



Bainbridge WI Events

Wednesday 2 April - Walking Group

Meet 9.45am for car sharing to Grass Woods

Thursday 3 April - Book Club

7.30pm Sheepscar, Thornton Rust

Friday 4 April - IT Club

2pm Sycamore Hall - by request

Saturday 5 April - Annual Community Lunch

By invitation

Sunday 6 April - Garden Club

Clifton Castle Gardens near Masham

Thursday 9 April Learning Hub

Peter's talk on Southwark "A Dickens of a place"
Online

Wednesday 16 April - Learning Hub

Learning hub 3 - 4pm Sketch club with Julie Sajous
Sycamore Hall

Thursday 17 April - Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Bainbridge Village Hall

Saturday 19 April - Quilting Workshop

10am - 3pm Sycamore Hall

Wednesday 30 April - Lunch Club

The Bay Horse, Ravensworth, 5pm

Saturday 3 May - Craft and Chat

10am Sycamore Hall

19 June - Monthly Meeting 1pm

Wildflower Walk, Talk and Afternoon tea

9 August - Kynren

details to be confirmed

BAINBRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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Federation Events

Saturday 12th April - Spring Council, Tennant's,
Leyburn

Friday 2 May - 60s Fashion Evening with Meredith
Towne - Kettleling, Harrogate

Wednesday 21 May - Drum Machine, Sowerby Bridge

Wednesday 21 May - Food Hygiene Training, online at
Alma House

Wednesday 4 June - NFWI Annual Meeting - online at
Alma House

Thursday 19 June - Littlethorpe Manor Gardens

Tuesday 24th June - Watercolours Improvers

Thursday 26 June - Watercolours Improvers

Events at Sycamore Hall

Monday 9am - 11am Post Office

Monday 2pm - Knit and natter

Tuesday 10.45am Quiz or Bingo

Wednesday 9am - 11am Post Office

Thursday 10.30am - Coffee morning

Thursday 2.00pm - Bridge

Friday 11am - Gentle exercise

High Dales Group

25 June - Treasure Hunt

Collect from Bainbridge 5.30pm, drive 4 miles to
location

Intro

March began with craft and chat, with lots of Community lunch invites being delivered. Many responses were received straight away with a nice chat explaining whether they were coming or why they weren't. It made me appreciate how much many of our neighbours are lonely and how important it is for them to meet up at our community lunch. There are more coming than to our more frequent soup and sweet events so naturally there are more friends there to catch up with.

Look out for reports and pictures from our many groups and events that have been keeping us busy. The Learning hub has provided opportunities to celebrate International Women's day along with an escape via a Tilo talk to Tasmania. I'm still working on finishing the delightful snowdrops patchwork begun at the Federation workshop. How lovely to be blessed with such sunny weather for our garden group visit to Crook Hall gardens and a guided tour around Durham. All in addition to our monthly meeting talk on knitting sticks too. At the time of writing I'm looking forward to joining lunch club at Sedberg golf club too on 27th after attending a Presidents and secretaries meeting on 25th. Check our Watts App groups for regular group news and info.

Looking forward to April there's climate Ambassador training, our usual groups and the Spring Council at Tennant's on 12th April when 10 of our members plan to attend and represent Bainbridge WI.

Who'd have thought a 1 week family holiday would clash with 2 annual events: Community lunch and Spring Council – I'm so grateful for our team of members who ensure everything still happens smoothly. Every contribution from our volunteers is key to the success of each event.

Sue Stokes

Bainbridge WI Annual Community lunch

Preparations have been underway for our Annual Community lunch on 5th April. As always invitations have been delivered and we're looking forward to giving a sociable meal and afternoon for our local community. I know a lot of work has already been done sourcing ingredients, (what a shop that was – !) preparing the village hall and our amazing volunteers signing up to help on the day. I'll be helping Anne Harrison with pie making before I go on holiday and I know our team will make it all happen on the day 😊 Thank you in advance.

Sue Stokes

Presidents and secretaries' meeting

Took place on 25th March at Alma House 6.30 -9pm attended by Sue Stokes current President, Membership secretary Alison Thwaite and committee member Anne Harrison.

Sue Stokes

April Monthly Meeting

We're looking forward to a special treat at our monthly meeting in April when following on from our previous demonstration by Shannon; we'll be having a hands on workshop to make our own Easter basket arrangement. For all of our members, with any level of flower arranging ability, the outcome will be a beautiful floral arrangement to take home for all those who have signed up to participate.



As always there'll be plenty of new activities and experiences to sign up for so check out to see what may be of interest to you. We'll be delighted to have you join in with us.

Sue Stokes

March Meeting - Knitting Sticks



The speaker at our March meeting was Sarah Binks Lambert from the Dales Countryside Museum who came along to

talk to us about knitting sticks.

