



Bainbridge WI Newsletter

June 2026

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Newsletter Editor: Sarah Betts 07766 730869 bainbridgewinewsletter@gmail.com

Lino printing

Monday 1st June at Bainbridge Village Hall

10.00 – 3.00

Also on the same day

Art History course on VIA – <https://via.thewi.org.uk/>

Monday 1st June

10.00am Bumble bee survey at Askrigg bottoms

flower meadow

Tuesday 2nd June. See Environment Project below.

Walking Group

Weds 3rd June

(Weather dependent)

Theatre Group

Wednesday 3rd June Victoria Wood – 14 Again
Bowness on Windermere

National Federation Annual Meeting

Thursday 4th June at Harrogate Rugby Club
(Sue Stokes is representing Bainbridge, Thoraby,
Spennithorne and Harmby)

King Charles III The Big Help Out Weekend

Friday 5th June to Monday 8th June
National events

Book Group

Friday 5th June at 7.30pm Sycamore Hall

Craft and Chat

Sat 6th June 10.00-12.00
Sycamore Hall. Bring your own project to work on.

Craft Group

Lino Printing Mon 1st June 10.00-3.00pm
Bainbridge Village Hall

Theatre Group

Saturday 6th June, 7.30pm
Twice Nightly at TOSH. Leyburn

Garden Group

Sunday 7th June
Visit to Firby Hall open gardens

NYWF – free session sewing together crocheted

squares for the GYS backdrop

at Alma House, Ripon
Monday 8th June, 10.00 – 12.00

Theatre Group

Thursday 11th June
A Murder Mystery Play That Goes Wrong
Georgian Theatre, Richmond

Harewood House trip

Saturday 13th June

WI Committee meeting

Mon 15th June -7.00pm Sycamore Hall

Monthly Meeting

Thursday 18th June, 7.30pm
Bainbridge Village Hall.
Courtyard Dairy talk by Andy Swinscoe
Tea and biscuits for refreshments.

Beamish Car Rally catering fundraiser

Volunteers please!

Sunday 21st June 9.00-4.00

“The stars through Viking eyes” –

<https://via.thewi.org.uk/>

Monday 22nd June at 6.00pm

Lunch Group

Wednesday 24th June 12 for 12.30
The Queens Head, Finghall

Payment by BACS (online): **Account name:** Bainbridge WI, **Bank:** Virgin Money,
Account number: 25405645, **Sort Code:** 05 09 94, **Reference:** the name of the event/activity

Payment by cheque: Please write on the reverse of the cheque: **your full name, details of the event/activity the payment is for**

Payment by cash: Please put the money in a decent sized envelope and write on the outside: **your full name, details of the event/activity the payment is for**

Events at Sycamore Hall

Monday 9am - 11am Post Office

Tuesday 10.30am - Quiz or Bingo

Wednesday 9am - 11am Post Office

Thursday 10.30am - Coffee morning

Thursday 2.00pm – Bridge

Friday 11am - Gentle exercise

Every day 2pm – Dominoes

Friday 26th June 2.00pm

Mal Carruthers and Amy Cockett performing

Songs from the musicals/movies etc

Intro

With May having had two bank holidays you could have expected a lot less going on. For 6 WI members our wonderful holiday in Nice also meant we were away enjoying ourselves. I had spent a lot of time and effort since my fall in January getting fit enough to walk with just 1 stick. Mission accomplished! There have still been our active groups and monthly meeting.

I also wanted to let everyone know that I have agreed to join the board of our North Yorkshire West Federation. I do not have a specific role yet, but I will keep you advised. My plan is to ensure that this has a positive impact for Bainbridge WI and all our members. The paragraph below will be part of the official announcement.

An introduction to Sue Stokes - the latest WI member to join the North Yorkshire West Federation board.

Sue is in her second year as President of Bainbridge WI. Membership has increased from 38 to 43 members during that time. Over 100 actives were offered to Bainbridge WI members in the last 12 months.

Living with partner Mark, mother of two and Grandmother of five she enjoys being busy. Happily retired Sue has enjoyed applying her professional project management skills to local projects including volunteer development and recreation of Mary Queen of Scots tapestries at Bolton Castle, Feasibility studies for Askrigg Community Energy and the installation of the Archimedean screw at Bainbridge. She is also a director for Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership and has stood down from being a director at our local sports and community centre.

