

PARISH NEWS

Your official monthly update from the Pendleside communities of Barley, Newchurch, Roughlee, Sabden Fold & Spenbrook.

Barley Parish Council Village Hall upgrades, Ogden reservoirs, BKV, Local Government...



The clocks have just leapt forward, and we are into British Summer Time; this has been happening for the last 110

years. It started in 1916 during the First World War. The Summertime Act 1916 was passed to conserve energy and increase daylight hours for wartime production, following Germany's lead earlier that year. It has been a recurring annual practice ever since except between 1968-71 when there was an experiment to keep Britain on GMT+1 all year round to boost trade with Europe. Following a parliamentary vote in 1970, the experiment was discontinued, and the UK returned to switching clocks back in October 1971 mainly because many thought it was too dark in the mornings leading to safety concerns for school children. I suspect all of us have been caught out at some time by this. The Council have been pleased to support the Village Hall in its endeavours to upgrade the patio room at the village hall. We have provided a smart TV which will benefit all users and compliment the new furnishings, carpets, blinds and decorations. Major works are just starting on Ogden reservoirs which will last until October. On Upper Ogden the project will involve installing a flow control system on the secondary spillway, raising the finished level of the impermeable core and increasing the height of the wave wall to prevent wave overtopping. On lower Ogden the existing spillway is being reinforced and the clay core brought up to its required design level, allowing the reservoir to reach its full capacity. Footpaths will be closed at times. The Best Kept Village competition will not be taking place this year. The retirement of senior members of their committee and the loss of the major sponsor, Barton Grange which has been taken over, has prompted the Committee to take stock for a year and relaunch in 2027. The PC have discussed

this development and to continue as if the competition was ongoing. The purpose of the competition is to promote local pride, community spirit, and high maintenance standards including encouraging voluntary efforts to keep public spaces clean, deter anti-social behaviour and enhance community life. These aspirations are the same as the PC hold so we will continue to do our bit and encourage residents to look after their patch and help us when they can. We are also seeking to recruit a new Lengthsman since the Lengthsman scheme organised by Sabden PC has folded due to loss of grant support and our maintenance man has left us and got a full-time job.

If you have not heard, local government reorganisation is underway again. We currently have a two-tier system with Lancs CC responsible for adults' and children's social care, maintaining roads, libraries and waste disposal. The twelve borough councils are responsible for rubbish collection, housing and planning and environmental health. Blackburn and Blackpool are independent authorities responsible for delivering all their services.

The government propose to mix this all up and are consulting on options to have either 2, 3, 4 or 5 unitary authorities to represent parts of the County. The Parish Council have responded to the consultation, and we agreed to support the three unitary council option of Central, Coastal and Pennine Lancashire which would include Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Ribble Valley and Rossendale. We did this because we thought any unitary authority needs to have some size to achieve economies of scale and to have a loud enough voice in the northwest and Westminster.

Finally, it is with sadness that I report that Ian Dixon and May Dugdale, who lived at 10 Narrowgates, both passed away within days of each other. They were quiet people and maybe not that well known, but they were dear neighbours to the residents of Narrowgates and will be sadly missed and condolences to their families.

DEREK HEAP, CHAIR

Goldshaw Booth Parish Council Village tidy (12 Apr), History talk, Wellbeing events, Football, Annual Meeting (11 May)...

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who turned out to help at the village tidy up session on Sunday 8th March,

and to those who provided and served delicious refreshments. Excellent progress was made clearing beds, weeding, pruning and litter picking. The next one is on Sunday 12th April, between 11am and 1pm, meeting at the Pavilion at the top of the playing field in Newchurch and everyone is most welcome.

United Utilities have finally agreed that the railings around the water works at the top of Newchurch are not in keeping with our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and have agreed to remove them and replace with green ones which will blend in much better with the local landscape.

There was a good turnout for the Pendle Forest History Group talk on 25th March. Brian Jefferies is an excellent speaker and captivated the audience with tales of our rich heritage. Grateful thanks to Councillor Ruth White for organising this.

