

THE Cononley NEWSLETTER

We welcome contributions! Winter 2025 December



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Cononley Women's Institute

Our WI continues to grow and become more involved in the local community (as it should!). Now that we've had our year end accounts audited, we'll be donating **£300 to Cononley Junior Football team**



who are doing so well. £300 will also be making its way to Cononley Little Crayons which will help them continue meeting at the Sports Club. We are very proud that we are raising so much money which we can give back into our community.

We've had some great monthly meetings recently; we showed our moves at the Cuban Salsa Dancing evening and then we had Rosie Dummer in October, wow! What an inspirational lady she is! The first female helicopter pilot in the British Army flying Lynx Anti-Tank Helicopters, (there were some scary stories there) and now bakes life size cakes 🍰 I urge you to google her!

A good number of us went to a WI Federation Lunch at Long Ashes near Grassington where we were royally entertained by the Calendar Girls (25 years on - can you believe it?) and a Sewing Bee contestant over a fabulous lunch. Oh, and we're off to the theatre in Leeds in November too!

November's meeting will be our AGM and this year, due to numbers and access, we'll be having our **Christmas Party at the CVI on Friday 5th December starting at 7pm**. A few days later, some of us will be setting off on a WI Cruise to Honfluer for the Christmas Markets which should be fun and then our January meeting will be our famous "Auction Evening", a firm favourite in our WI Calendar.

In the meantime, we hope to see you at the village Christmas Fair, where we'll be running our popular Mystery Bag stall 🛍️

Interested in joining us? We meet on the **first Thursday of every month at the CVI 7:30pm**. Don't hesitate to contact **Julie Cawood, 07802 807815 or Elaine Shoesmith, 07584 210473**. We'd be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

St John's Church

Hello everyone, the Christmas season is fast approaching and diaries, whether electronic or paper, start to get booked up. As well as the normal pattern of services, details of which can be found on the church notice board, the parish website (kcb parish) or our Facebook page, we have a few special Christmas events too.

The annual **Carol Service** where we are joined by The Cononley Singers is at **4pm on Sunday 14th of December**.

Our ever popular **Christingle services** are on the **24th December at 2pm or 4pm**. If you are new to the village these are heartwarming family occasions which are most definitely for the children. Please do come and join in celebrating the Christmas story during which all the children (and possibly some lucky adults) will receive a Christingle Orange which symbolises the birth of Jesus bringing light to the world.

As usual, there will be **Tea and Toast on the first Tuesday of the month, the 2nd of December** from **10:30 to 12:00**. There isn't a Tea and Toast in January but they will resume in February. Look out for the posts on the BD20 Facebook page.

A future date for your diaries will be the **17th of March**, when, following on from the previously successful **flower demonstration by Gina from Blush florists**, she will be showing us how we can make lovely Easter decorations for our homes or to give as gifts.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the folk who came and helped with the mammoth bulb planting session; the fruits of which should start peeking through from February onwards, weather permitting!!

Friends of Cononley School

The FOCS have had a busy half term culminating in a Spooooooky Halloween disco enjoyed by all. Next events, please save the dates:
Christmas Fair: **12th December (after school)**

Valentine's Bake Sale: **12th Feb**

Chocolate Bingo: **20th March**

Village Gala: **20th June**

Sponsored walk: **July**

GALA PLANNING MEETING MOVED TO 5.12.25

CONONLEY VILLAGE GALA

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026

★
NEXT PLANNING MEETING - 4.12.25
7:15PM, NEW INN PUB

★
PLEASE COME ALONG AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The New Inn

We are now **serving food every Wednesday and Thursday 17:30-19:30**, our menu is available on the village notice board, in the shop window, and on our social media pages, we also offer daily specials.



Quiz dates: We have a **fortnightly quiz on a Tuesday** start time is **19:30. 25th November, 9th December, 23rd December** for our Xmas Special.

Tuesday 18th November:

Tapas Night Following on from the success of our previous themed food events Tapas Night is back **17:30-20:00**

Monday 24th November: Temple Spa and Crusade Games. Pop up Christmas shop in the Function Room- from **19:00**. Do your Christmas shopping while enjoying a glass of something 🍷

Sunday 7th December: Our Sunday roast is back **13.00-16.30**

Our **Christmas light switch on** is **Sunday 7th December**, join us from **17:30**, to see Santa and a special guest appearance. Enjoy mulled wine and hot chocolate, The **big switch on is at 18:00**, and who knows we may even get some snow.

Cononley singers will join us on **Wednesday 17th December** for our annual carol concert, third time lucky for a dry evening so we can sing around the tree.

We will be open Christmas day **11:30-14:00** for drinks.

January sees the start of our second-floor renovations, and the start of our conversion of the living quarters into a holiday rental, and the redecoration and modernisation of our function room.

