



Hello and welcome to our first Parish Newsletter of the year. Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue.

Easter Decorations – reported by Jo Heald



For those who don't know, I'm an autism teacher and this display was produced with the help of my lovely pupils, crafting and putting together Easter bits and bobs. There's an honesty box of goodies but no pressure to buy or donate. This is just a little enterprise activity for my students... Enjoy !

100 Club – Winners to-date in 2026 – reported by Richard Osborne

January: 16 - Richard Osborne, 21 – Kathryn Guy, 55 – Sean Connors.
February: 40 - Jane Connors, 34 – Jo & Graeme Heald, 11 – Norman Wade.
March: 40 - Jane Connors, 39 – Peter Mothersill, 21 – Kathryn Guy.
April: 56 - Rosie Anderson, 20 - Theresa Brown, 62 - David & Jane Turnbull.



Congratulations to the winners, thanks to those who have recently joined, and a plea to anyone yet to participate, to contact me and join up and help support the Parish funds (rg.osborne777@gmail.com). This would be at a proportionate amount for the remainder of 2026.

Financial Update - reported by our Treasurer, John Moore

As the financial year end approaches the draft accounts show that the 100 Club has again raised sufficient funds to pay for the core expenditure items (eg Village Green insurance).

Voluntary contributions totalling £95 have been received to pay for the fuel for grass cutting this season. More such voluntary contributions would be most welcome with the unprecedented rise in fuel costs and the need to service the mowers.

Various items of expenditure have been incurred, including refurbishment of the telephone box, daffodil bulbs and the Snow Goose tree (see below).

The Defibrillator Fund sits at £425 and will be added to with proceeds of the annual BBQ. The quoits pitches are due to be refurbished using a grant received from North Yorkshire Council. The audited accounts will be submitted to the AGM scheduled for 17th June.

Biodiversity Project in Whashton Parish – reported by Sally Zaranko & Lizzie Rumble



On the environmental front we can now see the benefits of our bulb planting labours. The yearly addition to the daffodil display is a beautiful spectacle to welcome Spring.

As part of Pat’s 90th birthday celebration we planted a new cherry tree on the green to replace one of the original trees. It is a columnar variety called Snow Goose, which will bring additional colour and nectar for early bumblebee queens when it hopefully flowers this year.

As Spring gets underway with frog and newts aplenty, it is also the start of the bird nesting season. Please see the poster opposite from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on what we need to be mindful of in our gardens and beyond.



Dog owners should be aware that a major update to the law relating to dogs attacking livestock came into effect in March. The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025 is designed to combat the rising number of dog attacks on farm animals. As we are surrounded by fields full of sheep and lambs please be mindful of these changes, which include unlimited fines for livestock worrying.



Himalayan Balsam cleared at
Whashton Bridge over Hartforth Beck

Later in the year we will be asking for volunteers to help pull Himalayan Balsam. It is an invasive species of plant which has a foothold on the beck sides between Ravensworth and Hartforth. We have permission from Sir Josslyn Gore-Booth to continue to pull this weed and help the woodland edges to recover.

Sally added "If any of you are keen birdwatchers, please could you keep a log of what you see in the Whashton, Kirby Hill & Hartforth areas and send me a list from time to time. I'm involved in research for an exhibition in The Dales Countryside Museum focussing on birds of conservation concern, so it would be useful to know what we have in our area. I use the app Merlin to listen to bird songs – sometimes you can hear the birds but not see them, so that is a useful tool to identify them.... thank you in advance."

Defibrillator Maintenance and Village BBQ – reported by Kathryn Guy

In January the defibrillator pads had expired and were replaced. The new set should last Until 2028. The defibrillator battery should last for a further year.

This essential maintenance of the defibrillator is funded through income from the annual BBQ – this year it will take place on the Village Green on Saturday 4th July. Please do put the date in your diary, come along to have a great time at our main Community event and contribute to the funds for our defibrillator.

Administration – Reported by Ian Mains

Annual General Meeting

This will take place in Dalton & Gayles Village Hall on Wednesday 17th June starting at

19:00h. We will have representatives from both North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Council attending so please do come along.

Planning Applications

There are a number of planning proposals in Whashton, either awaiting decision or underway. Updates are readily available on the North Yorkshire Council Planning Portal..... <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/planning-and-conservation/view-and-comment-planning-applications>

Highways

Please report any problems with roads, drains, floods, etc to North Yorkshire Council through this link...<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/road-drains-gully-cleaning-and-report-flooding>

Other News

Pat Belshaw sends a big thank you to those who helped organise and celebrate his 90th birthday party in January. As reported above, a tree has been planted in his honour.

We were sad to see Andy and Jane Ratcliffe leave the Parish after 26 years living here and we wish them well in their new home in Northumberland.

We welcome Mr & Mrs Firth and family who recently moved into Oddfellows House.

And finally – we hope you’ve enjoyed reading your Parish Newsletter so please let me know if you have views on the content and suggestions for future issues.

Ian Mains

Chair, Whashton Parish Meeting

1st April 2026

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