

Autumn Edition September 2026

the Cononley Newsletter

Your Village - Your News!

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of your Newsletter! If you have any contributions for future issues please send them to cononleynews@gmail.com

Cononley Beer Festival

The Beer Fest gang have recovered from an epic Confest, where we sold over 2000 pints! We are currently going through the rigorous testing process to select the finest ales for this year's Beer Festival on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October. As usual, money raised will be fed back into village clubs, societies and local charities. We still have space for sponsors so if you're keen to get your business promoted, support the village and get loads of free beer email dantimb@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you in the CVI. The Beer Fest Team.



Sports Club Update

Thanks to all for the support over the scorching summer season!

The cricketers are enjoying themselves but sadly not getting the results they want. It's lovely to see the club being used by so many villagers. In the autumn, we are going to refurbish the toilets and we should be getting delivery of 50 new chairs very soon. You may also have noticed that the gable end of the club has been repainted, so bit by bit we are upgrading.

The club continues to be hired out for various private functions and parties including a successful charity Twenty20 match and BBQ.

The additional income is very welcome and helps with the running and upkeep of the club.

Thanks to all the volunteers including the new groundsmen team after Malcolm retired. Thanks Malcom - what an amazing and longstanding service!

The allotment rents are coming up for renewal and we have received feedback that some plots are overgrown and running to weeds. There is a waiting list of villagers desperate to get hold of an allotment so please only renew if you are willing to put the work in!

Richard Calvert



Dead Eye Pond Throup's Track and Dead Eye offer an intimate snapshot of seasonal change on the washlands, but they are also places of mystery and intrigue. Ancient stones can be found within the site, each containing a roughly circular low-level hole. Are they medieval boundary markers associated with the great and the good, track junctions perhaps or just a recess for a long-perished pole...or something slightly more sinister from the days of Dedehee and the Diddy Lands?

To balance mystery with modern day maintenance, two working parties are held each year. Our final one in 2026 will be held on Sunday 1st November, 10am to 11am, with jobs ranging from ancient stone exposure to fence, hedge and tree checking, sign washing and tree guard removal. All are welcome to join us!

For more information, please contact Team Deadeye at friendsofdeadeye@gmail.com or, for historical research, The History of Cononley by Hodgson and Gulliver

WI News

They say it takes a village to raise a child - well, when Cononley's very own Luke Bayer came to entertain us in July, there was a room full of VERY proud villagers! He was amazing and we all loved every second of it - so much so, that we now have a theatre trip planned to see Luke at The Lowry in September where he is starring in High School Musical.

Our cake & coffee stall at Confest was a resounding success - a huge thank you to everyone who baked and/or volunteered on the day - we raised a record £565 that went into the Confest pot.

The Summer Lunch, held at the Sports Club was, as always, just lovely. A traditional village WI get-together, with wonderful food provided by members, lots of Prosecco and laughter and games.

We all fell in love with Princess Prickly Spine - a 3 week old hoglet who came along to our August meeting with her saviour from Prickly Pigs based in Otley and we were delighted to be able to support the charity.

We're running the tea room at the MIBIGI show on 31st August at the Village Institute - why not call in for a home made cake and a cuppa between 2pm and 4pm? Vietnamese Art is the topic for the meeting on the 3rd September, we're doing a walking tour of Leeds city centre - looking at the buildings and street art on the 4th September and then our theatre trip on the 6th!

Why not come along and join our growing membership?

We meet on the first Thursday of every month at the Village Institute 7:30pm.



Julie Cawood
President
07802 807815

Photo: The WI team at Confest

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Parish Council News

New dropped kerbs & parking reminder

Back in 2024, Parish Councillors took a walk around the village with North Yorkshire Council's Highways Officer to assess pavements and crossing points. We are pleased to say that most of the dropped kerbs that we requested have been installed, which help to improve accessibility for pedestrians.

Vehicle owners are reminded to keep pavements clear in accordance with the Highway Code and not park partially or wholly on the pavement unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, those with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

Playing Field update

Thank you to Cononley-based SVS Vehicle Wrapping & Signage for their kind donation of Alf1's registration plates – these are now secured and the new tractor is proving extremely popular with the play park's little visitors.

Litter Heroes

We had a great turnout for the June village litter pick, and in July we lent our equipment to neighbours, Bradley Beavers, who had lots of fun collecting litter in their village park.

We would also like to recognise Confest's recycling superstar, Robert Day, who worked all weekend helping the Confest Team keep the festival site clean and litter free.

Residents are invited to join us for our next community litter pick on Saturday 26th September 10.30am, meet at the bus shelter.



Robert Day

Parish Council Grants

This year's funding pot is now empty with grants already awarded to Cononley Wildlife Group for the installation of ground nesting bird signs, Cononley Bowling Club to help with maintenance costs, Cononley Singers for new choral music and to the Confest team to help with recycling bin hire.