Sue works on the principal of “if you want something doing, ask a busy person”

Looking forward to joining many of you at the National Federation Annual Meeting on 4th June.

Sue Stokes

June Meeting

At our June meeting, David Banks from the National Trust, informed and educated us on the ‘Origins of Yorkshire’ and we were also delighted to welcome

3 new members to our WI.. Please welcome them as they begin to join various groups

David's talk was very interesting - to hear of all the numerous tribes that had made their way from various parts of Europe, settling along the way and Creating communities. We were told that the country was frequently invaded by the likes of the Celts, Anglo Saxons, Vikings and Normans. Each had left their mark on the country and we can still see this in the names four towns and villages.

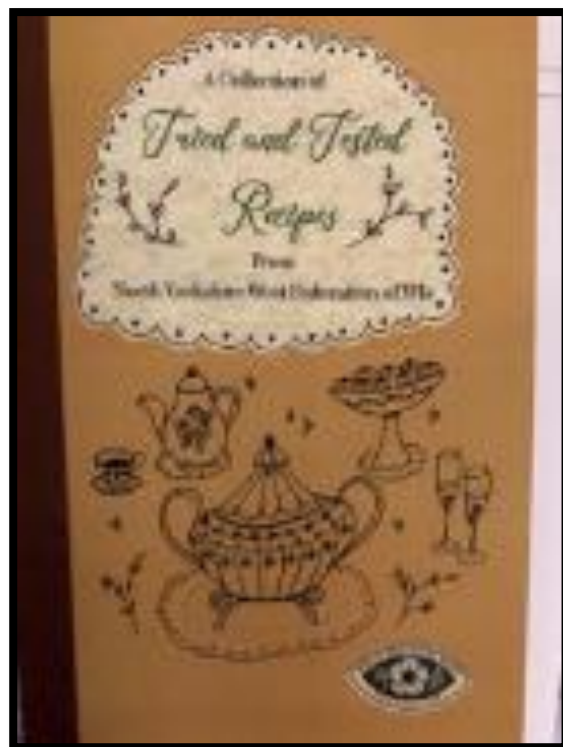
For some reason, it seems that settling in the north, creating what was to become Yorkshire, was very popular with most of these tribes. There are places around Yorkshire where there is still evidence of their lives and we were told that in Aldborough, near Boroughbridge it is still not possible to dig your own garden without permission due to the high number of archaeological relics buried there!

As always, there were lots of events and activities to sign-up for. It is amazing that we manage to fit it all in!

We also voted "For" both National resolutions. Accessible public toilet facilities which we plan to work with Thoraby and Spennithorne and Harmby to review and report on each facility in our area. The Action on Women's homelessness will be a broader national project.

In the background we have been busy with planning meetings for catering at the Beamish Rally, and preparing for our holiday.

We also had the launch of the new version of the North Yorkshire West Federation cookery book which contains many of our member Anne Harrison's recipes. At £10 they are well worth the investment. If you ask her nicely Anne may even sign a copy for you



Read on to find out how our group activities went and what to expect over the next month or so. There's lots to look forward to and we'll look forward to you joining us. If you haven't signed up to an event at our last meeting, to register an interest please get in touch with the group lead on your programme

Sue Stokes

On line learning

<https://via.thewi.org.uk/>

For members old and new who would like to have an introduction to using VIA our national WI learning platform, I will be watching one of the sessions - an Art History talk at 4pm on Monday 1st June at Sycamore Hall.

You are welcome to join me and if you'd like to get yourself signed up to access VIA courses for free, do come along and we can help you get set up at the end of the session so you can access all courses in your own home.

I am also going on a course on VIA called "The stars through Viking eyes" which is on Monday 22nd June at 6pm. In this talk, the Space Detectives investigate just who the Norsemen were and how they and the Vikings used the stars to travel the globe, farm their lands and keep community traditions alive.

If any member would like to gain access to VIA for a range of free courses or just want to discover what is available, please get in touch with Sue Stokes.

Sue.stokes @qualitar.co.uk

Mobile: 07816 955723

Sue Stokes

Environment Project



If anyone is interested in bumble Bee identification there are 4 members of our WI who have attended bumble Bee training and have been conducting bee surveys in Askrigg Bottoms SSI flower meadows for over 5 years.

We will be starting the surveys for this year on Tuesday 2nd July at 10am. Meet at Carrs Billington car park in Askrigg to do the short walk to the meadows. Training is provided via The Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust but you can come along for the walk and learn as you go! Please wear walking boots and long-sleeved clothing. No perfume please as this can put off the bees.