Although I had seen these things, and indeed have a couple myself, I really had no idea how they worked so it was fascinating to hear from Sarah just how well-used these things had been in their prime.

Sarah explained to us that both men and women used knitting sticks to produce socks, stockings etc back in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were so clever in those days that they were even able to knit whilst walking, herding cattle etc! Puts us to shame!

Sarah had brought along a selection of the knitting stick collection held at the Museum which had been built-up by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingleby. The sticks vary in size and shape although in the main, they tend to be very similar. Very primitive ones just look like a polished stick of wood with a 'nick' taken out but the really ornate ones are works of art and must have taken many hours to create. Some were given as a love token and no doubt treasured.

The sticks would generally have been tucked into a belt, or maybe the top of a skirt or trousers. They all have a hole which allows one knitting needle to be held without using the hand. This stick was generally on the person's right so that hand remained free to do other things, whilst the left hand would continue knitting with the other needle supported by the stick. It's amazing really! Sarah told us how groups of women would meet up to knit and quite often they would do so in the dark! That doesn't help my excuse as to why I can't see to knit!! We heard songs that some of these knitters sang whilst knitting and heard that one gave them the timing to knit twenty rows - or in my case, probably one!!

Of course, the truly amazing thing is that a lot of knitting was actually done 'on the move' which in my mind puts these men and women very high on a list of talented individuals! To be able to walk, knit and possibly herd animals at the same time is quite amazing!

The Dales is an area well-known for its knitting sticks, particularly Dent, but they were also used elsewhere in the north and Scotland. The Museum has a large collection and we were encouraged to go along and see them for ourselves, although Sarah had brought a selection with her to show the differing styles and shapes, from the very basic to the very ornate.

All in all, it was a really interesting talk which was followed by notices of our various events and the opportunity sign up for those we wished to participate in

Karen Prudden

High Dales - Save the Dates

The High Dales group of WIs comprises the Bainbridge and Thoraby local WIs. The group organises two or three social events each year, organised by a committee of six (three from each WI). These are self-funding and do not aim to make a profit. For 2025 there will be a treasure hunt in June and cookery demonstration in the autumn.

Please save the date of **25th June** for the treasure hunt. We are still working on the details but can tell you that you will pick up question sheets between 5.30 and 6pm from Bainbridge Village Hall and then travel in your cars to a 'mystery' location approximately 4 miles from Bainbridge. A light supper will be served back at the hall at 8pm.

Nicola Robinson

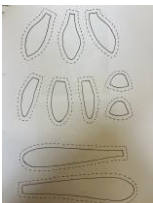
Appliqué patchwork workshop at Alma House 11th February 2025

We have an active craft group at Bainbridge W.I. with a regular monthly craft and chat plus in-house workshops and external tutors giving us workshops too. When we saw our Federation offering an Appliqué workshop, three of us decided it was worth the 72 miles round trip to attend.



Two of us had sensibly seen the materials required and bought them on one of our trips out to a fabric warehouse in January, whereas I relied on getting materials from the tutor when we got there. Thank goodness Anne Starkey our tutor had come prepared 😊

It was a fully booked course with WI members from across our Federation area. It was lovely to meet other members and chat about our programmes and activities. We got started with a handout showing the 2 options we were creating. A simpler design with snowdrops and a more complex design with wild flowers. I chose the snowdrops whereas Anne and Alison had come prepared with their fabric to create the wild flowers appliqué.



I really enjoyed the next step which involved interpreting the instructions for snowdrops with reference to the picture.

I decided to recreate all 5 snowdrops on a basic background of a blue sky and a green grass, so quite a bit of tracing shapes and laying out on the fabric to make best use of the materials. Lots of pressing on of the stiffening fabric bondaweb to fuse the backing to the fabric, we then had to accurately cut all the shapes out.

Everyone was happy to get to the stage where we were able to start constructing the shapes and sewing them onto the backing. Who'd have thought

lunchtime would come so quickly. Another chance to chat and have a quick look around to see how others were getting on:

By the end of the afternoon I had tacked and pinned the snowdrops onto my background fabrics.



I was pleased to have got this far and know that there's lots more stitching to be done. Plus a decision whether to frame it as a work of arts or make it into a useful cushion cover. Either way it will be a lovely moments of the chilly spring day I spent with friends having fun crafting 😊

Sue Stokes

Craft and Chat

Anne, Liz, Gill and Alison had a lovely morning at Sycamore Hall on Saturday 29th March at the Craft and Chat.



The next session is on Saturday 3rd May. Please join us and bring whatever craft you are working on. We love to share ideas and look forward to seeing you. If you'd like to demonstrate your favourite crafting, that would be very welcome or just come and join us for tea and biscuits.