Cononley Wildlife Group

A big thank you to all the volunteers who came to help us plant crocus bulbs in the churchyard and those who helped with refreshments to keep us all fed and watered during the two days it took to plant 10,000 bulbs. It was wonderful to see two classes from Cononley School helping and I know they plan to come back in the Spring to see the results of their work in bloom. We are now concentrating on tidying up the Pinfold before winter, keeping the bird feeders well stocked and ordering new 'Ground Nesting Bird' signage to put up in the nesting season next year. Our Facebook page remains every popular and we can expect to have lots of posts on our winter visitors very soon. If you're not already a member of our Facebook page do have a look at it. If you would like to know more about us or become one of our volunteers, contact **Ruth Parker 07775737722** or **Maeve Dracup 07956000172**

Friends of Dead Eye

Late Autumn is a special time to visit Dead Eye. Redwings and fieldfares from Scandinavia can often be seen along the Throup's track hedgerow and 'our' little egret becomes that much easier to spot in the margins. Early morning frost and late evening sun are often stunning at the site as days shorten.

Huge thanks are extended to all the volunteers who have helped maintain the site in 2025 and to the Airedale Drainage Board for assisting with planning.



Thanks are also extended to visitors for making this yet another litter and damage free year. Look out for the call for volunteers for the Spring tidy-up. With jobs ranging from signage checking to fence maintenance and

wildlife monitoring, there's something for all.

Although most prefer a social walk to the site, parking can be arranged on request. Contact Andy, Dan and Mike at friendsofdeadeye@gmail.com for more information.

Update from Cllr Andy Brown

The key focus of North Yorkshire Council meetings has been on money or rather the lack of it. Services such as social care for adults and the cost of looking after children with special needs



have experienced major increases. That has been accompanied by some very tight financial settlements from the National Government. So people need to brace themselves for a near 5% increase in council tax accompanied by a reduction in service. Hardly a welcome combination.

The financial problems have been made worse by some significant overspends that should have been easier to avoid one of which was £11million unexpected increased costs of building the Kex Gill road between Skipton and Harrogate. I have challenged the council hard and long over the reasons for their failure to manage this budget successfully.

On a personal note I would like to thank the village community for the amazing support they gave Camilla and I during her recent lengthy illness and subsequent passing. The spirit of community in this village is incredible and it made such a difference. If you are going to go through hard times do it in a village with a strong support network.

The Cononley Singers

Rehearsals are in full swing as we prepare for our Christmas Concerts: 'Ding! Dong! Merrily on High' which will take place on **Friday December 12th** at **Cononley Village Institute** and on **Saturday December 13th** at **St Andrews Church, Kildwick** when we will once again be joined on the platform by Haworth Brass band. Please note the different venue for this concert. The Singers will also take part in the Christmas Service on the afternoon of **Sunday December 14th** at **St Johns Church, Cononley**.

Tickets for our Friday and Saturday Concerts are available from the usual sources, The New Inn, The Village Shop or any choir member, or you can obtain them on line. Further information can be requested from The Musical Director, **Tony Hamilton, on 01535 637405**

The Railway

On the **5th December** we have our "Open Mic" with Blair from **7pm** in the bar.

Xmas eve we've "Santa's grotto" in the pergola between **1pm - 5pm, £5 per child**. All profit to salvation army, they'll also be a full food menu (**12pm - 6pm**) being served, Mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and festive Christmas music. Pre bookings required for Santa via email railwaycononley@gmail.com we expect this to sell out quick so get in early.

New Year's eve kicks off from **7pm**, starting with Karaoke & Disco, then Disco from 9pm until late. Full Christmas opening/food service times available on our socials or noticeboard outside the pub.

Cononley Cinema Club

We start the New Year on **Sunday January 18** with a story of a man, a penguin and Argentina. Based on true events **"The Penguin Lessons"** Cert 12 starring

Steve Coogan, tells the story of a disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a turbulent Argentina in 1976 and finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach. Heartwarming and fun for a January evening.



On **Sunday 15 February** we have another quirky tale with **"The Ballad of Wallis Island"** Cert 12 which follows the consequences of an eccentric lottery winner bringing together his favourite singing duo, who had split up years ago, to a remote island to sing for him. An enjoyably different film.



Cononley Village Institute

Jack and The Beanstalk on **New Years Eve (31/12/25)** at Cononley Village Institute. Matinee performance at **1pm, doors open at 12.30pm**. No price increase, Adults £8, Children £5 from <https://www.ruralarts.org/whats-on/at-the-courthouse/jack-and-the-beanstalk-cononley-village-institute/>



A date for your diary

The action packed Mountain Adventure Film Festival is on **8th March 2026**, showing a number of short adventure films about climbing, canoeing, skiing, walking. You don't have to do all these things to enjoy the show!!!