Sue Stokes

Pickleball Taster Session



WHAT ON EARTH IS PICKLEBALL?

The game was created in 1965 in the United States - in fact, at Bainbridge Island, Washington. Pickleball is a cross between tennis, table tennis and squash and can be played indoors or outdoors with two or four people.

The game is played with 'paddles' which are rather unique, but perhaps more similar to table tennis bats than tennis rackets. The ball is a hard, plastic one with holes which is really light and has a limited bounce.

Scoring was a bit confusing but no doubt easy to grasp when you play regularly. A game is the first person or pair to reach eleven points.

In early May, the High Dales Group of WI's organised a 'taster session' at Askrigg Village Hall where all became clear. What fun! I was very envious that I couldn't manage it myself, but those who did had a great time and picked the game up very swiftly.



There were eight members from Bainbridge WI and four from Thoraby WI (which did include a couple of us who were only able to watch). The evening started with a demonstration game by Vanda, Claire, Nicola, Jennifer and Carolyn who are all

regular players. They didn't tell us the rules or how the game worked as they were quizzing us later in the evening to see what we had picked up!



After this demonstration, the 'newbies' had a go and I have to say we were pretty impressed at how well they did. There were some 'killer blows' but we are not too sure if they were deliberate or just accidental hits!

We had a break for refreshments when we had the chance to try the quiz and see if we had worked out the rules and scoring system. We did reasonably well but it was a good job there wasn't a prize as I am not sure we were that clever!!

After topping up the tanks, everyone was eager to have another game before heading home. We all agreed it was a great evening and clearly this sport is ideal for everyone. Sessions are held regularly in both Hawes and Askrigg and everyone is welcome.

Askrigg Village Hall Tuesdays:

1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

3.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Hawes Market Hall Thursdays:

3.30 pm to 5.00 pm

5.15 pm to 6.45 pm

7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

The game has now been played locally for the past three years and there is a good membership from all age ranges (children through to seniors). The oldest member is 85 - so no excuses ladies!!

I would encourage anyone to go along and have a go at this great game. It is simple, fun and suitable for all. I am now going to have a think about how a blind person could play - watch this space!

Karen Prudden

The Festival of Thrift

This takes place on 4th and 5th July in a field near Stockton on Tees. I have been a few times before as a visitor but this year I am attending as a Repairer. I volunteer as a member of Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership and we hold repair cafes up to 6 times a year.

My areas of expertise are textiles and cosmetic jewellery. In the spirit of continuity I have an "Apprentice" A young woman who lives in Bainbridge has accompanied me to the repair cafes this year and is very speedy at re-threading beads.

A great attribute to have and which will come in useful at the Festival of Thrift



<https://www.festivalofthrift.co.uk/>

If anyone would like a lift to attend the Festival of Thrift event I will have 2 spaces in my car, going from Bainbridge at 8.30 am on Sunday 5th July. First come first served!

Sue Stokes

Lunch Club



On 20th May 11 members went to The Sandpiper in Leyburn for lunch. There was a warm welcome and a delicious meal. In addition to our usual enjoyment of the food, drink and service we realised that it was Sue Peckitt's birthday.



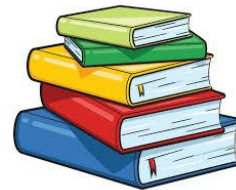
In the spirit of the event our hosts presented to Sue a personalised Crème Brûlée.

Our next lunch club trip will be to another favourite venue The Queens Head in Finghall on Wednesday 24th June. Signing up sheets will be out as usual at our meeting on the 18th. We'll look forward to you joining us



