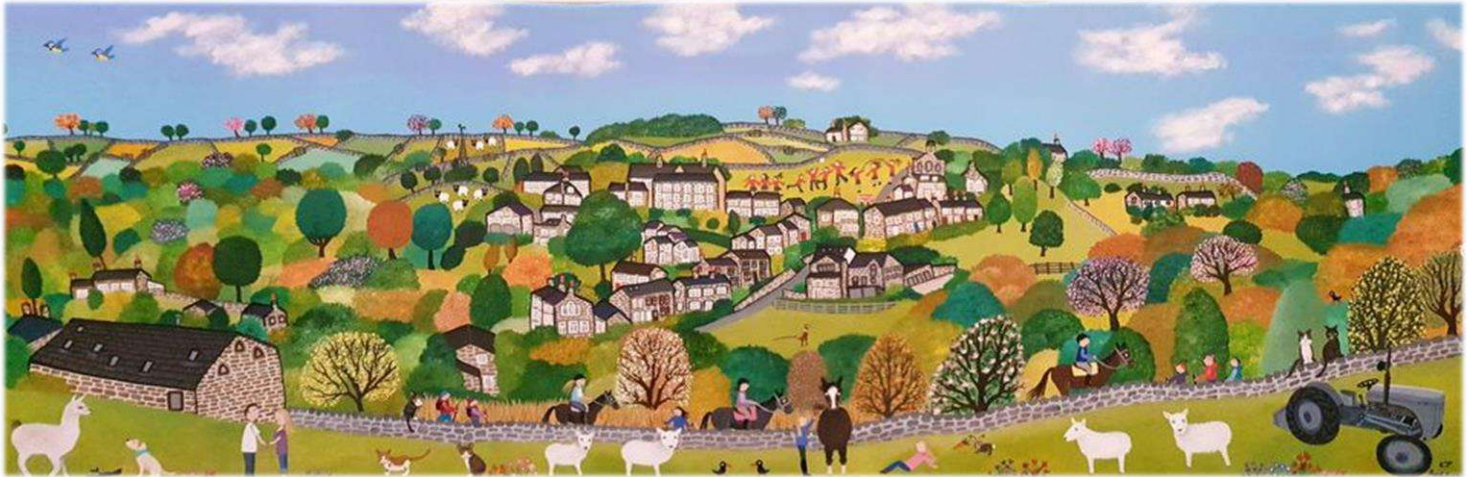


Mill Bank & Cottonstones Newsletter

Summer 2024



Mill Bank by Caroline Appleyard, with kind permission of the Davies family

Welcome to the summer newsletter.

Along with the essential (and election free) news, this edition features some of the amazing creative people who live and work in 'Greater Mill Bank'. We have among us painters, potters, musicians, writers, photographers, crafters, designers, knitters, and more. We can only offer a brief preview here but hope to give more space to their work on the website or Facebook soon.

A big thank you to all who got down and dirty for the village clear-up in March. It was good fun and left a clean sweep on the top road. There's always more to do of course and further events will follow. How to tackle the weeds on the paths is controversial – to pull them without using chemical killers means a lot of hard work.

The Mill Bank Facebook page is working again and you can now post photos, news, and details of events. Thanks to Bronwen.

The Mill Bank Group looks after our public spaces and aims to protect and improve the quality of life in Mill Bank and the surrounding area. This includes social activities and community events.

The group operates in a spirit of openness and co-operation and respects individual differences.

There was a great turn-out for the second village heritage walk in May, and there will be a new Cottonstones heritage walk with an exhibition of old photos at St Mary's Church on 15th Sept.

Thanks to the persuasive skills of neighbours at the bottom of Lower Mill Bank, the council has thoroughly cleared the drains on Foxen Lane and hopefully reduced flooding risks.

Who knows how many toads were saved by the efforts of Mill Bankers and Cottonstoners during their migration this year? The Toad Spokesperson sends ribbity thanks to all who took the trouble to help them gently over the road.