We are delighted to announce a series of free wellbeing events for parish residents. These will kick off with a Jog In The Park led by Kath Brady, on Sunday mornings at 10am on 10th May, 31st May and 5th July. If you've previously considered the 'couch to 5k' concept but never got round to it, or if you are looking to rebuild your fitness, this is a perfect opportunity. Family and dog friendly and flexibly designed to meet your needs, do as much or as little as you like, at a pace to suit you.

There will also be three Tai Chi sessions led by Lighthouse Tai Chi, on Sunday 28th June, 2nd August and 6th September, all at 11am for one hour. This ancient Chinese tradition often described as 'meditation in motion' involves slow, graceful, and low-impact movements combined with deep breathing, designed to strengthen the body, improve balance, reduce stress, and enhance flexibility.

Please come along and try it out.

Finally, we will be running the intra-village annual football tournament on Saturday 12th September. It's never too soon to start practicing and we look forward to seeing if Sabden Fold can retain the trophy or if Newchurch or Spenbrook can take the title.

From community wellbeing to planetary wellbeing, environmental sustainability will be the theme of our Annual Parish Meeting this year, on Monday 11th May, where the powerful National Climate Emergency Briefing film will be shown. Residents are very welcome and refreshments will be provided.

BECCY MURRELL - CHAIR

Roughlee Parish Council Driving, Caravan Park planning, Pride in Place grant, Councillor vacancy, Parish Gathering (14 May)...

In last month's edition, I made reference to parking and driving issues throughout the village and noted that I had engaged in dialogue with our local PCSO, Alan Fielding. I am pleased to report that Alan has since spent an afternoon at the school, and further operations will be carried out before and after school across the village. So please watch this space – and your driving.

We have now received notification regarding the planning application for the caravan park. The planning department is recommending approval of a reduced scheme of six pitches. This will be discussed further at the Barrowford and Western Parishes Council meeting on 1st April, where we will be challenging this proposed outcome.

I am also delighted to report that we have been awarded a £5,000 Pride in Place grant towards planters, play equipment, and village centre upgrades. These improvements will be delivered in conjunction with our VCC team.

Our next meeting will be the AGM on 13th April, where roles and responsibilities for the coming year will be assigned, followed by our usual monthly Parish Council meeting. We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, so if you are interested and able to spare a few hours each month, please feel free to attend and see what we do. We have also set the date of 14th May for our Annual Parish Gathering. This is an open invitation to all villagers to come along, learn more about our work, and enjoy a glass or two of complimentary wine.

MARTIN SCHOFIELD, CHAIR

Roughlee Village Centre Casino (18 Apr), Beer Festival sponsorship...

Well Spring is well and truly here! Our village starts to show the shoots of new life and our new gardener Scott is making his presence felt around the Village Centre. The village litter pick will also be soon be upon us all – watch out for dates for the Great British litter pick which starts at the centre.

Our March events include Malkin Morris on Monday evenings after Pilates which start at 6pm, Tuesdays is Keep fit (cake & tea) 2pm and Stretch



and Tone Friday at 10.30am. Anyone wanting to find out more or join in please call on the relevant day and time. The ideas and feedback about other events that will be

starting soon will be posted and advertised on here and Roughlee Then and Now.

Our committee held a very well attended new type of quiz to the village centre on the 21st March, Pointless. Many thanks to Graham Hill who was the driving force behind the event.

Our first ever Casino Night will be held on Saturday 18th April – a professional gaming team will be operating the roulette and card games all evening. A £20 entry fee payable only in advance gains you, your stake (betting money), fizz on entry, red carpet treatment and an explanation on the rudiments of gambling for those who do not go to Monte Carlo most weekends. Roughlee Bunnies will provide a vast range of free savoury canapes, mini treats, nibbles, snacks galore and spot prizes plus star prizes for our biggest winners on the night. This is a bring your own drink event and tickets are selling well so do not hesitate too long if you would like to take part (see advert for contacts).