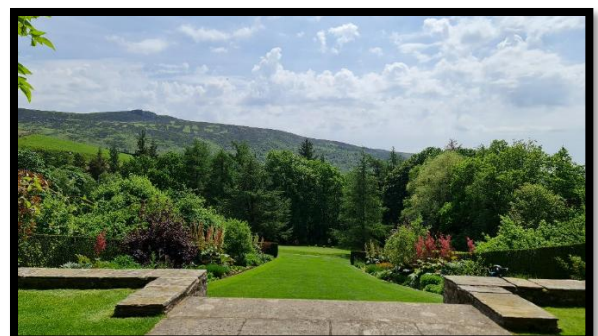
Sue Stokes/Ann Harrison

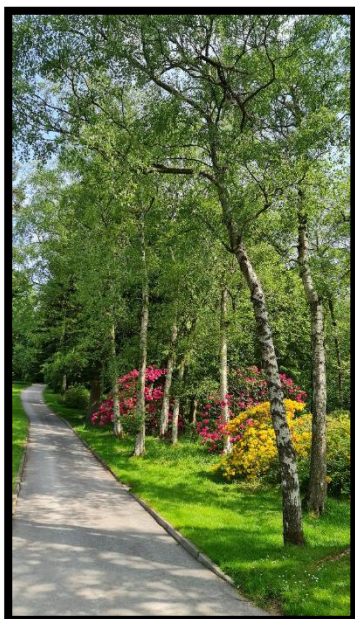
Book Club



No report for May, as we are busy reading our current book – Your Inner Hedgehog by Alexander McCall Smith for the next meeting at the beginning of June!

Garden Group





It was a perfect day for our trip to Parcevall Hall, warm and sunny but fresh, only 18 degrees (!) which was welcome relief after the very hot weekend. After coffee and scones, we had a delightful walk up through the woodland. This

area is very natural with a great variety of trees, many extremely old and some impressively contorted, and native woodland flowers. The streamside areas are particularly pretty with candelabra primulas, blue Siberian iris, ferns and hostas. There are many welcome seating areas, we stopped a while on one at the top of the formal lawn to rest and admire the view and watch the groundsman cutting the lawn with perfect stripes. The formal gardens have much to admire, both visually and in fragrance. We ended our trip to the gardens with drinks and sandwiches at the lovely little café – run by Love Brownies, a small menu but deliciously home-made. On our way home we stopped at The Hedgerow in Threshfield – a lovely little florist, plant centre and homewares store. They also do drinks and cakes, highly recommended if you are in the area.

Nicola Robinson



Craft and chat Sat 9th May was a relaxing session. I continued with crochet squares for the backdrop to be used at the Great Yorkshire show, others were

knitting away. While nattering away the feedback was that more members may join us if there was a specific activity to join in.

Linda Cameron is our crafts co-ordinator and is very busy during the Summer when she exhibits and has stalls at many shows and other events. So we'll look forward to the Lino Printing to be held at Bainbridge village hall 10-3 on Monday 1st July very much.

Here is a picture from our last lino printing workshop, thank you Linda.



Sue Stokes

Theatre Group



Four of us are booked to go to Bowness-on-Windermere on Wednesday 3rd June to see 14 Again with music and lyrics by Victorian Wood. Potential future theatre trips ideas – booking sheets will be out at the next meeting or contact Gwen Clarke on gwenjaclark@gmail.com to register interest: Saturday 6th June 7.30: Twice Nightly at

TOSH cost £12 per ticket – register interest to reserve 3 seats and pay on the night.

The Georgian Theatre Thursday 11th June: Murder mystery play that goes wrong Thursday 23rd July for 7 nights: Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society perform The Tempest Currently seats for all performances

Sue Stokes/Gwen Clark

Walking Group



Five of us set off from the layby in Wensley, crossing a field of quite long grass to the Bolton Estate and up the long drive

towards and passed the house, admiring the views, the land and the fine herd of cows.

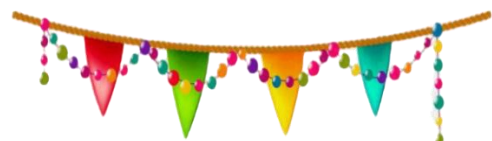


We returned through the woodland at the side of the river to marvel at the many patches of bluebells and other wildflowers including primroses, cowslips, Water Aven, Wood anemone, wild garlic. Our refreshments of soup and sandwiches were taken at the Three Horseshoes.



The walk in June will be around Muker to see the flower meadows. Short and longer walks are possible. Meet in Bainbridge at 9.45 for car share to Muker or meet there at 10.30am. Please let me know if you plan to join us.

Nicola Robinson



Happy Birthday

Many Happy Returns

Margaret Thompstone
Gwen Clark



Bainbridge WI Holiday to Nice 11th – 15th May



Well, they say a picture paints a thousand words so here's a few to give you a flavour of the amazing experience 6 of us had. With plenty of planning and the great service of travel agent Robert Sturdy Bainbridge WI booked 3 x twin room at NH Hotel from Monday 11th – Friday 15th May. We travelled in Peacock's minibus from Bainbridge via Leyburn to Leeds airport. All went smoothly on a cool grey and overcast morning. We checked in and enjoyed a relaxing time checking out duty free and cup of coffee.