Thermal Camera Loan Scheme
As soon as the cold weather arrives

Cononley residents can borrow a thermal camera to check your house for drafts, cold spots and where you lose heat. There is a camera for an android phone and one for an iphone (but not unfortunately for new ones using a USB-C connection). If you only have a new iphone we may be able to lend you an old camera. For more information look on <https://www.cononleyinstitute.co.uk/thermal-imaging> and to borrow one just e-mail cononleycamera@gmail.com

PARTY, PARTY, PARTY!

Cononley Village Institute is a fantastic venue for private parties, family gatherings, children's birthdays and maybe even wedding receptions and very reasonably priced. There is an excellent AV system, beautiful lighting, crockery and glasses for 100 people. For more information contact **Kim Hardy on 01535630371** or gillboucher@talktalk.net. For information and photos of the building <https://www.cononleyinstitute.co.uk/private-hire>

Severe damage to roof.

I am sure people will have noticed the damage caused by a lorry in October. Our insurance company has now given us the OK to repair the building and we are just waiting for a date when Harrison's can start the work. Big thank you to the local resident who got the photographs and the licence plate!



Stepping Stones Nursery

We have been busy, having lots of fun at nursery and welcoming new friends to our setting since we started back in September!

Some of the topics we have looked at are 'Ourselves, Our Family and Our Community', 'Seasonal Changes and Celebrations' including Autumn, Halloween, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day.

We have enjoyed being able to go out and about around the village and down to our allotment in the mild weather, you may have seen us on our village walks! We learn about all sorts of things while we are out; road and railway safety, the changing seasons, using our senses to look and listen.

Now into the second half of the Autumn Term we are starting to look forward to all the activities and excitement of the coming festive season. We welcome visitors from our community

who can teach us new things/talk about their cultures and traditions.

If you are interested in a place for your child, we are extremely busy and would encourage you to contact us re spaces asap.

It is never too early to come and look round and register your child. We are now taking bookings for September 2026. Please contact us via email: 519507@nyey.co.uk, Whats app/Text/Phone on **07916995561**



Friends of Cononley Station

Don't worry, Hayley and I are not standing there for your Christmas delight but we are going to have a slightly different display if all goes to plan! We entered the station into a national competition, **Community Rail Award, It's Your Station**. We will find out on **10th December** how successful we have been. Happy Christmas and thank you for supporting us!



Cononley Sports Club

Cononley Sports Club continues to thrive as 2026 approaches, with success both on and off the field! The juniors football team, coached by Martin Crangle, has impressed in its debut season, while the first team has started strongly. The cricket squad capped off its campaign by collecting silverware at the league dinner, adding to the club's proud record. Beyond sport, private functions provide valuable revenue thanks to dedicated volunteers. Looking ahead, refurbishments are underway, including new outside lights and internal modernisation. The committee warmly welcomes new members to help shape the club's exciting future and growing community spirit.

Cononley Parish Council News



New Parish Councillor

We are delighted to welcome **Amy Hopwood** to the Parish Council. Amy joined us in October which now leaves just **one councillor vacancy!** As one of our Councillors put it "...if you want to work with a great group of people who care about Cononley and its residents, and have ideas on how to improve the village, then I would highly recommend it." All our Councillors are listed on the PC's website, cononleypc.org.uk. To find out more about joining us or to come along to one of our monthly meetings, please email cononleypc@gmail.com

Local Projects Fund

Two groups have been awarded funding from the PC's Local Projects Fund. These are the Under 13s Cononley Football Club who will be using the funds to buy new training equipment for the team; and Cononley Art Club who will use the funds to buy replacement painting materials. The Fund is now closed but will re-open in April 2026.



Dogs in Cononley Playing Field



The Parish Council is aware of recent incidents where dog poo has been discovered by parents or children in the Playing Field.

As well as being extremely unpleasant, dog poo is a serious public health hazard and can carry harmful parasites and

bacteria like *Toxocara canis*, which can cause infections and even vision loss. Dogs are not allowed in the Playing Field unless they're walked along the path between Crosshills Road and Main Street. Please can all dog walkers keep their dog on a lead at all times, bag and bin its poo, stick to the path and not exercise dogs on the Playing Field. Please help us to keep our much-loved Playing Field clean and safe for everyone.

On the subject of keeping the Playing Field clean and safe, many thanks to **David, the village lengthsman**, for all his work in treating the play equipment timbers recently and ensuring everything is well maintained. Also, thanks to DC Décor for the repainting work on the gates, railings and goal posts.



Music Mayhem

Music Mayhem is back for 2026! Save the date for **Saturday March 28th**. For more info or queries contact **Joan Nicholson 07718 874600**