ART GROUP EXHIBITION MAY 2022

After a tumultuous two years of covid precautions, Cononley Art Group is determined to organise some 'normality' and is going ahead with arrangements for our late spring Art Exhibition. If the



stars are in our favour, we hope to hold it on Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th & Monday 30th of May in Cononley Village Institute from 10am until 4pm. As usual it is free entry with refreshments available including soup, sandwiches and delicious home baking to fortify our viewing patrons. A large selection of paintings, prints and cards will be on show to browse or buy. Our very popular group currently has full membership, but is always happy to take new names, and village residents always have priority. Come and see us at our show and be inspired! Pauline Heron.

CONONLEY BOWLING CLUB



Members are looking forward to the new season starting in early April. Last season was a great success with the A team winning the Skipton Tuesday league and finishing 3rd in the Thursday league. Cononley also won the Bradford Saturday league Division 2. The B team came runners up in the Skipton Division 4

league. The much-appreciated prize money was spent on the upkeep of the bowling green. New members are always very welcome. If you are interested, please contact James Calvert 07843434061.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 5TH MAY 2022

Elections for the new North Yorkshire Council are on 5th May. The new district is called Aire Valley and consists of Cononley, Bradley, Farnhill, Kildwick, Lothersdale and Cowling. It will carry responsibility for a wide brief including education, planning, social care, roads, bins, and local economic development. Craven District Council will disappear in May 2023 and the person you elect will represent this area for 5 years. At the time of writing the full range of candidates is not yet known. Cononley resident Andy Brown has been District Councillor for the past five years and has indicated that he intends to stand.

CONONLEY WILDLIFE GROUP 🐸 🐿 🦋 🐜



We are delighted to receive funding for Hedgehog Road signs around the village so look out for these in the coming months. Despite the adverse weather, we remain busy at the Pinfold and the invasive Dogwood has been removed, new native trees planted, a path installed and areas

reseeded. Native bluebells, wood anemone and primrose have been planted and we are looking forward to seeing them in bloom. Please come to our **Pinfold Open Day on 22nd May**. Volunteers are always needed, so please contact us if you can help - Maeve - 07956 000172 or Ruth - 07775 737722.

FOOTPATHS

The footbridge to the north of Dead Eye is still broken. Both the PC and local Councillors have been pushing for this long-awaited repair but with no success. If you would like to see this bridge replaced, please contact NYCC at northyorks.gov.uk/rights-way-maintenance. The village Path Keepers Group will meet again in the Spring to help maintain rights of way. If you are interested in helping, please send an expression of interest via email to cononleyipc@gmail.com.



CONONLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



December saw our long-awaited Christmas Party in the Institute. The fizz flowed, the buffet was delicious, and the games were great fun. We met again in February and voted on this year's National Resolutions, followed by our Annual Charity Auction. We raised a whopping £212 which has been donated to SELFA, a local charity helping children and families experiencing vulnerabilities to thrive and achieve. The 3rd of March meeting will see us "Propping for Easter". Other topics are - April: Tackling Domestic Abuse, May: Galapagos Islands and June: Guide Dogs for the Blind (with puppy!). If you fancy joining us, please pop along to our meetings or ring Pauline Link 01535 630022 or Julie Cawood, Treasurer: 07802 807815



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Councillor Vacancies. If you would like to find out what is involved in this role, email cononleyipc@gmail.com or check our website cononleyipc.org.uk - we'd love to have you on board!

Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 8th March at 8pm. This public meeting at the Institute gives the PC, Councillors, and local groups an opportunity to let residents know what they have been doing over the past year. All welcome.

20's Plenty. Along with 95 other parishes in North Yorkshire, we voted to join this campaign, calling for a default 20mph in towns and villages. More news to follow.

Allotments 🍅 🥕

The PC has now installed notice boards on the two allotment sites, enabling the PC and tenants to post and share news. Following our offer of free water butts, we will shortly be placing a bulk order and making delivery arrangements to plot holders. 2022 rents are now due and there are still some outstanding payments for 2021. Please can tenants double-check that their rental payments are up to date and notify the Clerk accordingly? We have received some interest in the idea of an Allotments Association which aims to give tenants more say in decision-making and the running of the sites. Please let us know what you think by emailing cononleyipc@gmail.com.