We thought the Yorkshire dialect "Wanna beer oh aye" an appropriate send off!

The flight and transfers to our lovely hotel went really smoothly and we had time to check out the roof top pool before getting a taxi to our pre-booked restaurant. (Which was further from our hotel than it appeared on the internet and map!) This worked out to be fortuitous as our handsome driver dropped us off at the restaurant door. It was a cosy room so the 6 of us were given personal attention by the owner and her staff. The food and wine were local fare and reasonably priced. We were invited to put a pin on the world map to identify where we had come from. We were the only pin in the UK!! Obviously more of a venue for locals. We were pleased to get our minibus to transfer us back to the hotel especially when there was a ruckus not far from the restaurant with motorbikes being abandoned and thugs chasing a man. We reversed and made a speedy return to our hotel!

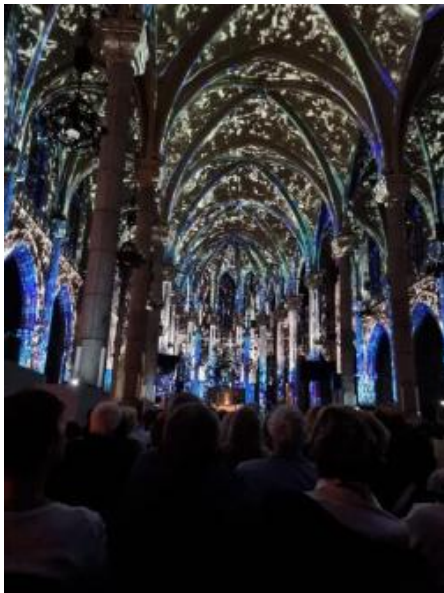
Nadine and I go to regular Aquafit classes in Bedale and swam in our roof top pool each morning. It was a wonderful place to go with the bar and restaurant also on the rooftop with stunning views of Nice, after our daily travels. We ended met up with each other there quite often.

Access from our hotel by foot through local parks made getting to the old town and city centre a pleasant stroll with many sculptures and facilities such as the table tennis table.



There was a fair amount of retail therapy although plenty of stops for coffee (often with chocolate) lunch, ice creams and drinks

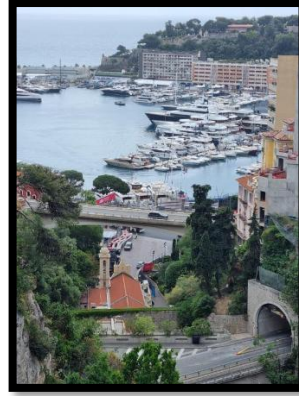
We visited a few historical buildings including the cathedral which was an architectural marvel. Rita was inspired to book tickets for us all to go to the Lumiere in the cathedral which was a spectacular way for us all to spend our Thursday evening.



We had a day trip by rail to the principality of Monaco and visited MonteCarlo casino. Nobody was bothered about placing a bet but we had a memorable lunch in the glorious Casino restaurant. The service was exceptional and the opportunity to people watch was incredible.



Here we are minus Rita who was busy sewing (: A scenic trip around the principality on an open top bus enabled us to see all the main sights. The headphones gave us an English tour guide too! Most of the route was being set up ready for the Monaco Grand Prix so there were grandstands and lots of related marketing about. The views of the magnificent yachts in the harbour confirmed the wealth of some residents and visitors.



Thursday Rita and the girls doing a recce to ensure we all knew where the Cathedral was before we went to see the Lumiere performance in the evening, except Sue who wanted to get a museum fix. By public transport, buses, trams and by foot she explored another area of Nice where the Musee Matisse was set in a parkland with a monastery. It was here the local young men play a game that has 5 or 6 patting a ball to each other via a small trampoline?! Not sure what the game is called but it was fascinating to watch! There is a video if anyone is curious. It was delightful to see the artwork and story behind Henri Matisse and a true cultural fix. Photos below:



We all met up back at the hotel before going to see the Luminescence. A truly memorable day



On the Friday after we had breakfast and checked out from our hotel, we had a few hours to spend before we'd got our transport to the airport. The hotel looked after our luggage and we decided to go via tram to the old town for a bit of last-minute retail therapy. We walked along Nice promenade, saw the beach and had a serenade by a duo who sang (mostly for Jean) lots of Beatles and 60's songs which most of us knew the words to and sang along.