The big event of the year which again will be supporting Derian House Children's Hospice is our annual Beer, Gin and Music Festival from 5th to 7th June, please get behind us and sponsor barrels, bottles of gin or even the entire event. Linda Brotherton and Stuart Ingram are in charge of the sponsorship and no doubt they will be asking around for your support which has helped the RVCC raise £8000 plus over the last 2 years. We still need helpers over that weekend and anyone who is prepared to help a few hours please contact Judith Skellorn or myself.

Despite what is transpiring around the globe let's all have a super time out in the Pendle Villages in 2026.

**GLEN WATSON - CHAIR, RVC
COMMITTEE**

**Barley Village Hall
Events, Upgrades, Flooring, Volunteers
needed...**



This past month has been a lively and rewarding one at the village hall, with the community coming together for several important events and improvements. Early in March, we were

proud to host the Stan Bradshaw Fell Race, an annual highlight that once again brought fantastic energy to the area. Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved — especially those who baked cakes — we raised over £300 for the hall.

Alongside events, we've been busy enhancing our facilities. The Terrace Room has seen significant progress, with the addition of new chairs and a new TV for visitors to enjoy. These upgrades are already making the space more welcoming and versatile for groups and activities.

We're also pleased to share that new flooring has been fitted, giving the hall a fresher, more modern feel. A few minor tweaks are still to come, but the work is nearly complete, and we hope you'll agree that the improvements make a big difference. Next on our list is the upstairs main room, where we'll soon begin some much-needed redecoration. As always, the hall relies on the support and enthusiasm of local residents. We're continually on the lookout for new volunteers to help us keep things running smoothly. If you'd like to get involved, please do get in touch — we'd love to have you on board.

**TOM COSWAY & THE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

**Events in Barley: Apr 2026
Dates for your diary...**

■ **Pendle Forest History Group – Wed 15th Apr, 7.30pm at Barley Village Hall** – A presentation by Martin Lunn MBE FRAS titled “TELSTAR”- the eventful and groundbreaking story of the world's first telecommunication satellite. Members £2.00, Visitors £3.00. **Email** to book a place.

■ **Barley WI – 1st Wed of the month, 7.30pm at Barley Village Hall** – New members are always welcome, first three meetings are free so you can make sure you like it! The WI isn't just a monthly meeting



– we are a very busy WI with sub groups for walking, cinema, trips and crafting as well as the two book clubs so come along – keep busy and meet new friends.

■ **Pendle Patchers** – Tues 14th and 28th Apr, from 1pm at

Barley Village Hall – Our group members have continued to work on a variety of sewing and knitting projects this month, including a stuffed felt bunny of course, with Easter coming up. No picture as his body parts were still being assembled. The cot quilt was just being finished, made entirely from Ann's stash, very satisfying. Please come along and join us with any of your projects or just for a chat and a brew. Contact Gil Beeke for any more information 01282 602449.

■ **FOG Club** – Thurs evenings, 6.30pm-7.45pm at *Barley Chapel* – For children aged 6-11 years. Contact Angie on 07967 121031 or just come along

■ **Card making class** – 1st and 3rd Mon of each month, 1-3pm at *Barley Village Hall* – for details contact Valerie on 01282 691850

■ **Coffee and Chat** – 2nd Wed of each month, 10am-12pm at *Barley Village Hall* – All welcome, not just the old folk – £2 gets coffee (or tea) and cake!

Notes from St. Mary's Exploring Easter

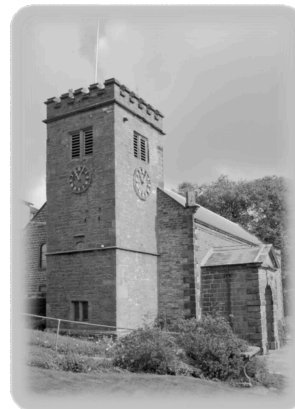
Easter is the high point of the church's year. It is the church's most important festival. Many of you may be familiar with Jesus' institution of the communion, washing the disciples' feet, his agony in the garden, his arrest and torture, his death on the cross, and his resurrection all of which are remembered at Easter. But I wonder what you make of this annual remembrance. Perhaps like many this easter will hold the hope of a barbeque or that long waited DIY job. Can I encourage you to come and explore the remembrance of Easter.