Special thanks to Fiona, who has been busy behind the scenes talking with the council and others to get things done – not an easy task these days with so many services crumbling under pressure. Also to Keith for making and installing a splendid new planter outside the school entrance.

We hope you enjoy the summer delights of life in the village – and look out soon for further details of a summer village gathering.

Website: <https://www.millbankvillage.co.uk/>

WhatsApp: Search for the Mill Bank Group and ask the Admin to let you in. See **561/562** WhatsApp group for bus chat.

Email Newsletter: On the website, find the box on the footer where you can enter your email address to receive the newsletter, as a longer edition.

Facebook: search for the Mill Bank Group

The Mill Bank Group Committee 2024: Gail Parker (Chair), Fiona Peach (Secretary-messages to 07962474914), Linda Wilson (Treasurer, 07341443989), John Anderson (01422 823589), David Baguley, Michael Beazley (077568 22995), Ellie Fitzgerald, Tony Gledhill (077705 98317), Mike Godfrey, Peter Hardy (07531 806279), Keith Kemp (01422 823687), Glynis Lord, Bronwen Pendleton (christopher174@sky.com), Phillipa Walton.

Coming Events

June	27	Craft Night: St Mary's Church 6.30 – 7.30
Aug		Summer Gathering and BBQ – details to follow
Sept	8	Rushbearing
	15	Cottonstones Heritage Walk
Nov	TBA	Christmas Fair
Dec	TBA	Christmas Carols
	TBA	Wreath making

Heritage Walks

The second heritage walk took place on 19th May in glorious sunshine. It was followed by a plant swap/shop and over forty people enjoyed tea and delicious cakes.



A NEW WALK is planned for Sunday 15 September starting at the entrance to Mill Bank Close and ending at St Mary's Church. There will be visits to the sites of two mills and a photographic exhibition at St Mary's, telling the Mill Bank story. The exhibition will then go on tour to Calderdale's libraries. Please book your place with Ruth as numbers are limited for safety reasons. 07753748482
rhbeazley@gmail.com

Cottonstones ... rocks, but softer?

A 'cott' is an old name for a cottage. Cottonstones may have been named after a group of cottages built on stony ground, or over buried stones on which cotton bolls were dried after washing and before spinning.

The Lum Estate

The Lum Estate included land from Mill Bank to Cottonstones and Lighthazels. It was owned by a William de Lom in 1307. In the past it has been spelled **Lumm**, which means 'chimney' or 'pool', or **Lum** and **Lumb** after a family who lived there in the 19th century.

Briefly...

Footpath Repair by the School. CROWS say the repair to the path in the park is too big a job for them, so the Mill Bank Group will ask the council to consider taking on the work.

Incinerator. Thanks to all who helped distribute information. Active opposition is continuing. One discouraging development is that the government has lifted the blanket ban on new incinerators.

Road Closures/Yorkshire Water. With more than 25 days of bus service disruption in 2024, the Mill Bank Group wrote to the Council to highlight the impact of road closures on 561/562 bus users. The council has responded positively, saying they were 'well aware of the issue' and that they continued to raise concerns with Yorkshire Water. The MB group will continue to lobby YW to address the infrastructure renewal in a more planned way. **Villagers can help by reporting leaks to YW at 0345 1242424 and alerting CMBC**

via streetworks@calderdale.gov.uk; 01422 288002 (day) / 01422 288000 (night).

Four new dog poo bag dispensers have been installed around the village. You know why...

St Mary's Church Services

Services are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.30. The Social Centre can be booked for events. Book on 01422 822936

St Mary's School

The school closes for the summer holiday on 19th July. *In 1900, there were 200 pupils, though some worked part time in the mills, and others helped in the fields at harvest time.*

Book Group

The May book was *Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers, and everyone enjoyed it. Set in the 1950s, it is part love story, part mystery. The writing was of a high standard and the story bobbed along nicely with interesting characters. The atmosphere of the era was beautifully evoked.

If you love reading as we do and would like to share your enthusiasm, come and join us. Phone John Anderson on 823589 for more details.