CONONLEY SPORTS CLUB 🏈 🏏

The football season is in full swing, with both teams holding their own in their respective leagues. After some recent anti-social behaviour, we made the call to install CCTV which is proving to be a good deterrent. The weather has delayed some of our refurbishment programme, but we hope to finish the practice wicket before the cricket season commences, and then progress our plans to create a decking area at the front of the Club House. Richard_calvert@hotmail.com

DOG WALKERS – BAG IT AND BIN IT!



Please help our farmers and follow good countryside practice by picking up your dog's poo to prevent the spread of Neosporosis which causes abortions in cattle, and

Sarcocystosis which affects the health of lambs and sheep. In January, BBC News reported that 18 cattle in a herd of 38 in the New Forest lost their calves due to Neospora which will affect the herd for several years. The PC is aware of similar local cases and urges dog walkers to bag and bin it!

CLEANER, GREENER CONONLEY

This small community group aims to encourage us all to think about and reduce our carbon footprint.

☀️ Joan's regular facebook 'Green Gardening blogs' have reached an incredible 16, highlighting the benefits of home composting, healthy soil, and avoiding peat and chemical based gardening products.

☀️ Donated by Northern Rail, 'switch-off signs' at the railway crossing and school aim to discourage engine idling which increases the level of exhaust fumes in the air causing harm to our health and environment.



☀️ As part of a 2022 Craven-wide campaign, energy and cost saving tips were shared on social media earlier this year.

☀️ Other ideas include tree planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, promoting cycling and train use, increasing flora & fauna, and hosting more coffee mornings to share information about energy efficiency in the home. If you would like to get involved, please contact Kath 07792385155.

☀️ The group would like to thank the unsung green heroes of Cononley in their quiet, relentless efforts to litter pick, reduce food waste, re-use & recycle on Cononley Freecycle, and maintain the village planters and garden areas.



We've had a great start to 2022 with lots of fun

learning. The children at Nursery enjoyed themed role play activities. We celebrated Chinese New Year, made Valentine's cards, played in the sand, learned about sinking, floating, measuring, and pouring with water. We've been on lots of village walks, looking for early signs of Spring, and keeping an eye out for the first lambs! At Kids Club, the school children enjoyed our term's focus activities which have included den building, making fudge and friendship bracelets, playing indoor balloon tennis and origami. Once the better weather and lighter evenings arrive, we can spend more time outdoors. For more information, please email us at 519507@nyey.co.uk or visit www.steppingstones-cononley.co.uk

CONONLEY SPEED WATCH



Now in its fifth year and with over 20 volunteers, weekly deployments were resumed in January. Compared with previous years, there were fewer deployments during 2020 and 2021 due to covid, but it is hoped these will get back on track in 2022. Despite this, our volunteers monitored an

impressive 4,874 vehicles during 2021, 5.4% of which were travelling above the speed limit. There are over 80 Community Speed Watch groups across North Yorkshire. As a proportion of the total speed watch offences logged by North Yorkshire Police, Cononley has a high repeat rate. We aim to act as a deterrent and to reinforce the village speed limits. Lower speeds mean safer roads, less air pollution, and less noise pollution, helping to encourage more walking and cycling. Recent deployments indicate that the gateway on Cononley Lane is effective at lowering speeds into the village, however we are in discussion with the PC about raising funds to purchase an additional Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). The VAS on Crosshills Road has proved to be effective at keeping average speed levels to just over 20mph, however over 70% of drivers travel above 20mph, with the highest speed of 68mph recorded at 12 noon in July 2021.

A huge thanks to all the speed watch volunteers who give up their time to support this initiative. If you would like to get involved, please contact Atholl Robertson 07743921717.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH SPRING/EASTER PROGRAMME

All are welcome to join us for Tea and Toast! We will be reopening on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 10–11.30 am from March 1st onwards. Leading up to Easter, Bishop Colin Buchanan will be



leading a Lent Conversation each Wednesday for 5 weeks, commencing on the 9th of March. The sessions will start with refreshments at 1.45pm and provide an opportunity to reflect on the importance of this time in the life of the Church.

There will be a Family Service for Mothering Sunday on 27th March - children are especially welcome.

Holy Week will start with the Palm Sunday service at 11am on 10th April. During the week there will be a service of Compline; a quiet service of prayer and reflection which will be held on Tuesday 12th April at 7pm. Good Friday; April 15th, will offer the chance for a period of reflection with our annual Hour at the Cross service from 2.00 pm. Finally, the Easter Sunday Service will be Holy Communion at the usual time of 11am. Please feel free to join us at any of the above - you would be most welcome whether you are a regular worshipper or not.