Many of us haven't really looked at the events of that first Easter since we were at Primary School and even those of us who have been in church haven't perhaps read one of the bible's four accounts of Jesus' life, death and resurrection from start to finish for a while. This year at St Mary's across Good Friday and Easter Sunday we will have a series of installations. These installations will have art, a bible reading and a prayer that follow what is sometimes called 'The Way of the Cross'. Our church will be open for individuals to come and take time walking through the way of the cross reflecting on the journey Jesus made as he approached his death. We hope it will be a moving thing to experience, and I hope you will come and make use of the space for your own personal journey to the cross. As you leave there will be a book available that you can take, and we hope it will help you begin to think through the claims of the Christian faith.

Perhaps instead of the DIY or the gardening you might come and consider the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Across our Benefice our Easter events will be considering Jesus' life again and how that the first Easter really did change the world forever. Do join us for our events over Easter.

**REV'D NICK MURRAY - VICAR, ST
MARY'S NEWCHURCH-IN-PENDLE**

St. Mary's Church April 2026 Services



As Spring has arrived, we look forward to welcoming you to our services. Our church is relaxed and friendly. We always end our service with coffee and cake. We also have activity bags for children and a space for them to play. Hope you can join

us soon.

■ Thursday 2nd April, 6:30pm – Maundy Thursday – Meal & service at St Thomas'

■ Good Friday and Easter Saturday all day at St Mary's – The Way of the Cross. Bible readings, art, reflections and prayers following in Jesus footsteps to the cross and grave. A reflective journey to encounter the love of God. Church also open throughout the day with reflective areas and activities available to engage with, including crafts for children

■ Friday 3rd April, 10:30am – EPIC Easter for all at St Thomas

■ Friday 3rd April, 3pm – In the Shadow of the Cross – A reflective Service for Good Friday at St Thomas

■ Sunday 5th April, 6:30am & 8:00am – Easter Sunday – Dawn service at 6:30 with breakfast, followed by Holy Communion at 8:00

■ Sunday 5th April, 11am Easter Sunday Celebration – St Thomas Church

■ Sunday 12th April, 9:30am – Holy Communion

■ Sunday 19th April, 4pm – Family Service, a relaxed interactive service for everyone

■ Sunday 26th March, 9:30am – Holy Communion

For more information please contact our Vicar Nick Murray on 01282613206 or 07551936436, or **email**. Alternatively you can contact our Church Warden, Doug Bull on 07907 458894 or **email**.

Barley Chapel Easter Services

Good Friday 3rd April service at the Chapel, 3pm led by Matt Butler.

Also service on the top of Pendle Hill at 3pm on Good Friday, 3 April.

Easter Sunday – Service at Wheatley Lane Methodist Church, 469 Wheatley Lane Rd, Fence BB12 9ED

Welcoming Spring Walks & Champion Species Events

Bowland's Champion Species Events

Have fun discovering the 14 Champion Species at the heart of the Forest of Bowland National Landscape's Nature Recovery Plan!

■ The "Whispering" Bat – Thurs 16th April, 7.30pm-9pm, Whalley

■ Ground Nest Fest – Sun 19th April, 10am-4.30pm, Lawkland

■ Hard Fern Photography – Weds 22nd April, 9.30am-1.30pm, Scorton

■ RSPB Moorland Safari – Mon 4th May, 9.30am-2pm, Slaidburn

■ Spring Butterfly Walk – Weds 6th May, 11.30am-2pm, Langden

■ The Secret World of Rivers – Weds 27th May, 10am-3pm, Claughton-on-Brock

■ Globeflower Day – Sat 13th June, 10am-4pm, Abbeystead

■ Champion Species Party – Fri 7th August, 1pm-4pm, Gisburn Forest

■ Introduction to Riverflies – Thurs 17th Sept, 10am-3pm, Catterall

■ Waxcap Watch Training – Thurs 22nd October, 10am-3pm, Wycoller

Full details and booking at

www.forestofbowland.com/festival-bowland

Festival Bowland

New for 2026!
Welcoming Spring Walks

Join us in April for a series of **FREE**, stle-free walks in Bowland, where the emphasis is firmly on a friendly atmosphere, fresh air and fantastic surroundings, rather than distance!