Introducing Leah Webster, our new Ward Councillor



Dear Mill Bank Residents

I wanted to introduce myself as your newly elected Ward Councillor and to thank you for your support. I've hit the ground running from my previous role in our community. Since the election I've been busy with individual case work, road safety, community litter picking, our playgrounds, and antisocial behaviour at our reservoirs.

It's not all hard work though - I recently enjoyed a visit to one of our local primary schools, a wonderful Heritage Walk around Mill Bank and as Vice President of the Stones Roses Women's Group, I had a wonderful evening hearing all about the Triangle Mill Sisters, a presentation by Ruth Beazley.

Although I'm still within the training period for new Ward Councillors, I'm here, active and ready to support you to the best of my ability, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any support. Email to Councillor.LWebster@calderdale.gov.uk

Best Wishes, Cllr Leah Webster

Village Books & Merchandise

- ❖ Mill Bank and area special map from Fiona on 079624 74914 Price-£3.99, or 20% discount via Bitcoin LN.
- ❖ Mill Bank: The Story of a West Yorkshire Village, by Hazel Whitely and Ruth Beazley. £10. Tel Ruth 077 537 48482
- ❖ Mill Bank Tote Bags. £8.00 Tel Ruth 077537 48482
- ❖ Mill Bank and area tea towels £8.00. Tel Ruth 077537 48482

Mind and Body

Keep Fit at Cottonstones Church, Wed evenings 7.00pm. No need to book - just turn up with a mat for floor work. Great music too. Phone 823589 for more information. £5 per session.

French for Fun classes are running through the 'summer'. Contact Ellie on 07868 279513 or ellie@languageforfun.uk and try them out with a free taster class.

Still nervous about the internet? Or perhaps you have a special interest that you'd like to explore online? Help is at hand. Phone Michael 077568 22995

Life on WhatsApp

Love it or hate it, no one can deny the dizzying variety of subjects that come up on our screens. We've seen enough household goods (often freely offered) to furnish a comfortable cottage, and a cry for urgent technical help to open a bottle of vodka with a jammed screw top. We saw astonishing photos of the Northern Lights, beautiful sunsets and landscapes.

But the animal kingdom tops the bill. From a wandering white peacock, through a raging bull, to countless lost (and found) dogs and cats. We won't mention dog poo.

We can't end without a mention of the Japanese Knotweed crumble (did anyone try it and die?), the knitted Easter Bonnet for the post box, and the porno graffiti on the top road. All human life is here.

Remembering Bill Pearce. Anyone who ever met Bill wouldn't forget him -always a story, a smile and a kind word. He grew up near Mill Bank and always loved the place. Some of Bill's fascinating stories will appear in a future book about Mill Bank, expected next year.

CREATIVE MILL BANK

Enjoy this taster introduction to some of the creative people who live nearby and produce all sorts of beautiful arts and crafts. If you find it interesting, we'll find a way to give them a bigger platform - with others still to come forward - on the website or Facebook page. Meanwhile, if you like something you see, many of the featured artists and crafters have items for sale or will take commissions. Contact them through WhatsApp or as indicated.



Ruth Marns is a potter and member at Brier Hey Pottery, Mytholmroyd, with another 19 potters. She enjoys modelling animals but also throwing on the wheel. "I take clay on adventures in my motorhome and spend the evenings modelling small birds. At home, they go into their first firing before being coloured with glazes or oxides and then fired again."

You can see them on the little cart outside her house on Lane Head Road, Soyland. They fly out! Brier Hey is open to the public 6-7th July alongside Hebden Bridge Open Studios.

Sue Warren is an artist and printmaker who creates pieces inspired by the landscapes, plants and wildlife of the South Pennines and wild places further afield. "I enjoy using a variety of drawing and printmaking techniques: pen and ink; monoprint; linoprint; cyanotype; and drypoint. Conservation of natural spaces has always been very important to me and I have been involved in several initiatives to protect important species and wildlife sites." Sue loves taking part in collaborative art projects and exchanges with a wildlife conservation theme. Please email Sue on if you would like more information about her work at suewarren1618@gmail.com



Jaqui Barron illustrates children's books and paints animal portraits. "I have quite a portfolio of illustrations, many different greeting card designs, both printed and hand drawn originals, mugs and gifts for sale. I have completed over 80 Pet portraits, which have been sent to new homes as far as Kent and Scotland".