There is a quilting workshop on 19th April, Sycamore Hall, 10am - 3pm with the Quilting Sisters. Members will be finishing off their cushions, but if you would like to have a go at machine quilting you are welcome to come along, cost £15 if you didn't sign up for the full course. Please contact Linda Cameron or Sue Stokes for details and what to bring.

Alison Thwaite

Garden Group



Our March meeting was a trip to Durham to visit Crook Hall Gardens. Nine members went travelling in three cars. We were blessed with a sunny day although there was a cool breeze. The garden was

interesting and is set in the grounds of a Grade 1 listed medieval hall. We saw several different species of daffodils and the camellias were just starting to flower. After looking round the interlinking gardens we had



lunch in the tea room. Seven members then joined a National Trust volunteer for a guided historical walk round Durham.



We were each given a copy of a map of Durham dated 1856. Our guide, David, was very knowledgeable about the history and architecture of Durham. This was a very enjoyable outing.



Our next Garden Club meeting is a visit to Clifton Castle gardens near Masham on Sunday 6th April. This is the home of Lord and Lady Downshire. The garden is open as part of the National Garden Scheme and is open from 2-pm to 5-pm. The cost is £7-00 per person and it is a "cashless garden" so please bring a bank card. We will be car sharing again so please let me know if you would like to go and if you are prepared to drive. If it is raining the visit will be cancelled however the garden will open again on 6th July.

Susan Freer

IT Club

We have paused the monthly IT Club sessions but please let me know if you would like a group or individual session on any IT topic - I am happy to do ad hoc sessions if there is demand.

Nicola Robinson

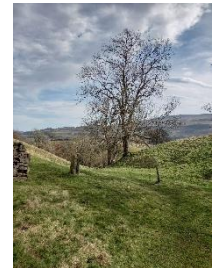
Walking Group

On the first Wednesday of March it was a dry, cool day, a little cloudy as we started out but our walk ended with lovely blue skies.



The walk took us through varied scenery - open fields from West Burton and then a steady climb up to Aysgarth passing a few

lamb, crossing down to the church, on the way we had a close-up view of the progress of the development of the camping pods at the Falls Hotel, through the church yard and along the river. The final leg took us along the back of Sorrelsykes and across the fields to West Burton and welcome refreshments of



scones and coffee in the village shop.

Do join us for our next outing in Wharfedale on Wednesday

2 April - meeting at the Woodland Trust carpark in Grass Woods - we will do a circuit of the woods then across the fields to Grassington where there is plenty of choice for refreshments, from there we walk along the river side back to the car park. Our usual distance of 4 - 5 miles. If you would like to join us, please let me know and I will send you the location of the car park, we will arrange car sharing where possible

Nicola Robinson

Theatre Group

Theatre Club enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Georgian Theatre Richmond in March. It feels like returning to see an old friend after having done the behind-the-scenes tour with WI last year.

The Inn at the Top - Tales of Life in the Highest Pub in England, written by Neil Hanson, follows the downs and literal 'ups' of a young, well-meaning yet incompetent couple who become landlords of the highest and remotest pub in the Yorkshire Dales – The Tan Hill Inn. Packed with hilarious stories and lively local characters, the ten Castle Players cleverly transformed the stage into the Inn, complete with critical locals, lock-ins, visits from tax inspectors, and a novel way of getting rid of rats

Although maybe not word perfect, the actors took on their various multiple roles with enthusiasm which even included one wearing a Swaledale sheep outfit and being judged for the Tan Hill Swaledale Sheep Show, which has been held at the Inn for over 70 years. Who would have thought the colour of legs was so important...?

With just a few props, the stage was transformed into events like the rowdy bus journey to court after the landlords and customers were caught red-handed by the local constabulary serving booze and drinking after hours. The fines they all received were greeted with great cheer as they sang themselves hoarse all the way back to Tan Hill.

And when the hapless landlord decides to explore the mine, entry to which was just behind the pub (Tan Hill was once known as the Kings Pit Inn and coal was first dug here in the 12th century), the cast cleverly use torches to illuminate the stage while making the clicks water would make falling from stalactites down the mine, to create a wonderful gloomy atmosphere as the landlord, unravelling his ball of string so he didn't get lost, goes further and further into the mine until he realises he's slowly running out, not of string, but of air! A really clever bit of staging.

All in all a hilarious production and there was always time at the end for another rousing verse of 'Beautiful Dale, Home of the Swale' that had the whole audience singing. A fitting tribute to survival and to celebrating the beauty as well as the remoteness of our wonderful landscape. There's always time for another verse so I hope you will join me... 'I will sing of a place that is dear to my heart, A place where I always would dwell... '

And a future outing for you to consider...