Mike Latham is this year's Allotment Winner!

As he was unable to attend this year's MiBiGi Show, we took the opportunity to present the winning allotment cup to Mike whilst he was busy working on his much-loved plot. Parish Councillors were unanimous in their decision to award the cup to Mike, whose colourful allotment inspires others and gives so much joy to neighbouring plot-holders, passers-by and the whole community. Well done, Mike!

If you are interested in renting an allotment, please email Hannah at cononleyipc@gmail.com. Your name will be added to the waiting list, and

we will notify you when a plot becomes available. More info is available on the PC's website, www.cononleyipc.org.uk

Our small community orchard is bursting with apples and plums! The community orchard is for sharing, so please enjoy this year's harvest – you'll find the plot opposite the water pump on the Meadow Croft site.

Thank you to David, village Lengthsman, for reinstating the vandalised "No Dogs Allowed" sign and for recovering the vandalised gate bolt and fixing a new lock.

And finally, Parish Councillors would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributes to making Cononley such a special place.

From the volunteers who keep our roads safe, tidy up litter, clear footpaths, brighten our station, champion our local wildlife or care for our community spaces, to those who keep our village groups, clubs and events going every year, and let's not forget the businesses on our doorstep, whose services and support mean so much to us. If you're new to the village and would like to get more involved, or have a bit of extra time to spare, we'd love to hear from you!

Email cononleyipc@gmail.com and we'll connect you with opportunities where your contribution would be warmly welcomed.



The Community Orchard

Cononley Singers

Rehearsals resume after the Summer break on Wednesday September 9th at CVI. Our next performance is on October 24th at Fountains Abbey as part of their "Fountains By Floodlight" season - then on to a busy Christmas programme with Concerts on December 4th in Cononley, and December 5th at Christ Church Skipton. We will also be giving a Charity Concert in aid of Manorlands on December 9th at Sutton in Craven Baptist Church, and participating in the Christmas Service at St Johns, Cononley on December 13th. Further details, and tickets will be available nearer the time.

If you are interested in joining the choir please contact Tony Hamilton, Musical Director, on 01535 637405.

Cononley Village Institute - Summer Activities

The CVI committee organised several activities this summer for children and adults. The Magic show was a sell out, with Rob (the Magician) entertaining everyone with his tricks and making at least 30 animal balloons, one for each child!

Masterchef! At the cookery session, 11 children prepared a fantastic meal: sausage rolls, chicken skewers, patatas bravas, garlic mayo and meringue roulade and served it to family members and volunteers.



Summer 'thank you's' To all the helpers running the activities and to everyone who helped with the annual CVI clean. Without the support of the great people of Cononley the CVI would be much harder to manage and we wouldn't be able to offer as many events and activities.

CVI Improvements Several repairs and improvements have been completed over summer, including work by Harrison's to replace the hatch to the basement. Volunteers decorated the back room, the utility room, the children's WC's, skirting boards in the main hall, plus pointing the outside beck wall and weeding. Kim also put shelves up in the WC's to keep the spare toilet rolls on!

CVI History Trail

Following local history displays at Institute events, the New Inn and Cenotaph, a number of villagers have expressed an interest in finding out more about Cononley's past. Thanks to the life-long work of Trevor Hodgson and David Gulliver, we have truly outstanding resources. CVI are now working with David to produce an updated village history trail to be published towards the end of the year. If anyone has village anecdotes – serious or humorous – from the 1950's onwards please contact Mike Latham at cvicononley@gmail.com who will be delighted to receive them.

A sad goodbye to Cononley Rainbows and Brownies who have merged with Crosshills group. Unfortunately, they will no longer be meeting in Cononley Village Institute and we wanted to say thank you to Leanne Harrison for all her years of hard work in running this fantastic group.

Forthcoming events

Our monthly Cinema Club will be back on Sunday 13 September and the ever popular Beer Festival is on Friday 9-10 October

The Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 21/11/26. If you want to book a table please contact Grace.holly.lawson@gmail.com

'Goldilocks' is the panto this year and it will be performed at Cononley Village Institute on Saturday 19th December at 1pm. Tickets will be on sale from Rural Arts later in the year.

Adventure Film Festival.

For all those who love an adventure and want to come to the 2027 Adventure Film Festival, here is an important date for your diary. Next year's event will be on **Sunday 7th March 2027 at 6pm.**

The **Thermal Imaging Camera** will be available to borrow as soon as it gets cold. If you are interested in using it to see where the cold spots are in your house, please e-mail cononleycamera@gmail.com For more information see www.cononleyinstitute.co.uk/thermal-imaging

St. John's News

Our ever-popular JAM (Jesus and Me) sessions will be continuing throughout the year; again, it is so lovely to see everyone and your support is truly valued. The next date is the 17th October.

We will be celebrating the harvest on October 4th at our usual 10:30 morning service. If you are able to come along it is our normal practice to bring gifts of non-perishable foods (tins/packages and also toiletries are welcome) which we donate to the Skipton Foodbank.