All walks start at 10am and finish around 11am, with the option to stay on for refreshments afterwards.

NO BOOKING NEEDED (Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.)

Wednesday 8th April, Browholme
Meet in the Tiltle Barn car park, Browholme Hall, Clitheroe Road, Cow Ark, Clitheroe, BB7 3DE.

Wednesday 15th April, Gisburn Forest
Meet at the pay machine, Gisburn Forest Hub car park, Hole House Lane, Slaidburn, BB7 4TS.

Wednesday 22nd April, Salden
Meet in the pay and display car park, Pasham Road, Salden, BB7 9EB.

Wednesday 29th April, Barley
Meet in the pay car park, The Avenue, Barley, BB12 9JX.

For full walk details, visit: www.forestofbowland.com/festival-bowland or email candru.sik@lancashire.gov.uk

Boat Race - 24th April



Friends of Newchurch School are holding their annual boat race to raise money for St Mary's CE Primary. 24th April 2026, 3.45pm at Barley picnic site. Boat entries are £1 each and the prizes are: 1st place £50, 2nd place £25, 3rd place £15.

Please see Hailey

Hermansen or email friendsofnewchurchschool@gmail.com should you wish to enter. All Welcome.

St Mary's CE Primary School

What a Wonderful Half Term We Have Had!

In the classroom it has been a busy and exciting half term across school, filled with creativity, curiosity, and memorable learning experiences.

During Science Week, Key Stage 2 explored materials that conduct electricity. They made thoughtful predictions and worked collaboratively, producing some impressive results. In History, they have been learning about World War II, including an engaging lesson on rationing. Using ration books, the children planned a party, created shopping lists, and "purchased" items with coupons—bringing history to life in a memorable way.

In Key Stage 1, the children were delighted to watch chicks hatch from eggs, following a special delivery from Incredible Eggs. They also completed creative science homework by designing habitats, with some truly impressive projects on display.

World Book Day was a highlight across the school. Children brought in their favourite books and props, challenging others to guess their stories—from wizards and dragons to horses and monkeys. Key Stage 2 also enjoyed a cosy afternoon of reading, complete with blankets and cushions.

Celebrating Achievements

Our weekly celebration assemblies have recognised many achievements, including Wizards of the Week and Super Stars of the Week.

We have also celebrated successes beyond school, including champion kickboxers, BMX cyclists, and swimmers, as well as talented Lego designers and children recognised for excellent behaviour at FOG club. We are incredibly proud of all their accomplishments.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Padiham Rotary Schools Writing Competition. One winning entry from our school will receive a prize, while the overall winner will be awarded a prestigious writer's shield to display in their school for the year. The children demonstrated fantastic imagination and a real love of language—good luck to all who entered!

The children have made fantastic use of the OPAL play area, building imaginative structures such as their own "school" complete with classrooms and a canteen. They have also worked together to design and build boats and rafts, demonstrating teamwork and creativity.

After-school clubs have been full of energy this half term, including FUNDA, gymnastics, handball, and gardening. Our gardening club has done a wonderful job tidying and improving areas around the school.

Sporting Events and Visits

Pupils have represented the school brilliantly in a range of events. Year 5 and 6 took part in a darts competition at Skyline, where they were praised for their politeness and behaviour. Years 1, 2, and 3 attended a multi-skills event at Pendle Vale College, enjoying activities such as rock climbing, space hoppers, and team games. Meanwhile, Years 4, 5, and 6 participated in a swimming gala at Colne Leisure Centre, showing great enthusiasm and effort.