She is available for commissions for most children and animal subjects and her style differs from graphic to more detailed designs. jaqui@mangofoxdesign.com

Jurga knits beautiful baby items, hot water bottle covers, socks, shawls and anything in between. "I even make a selection of knitting/sewing essentials tins. Everything can be ordered or bought directly from me. I use good quality natural fibres for all my knitting." Contact Jurga on WhatsApp.





Charlotte paints for friends - mainly animals. “If any animal lovers are interested in buying a painting, I charge £25 complete with frame”. Contact her via WhatsApp.

Sue Walker is a member of Brier Hey Pottery in Mytholmroyd. “I am a hand builder and enjoy making abstract forms for gardens, alongside other smaller pieces, sometimes combined with stitch. My latest piece is an abstract sculpture of an abandoned mill, for part of the *Calderdale 50*, which I intend to smoke fire”.



Graham Smith has been making instrumental electronic music for about 12 years. “My new *Noise Clinic* album, ‘Skies’, is out this month, available from all the usual outlets. “ ‘Skies’ is my eighteenth album. If you like Virgin Years Tangerine Dream, you might like some of my music. The album contains a track called ‘Cottonstones’. I just love the word itself, but also have ancestors buried in the graveyard. It is one of my more accessible pieces”. Preview the music at <https://music.apple.com/gb/album/skies/1750124842>

Tony Gledhill at Jamshed makes marmalade, jams, pickles & chutneys with love. “All available from the honesty box at Cottonstones, or order for special events. Home baked goods to order only, pasties, sausage rolls & scones. Christmas cakes a speciality. Many other items available including gluten free.” Call Tony on 07770598317 – or visit at Cottonstones, opposite the hens.



Ruth Beazley has been a life-long painter, but after retirement she specialised in digital imagery combining photographic, digital and artistic skills. “I was drawn into the stories behind images of the mill working women and since then have been using multimedia to create links between the past and present.” She has also written and edited social history books. To see Ruth's artwork or books, email rhbeazley@gmail.com or 07753748472. Ruth has set up the website stansfield-grange-triangle.co.uk and contributes regularly to millbankvillage.co.uk. Some work can also be seen on the Milk Bank Arts page on Facebook.





Tanya Anderton has been handcrafting soaps for family and friends for the past 8 years. They are 100% natural and scented with essential oils blends. “My soaps are gentle and will leave your skin feeling clean without drying it”. If you are interested, please get in touch on 07739970808.

Deborah Gardner has been making art for over 40 years. Her work is influenced by a myriad of things: books, music, poetry, memories - people and places. “I weave all these elements together using mixed media to create emotive, colourful abstract images. I try to make art everyday, it is a form of meditation, a space where I can be myself.”

Out of Tune Songs



Clare Murray is a painter with a studio in Fletchers Mill, a part of the Arts Charity at Dean Clough. The Dean Clough Artists Biennial Exhibition opens on 29 June until 13 October in the Crossley Gallery with a full programme of artist talks. The exhibition includes artists working in a wide range of media. Clare’s recent work will be on show, and she will also be delivering a talk on her work in the Crossley Gallery on Saturday 28 September 1-3pm. Pre-book your FREE ticket through the Arts Charity Dean Clough.

Bruce Fitzgerald is a photographer with over 20 years of experience in advertising, portraits, events and newspapers. “From pet photography to family gatherings weddings and parties, all are covered with the quality you’d expect and plenty of smiles”. Bruce is also responsible for most of the pictures in the Mill Bank calendars. Contact- Bruce@bfpix.co.uk



Remembering Glyn Hughes who moved in to Mors House in 1970 and died in 2011. Award-winning novelist, writer, poet and broadcaster, he wrote much about the area, and composed a sonnet for the village which is engraved on a plaque in the Mill Bank Garden.