In the next newsletter there will be details of the dates and times of the Christingle services. So many of you have said it's something that has become a bit of a



Friends of Cononley School

Who we are: We are a group of parents who aim to raise vital funds for the school. We come from a range of backgrounds but all have the same intention; to make school the money it needs for vital resources.

Fundraising: Over the past few years we have raised money that has paid for iPads, reading books, playground equipment, new Trim Trail, and classroom resources.

Planned Events 2026-27*

- Oct - Halloween bake sale
- Nov - Christmas fair
- Jan - Table top sale
- March - Easter bingo and raffle
- May - Bake sale
- June - Sponsored walk

We need YOU!

Why Join? • Help organise and run fun events for children and families • Give back to the school • Share your ideas and have a real impact • Meet other parents/carers • Be an important part of the school community.

You don't need to give lots of time, any help you can offer makes a real difference!

Contact Harriet on 07515 150 997 for more information

*planned events subject to change

■ Cononley Wildlife Group

The breeding season has come to an end and the Curlews, Oystercatchers and wading birds have now left their nesting areas along the river and on the moorland. The Swifts have already left on their long migration and soon the Swallows and House Martins will also be on their way south. Our autumn visitors will be arriving and soon we will start seeing winter Thrushes and Geese etc.

The unusually hot, dry summer has taken its toll on flora and fauna. Our local hedgehogs are struggling to find food and water so please put out water and hedgehog food if you can.

The Pinfold has become very overgrown and a working party was held last week but a few more sessions are needed to

tame the overgrowth. Dates for further working parties are;
Friday, 11th September and Monday, 28th September, 10am to 1pm both days. Please come along to help if you can.

Don't miss our free evening event, "A Celebration of Cononley's Wildlife" on Friday, 23rd October at Cononley Sports Club. There will be presentations on Cononley's birds, beasts and butterflies, the work of Cononley Wildlife Group and Friends of Dead Eye Pond.

We are delighted to announce that copies of Cononley Wildlife Report will be available covering 5 years of local wildlife sightings, data and surveys. The publication is in full colour with one hundred photos, all taken in Cononley.

There will be a quiz and a raffle, full bar and refreshments. It promises to be a great night so do come along and learn all about the wildlife that lives around you in Cononley.

Further information from:
Ruth 07775 737722 or
Maeve 07956 000172



■ Councillor Andy Brown

North Yorkshire Council continues to struggle with disputes over the changes it has made on home-to-school transport provision.

When it decided to pay for children to go only to their nearest school, it seems the consequences were not thought through, and the policy implemented in a crude and bureaucratically insensitive way. I have therefore continued to vote against this policy.

I have also raised concerns over the cost and the efficiency of two policies which I do support the intent of. The delays to the Kex Gill project have already cost local council taxpayers an extra £13m and look set to continue. I also have concerns over the management of the costs of a NY Council operated builder of affordable homes.

Good intentions still need good management and I have been challenging hard on whether that has been in evidence.

The final thing to report of significance is that North Yorkshire remains behind target on overall house building and is being challenged to permit more building. I will continue to press for any building to be for local need, not for target-chasing.

■ Michael 'Spider' Wilson



Friday 21st August saw the funeral of a very well known and much-loved Cononley resident **Michael 'Spider' Wilson**

28th October 1980
- 27th June 2026

■ Thanks from Confest

The ConFest Team would like to say a massive 'Thank You' to everyone - and we mean everyone - who helped make this year's ConFest (our first two day 'Weekender') such a success and demonstrate again why ConFest is the friendliest and biggest little music festival in Yorkshire!

To the generous sponsors, to all the people from the village and beyond who helped with the organisation of the event, and to all of you who supported us, bought tickets and came along in such huge numbers on both days with the single intention of having a good time -

**...you danced,
you sang,
you partied,
and you brought
your smiles...**

A Huge Thank You!



We have continued to water throughout the hot weather, we had to cut back the dying material on the Leeds side and tried to replant where possible. Some invasive Indian balsam has been removed from the beck. Sadly, not having a water butt makes our job much harder, so a special THANK YOU to those who have carried water down for us and put it in the yellow container on platform two. Cheers!

Hayley and Marten 07813 393 381

■ Cleaner Greener Cononley

We have continued our regular village litter picks organised by Kath. Recently my wormery has been in action in Keighley and Silsden; at an allotment for children and disabled people, and for an organisation that provides support for autistic girls and their carers or parents. As usual the worms proved real stars and got both children and adults thinking about how important nature is. I've been setting up new wormeries and reviving old ones. If anyone in Cononley wants to find out more about composting, or would like to be involved in CGC, please contact me at

jandjnicholson@gmail.com
or 07718 874600



*Thanks to all our contributors, sponsors & volunteers -
look out for the next edition in December!*

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