Sadly, whilst on the tram my purse was stolen. It was disappointing but I quickly stopped my cards and because I had spent all but a small amount of Euros and had a few pounds. Thankfully my friends supported me on the return journey even when someone kicked my left foot with the broken ankle in the airport meaning I needed a wheelchair transfer onto the plane?! What an eventful holiday. We all returned safely home with the timely collection from Leeds airport to home via Peacock's minibus. Not surprising that all have said that they would do a WI holiday again in the future...

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE DALES

Well, actually this wasn't! It started off as a normal day, finding me sitting at the computer and trying to get through a list of things that needed to be done. Tim came home at lunchtime as we had a visitor calling. It wasn't until he went out to see this visitor off that he thought something was going on in the village!

He came in and told me that there were lots of blacked-out vehicles parked along the side of the village green which looked very suspiciously like a security detail for someone important. Not wanting to miss out on anything, he went off for a wander to see what he could find out.

On his return, he told me he is pretty sure he has just seen Prince William! Needless to say, I am somewhat dubious! Anyway, I decide to head outside myself to see what I can find out. What a daft idea for a blind woman?! What am I going to see that he can't?!?! Nothing!

Anyway, I decide to linger outside for a bit, although it was a bitterly cold day and was starting to drizzle. Eventually, getting very cold, I decide to head towards the butchers where people seemed to be congregating. I met and got chatting to a very nice woman who told me she had brought her son over as he was wanting to be a royal photographer and had received a call from Kensington Palace asking if he would like to come along to this royal visit. Well, exactly who is it we are waiting to see then? Yes, it was Prince William, heir to the throne!

Seemingly, I am told that the Prince has walked over to the river to investigate the hydro. Typically, he has come at a time when the Archimedes Screw isn't working because we have not had enough rain! What are the odds of that?!?!

Talking to this lovely lady, I learn that royal photographers have to bid to attend such events and visits, and are informed if their bid has been successful. Presumably this is to ensure there are not too many crowding out the 'star of the show', although there were certainly sufficient in Bainbridge on this day!

I had to admire this woman's son who, at just 17, was all kitted out with a smart camera and enormous lens, being determined that this is to be his career. And, what a wonderful mum to drop everything (including her work!!) to drive him over from their home in Bishop Auckland so that he can follow his dream.

Anyway, we eventually see that the Prince is heading back over the bridge so I decide to make my way over to the village green where there is quite a crowd of people gathering. Of course, the Prince couldn't resist dropping into Hammonds Butchers where he was able to chat to the young lads who now run the business. I bet that was interesting! No idea whether they gave him some sausages to take home for his dinner, but I hope so!



After that visit, the Prince headed to the village green where he is able to meet with local residents. He was keen to chat to people and I was impressed by his knowledge of the local area. Eventually he was in front of me and I found myself shaking his hand!! He is surprisingly tall!

I told him that I ran the village shop and we had a discussion about that. He asked where it was and how trade was going. We talked about the facilities at Sycamore Hall and I was very tempted to invite him to visit!

I have to say that I was a bit awestruck at this sudden turn of events – it certainly wasn't what I expected of the day! Wow! I struggled to believe I had just shaken hands and had a conversation with the future King of England! It was a bit surreal!

On a more grounded note, though I was really Impressed with William. What a lovely man! He had no 'airs and graces' and spoke with us just like anyone else would. He had clearly done some homework on the Dales and the challenges of life here and I got the impression that he really cared.

How he copes with being followed everywhere, having cameras stuck in his face, is beyond me! I can quite see why it could drive him mad, but it is, of course, an important part of the job. He certainly came across to me as someone who was genuinely interested in where he was and how we lived and I guess we just have to hope that he remembers what he has learned from this visit in the future.

So, after all that excitement I was then further surprised to be approached by someone from a radio station who had seen me talking with William and asked if she could interview me for the radio about that talk! What, with no prepared script?! Oh my goodness! Anyway, I said yes and, as you know, I am not usually lost for words, so I somehow managed to answer her questions and tell her what we had been talking about and what I thought of the visit. I have no idea whether it will ever make it to the airwaves, but I am not too bothered if it doesn't. I think it will be the highlight of my year just having the opportunity to meet and talk with the Prince of Wales here in Bainbridge! I wonder who might drop in next?

Karen Prudden