Workshops and Enrichment

Key Stage 2 pupils took part in a Daisy First Aid workshop, learning valuable life skills including CPR, the recovery position, and how to respond in emergencies.

We were also pleased to welcome Neetal into school, who led an engaging workshop on Hinduism. The children enjoyed taking part in traditional Hindu dancing and a bindi ceremony, explored a range of artefacts, and asked thoughtful questions—deepening their understanding of another faith and culture.

Children in Years 2, 5, and 6 also welcomed the NSPCC for a "Keeping Children Safe" workshop, helping them to understand how to stay safe.

Community and Faith Life

We were incredibly proud of all our pupils during the Easter Service at church, where they beautifully retold the Easter story. Their hard work and rehearsals truly paid off.

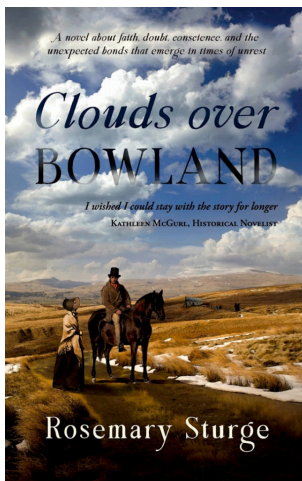
The children also showed great generosity by taking part in a sponsored Bunny Hop to raise money for Pendleside Hospice—well done to everyone involved!

Looking Ahead

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new wraparound care provision after the Easter holidays. This will run from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday, and will offer a range of fun activities. Finally, please support our FONS Boat Race fundraiser on Friday 24th April. Further details can be found on our website and Facebook page.

**MISS K FALLON - SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER**

Clouds Over Bowland: New Historical Fiction Childhood Stories Inspire New Forest of Bowland Novel



A new historical novel set in the Forest of Bowland draws on a story the author heard growing up – that the area’s drystone walls were built by French prisoners of war during the Napoleonic era. There were definitely French Prisoners of War at Lancaster Castle, who were probably used as free labour

on the land.

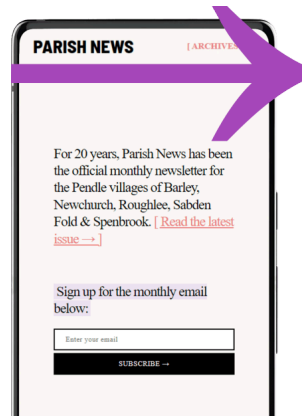
Clouds Over Bowland by Rosemary Sturge (Cadence Timepiece) is set in 1814 and follows Hugh Armstrong, who arrives in a remote Lancashire valley in search of a settled life. Instead, he finds a community shaped by Quaker beliefs and quietly affected by the realities of war. Inspired by local tradition, the novel imagines the tenants coming into contact with prisoners at a time of growing Quaker awareness of the need for prison reform.

“Stories like these are part of the fabric of Bowland,” the publisher says. “This novel takes that sense of place and history and builds a human story around it.”

Rich in atmosphere and grounded in regional history, Clouds Over Bowland offers a fresh perspective on how global events were felt in rural

Lancashire. Clouds Over Bowland is in bookshops from April 2nd.

Have you got a new neighbour? Please mention Parish News to them!



IF YOU HAVE any neighbours or friends that have just moved to the area, or who might not be aware of this newsletter, please can you mention Parish News to them. We’re now on 800+ email subscribers across Barley, Goldshaw Booth and Roughlee so are definitely

reaching the majority of households, but it’s an ongoing job to let people know when there’s no longer a physical copy being delivered and not everyone will see the adverts on noticeboards. Thanks for your help!

Print a note to post through their letterbox here
→

They can enter their email address to receive an email on the first of each month online at www.parishnews.org – their data is managed/protected by Roughlee Parish Council on behalf of the other parish councils.

Send articles

Please send any articles for the May 2026 issue by Sat 25th Apr to editor@parishnews.org

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