Savoy Catterick Garrison:

MACBETH: David Tennant & Cush Jumbo

David Tennant and Cush Jumbo lead an amazing cast in a new production of Shakespeare's MACBETH, filmed live at the Donmar Warehouse in London, especially for the big screen. In this tragic tale of love and murder, the immersive cinema surround sound will place the audience inside the minds of the Macbeths, asking are we ever really responsible for our actions? Are we brave enough to watch?

Show times are midday or 8pm on Wed 23 April. Car shares to be organised. Show lasts around 2hrs. 20 mins of adverts before showtimes given.

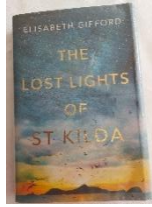
If you are interested in going, please email alysonjones@hotmail.com and state which performance you would prefer.

Alyson Jones

Book Club

The next meeting will be held at Sheepscar, Thornton Rust, on Thursday 3rd April at 7-30 pm

The book we will be discussing is "The Lost Lights of St Kilda" by Elisabeth Gifford. Please can members bring their copies of the book so that they can be returned to the library. Our next read is "The Moment I Saw You" by Paige Toon.



This is Christine's choice of title and sounds intriguing!

Susan Freer

Paying for Events and Activities

Please make payment promptly for any events and activities you have signed up for. We are only able to confirm bookings after payment has been received. Please make sure you have read the conditions regarding cancellation and refunds.

Our preferred method of payment is BACS (online payment) to:

Account name: Bainbridge WI
Bank: Virgin Money
Account number: 25405645
Sort Code: 05 09 94
Reference: the name of the event/activity

Alternatively, you can pay by cheque: please write on the reverse of the cheque:

- your full name
- details of the event/activity the payment is for

If you wish to pay 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

We thank you for your cooperation with this, it enables us to keep a proper audit trail of moneys received.

Lunch Club

After a lovely ride over to Sedbergh, we arrived at the Golf Club to a warm welcome. This is the third visit, the food is always excellent. We did have to pre-order, but this means all is ready when we arrive, and the chef can ensure he has all the food in.

We settled ourselves at our table in the dining room, overlooking the golf course on a lovely, sunny day. There were eight of us, our food came swiftly and was delicious, as usual. We were impressed by the size of the portions and the quality of the food so there was little hesitation in "tucking in". We had to admire Christine who had ordered fish and chips but got what looked like a battered whale!! It was so big, it hung off both sides of her plate - however, this didn't deter her and she didn't need the 'doggy bag' we were ready to request!

Despite the fact that we had all commented on how much food we had got, we still managed to find space for a pudding! It would seem a shame not to try the offerings on the menu! If all else failed we could always have a round of golf to work off some of the calories!!

Needless to say, we enjoyed plenty of chat and laughter over our meal and came home very satisfied.

The next meal is Wednesday 30th April, at 5pm, please note the time, at The Bay Horse, Ravensworth, near Richmond. So many restaurants do not open for lunch, but open earlier in the evening. So 5pm is when we can arrive.

I am assured the food is excellent, so do join us, cars will be organised. We will have to pre order. We will have copies of the menu, but you can check them yourself on the website thebayhorseravensworth.co.uk/sample-menu

We already have many names but you can add yours at the April WI meeting, or contact Anne Harrison 01969 663381.

Anne Harrison and Karen Prudden

The Calendar Girls

To celebrate 25 years since the publication of their first calendar, Yorkshire North West Federation organised a walk, talk and lunch with the original Calendar Girls of Rylstone WI.



We met up for coffee and biscuits at Linton Memorial Hall. 44 members set out on the walk of 4 miles around the peaceful rolling hills and dales of Linton, as far as the Linton Falls and the hydro electric plant,



including a browse around Linton Church. We were blessed with perfect weather for walking - dry and sunny but not too hot. A few other members stayed in the hall and did a Calendar Girls themed quiz.

By 12.30 we were ready for the tasty lunch of soup and sweet (Mushroom, Roast pepper and tomato, or lentil soups, roulade or cheesecake sweets) - all delicious, and all homemade by Federation trustees and helpers.

So, exercised and fed it was time for the main event - four of 'the real calendar girls' gave us a potted history of the calendar with funny and heartwarming tales of events arising from its publication - from the unprecedented worldwide success of the calendar itself, the film and stage show that followed, and the people they met. How lovely it was to hear all this and see the very close and strong friendship these 'girls' still have.

Claire, Liz and Nicola

The Learning Hub

In celebration of International Women's day on 6th March there was a special drawing club with Felicity on the Learning hub. So I set up at Sycamore Hall with my art supplies. There was a a good attendance across the UK, sadly not at Bainbridge. However, once we got going via Felicity's on screen instructions, we were talked through the steps and shown how to balance the figure in the page. Obviously I had no rulers to create the windowsill for my person to sit on but I enjoyed the creative side and especially designing the pattern for the skirt. The message to "Accelerate Action" made me think of all our WI campaigns and Bainbridge WI's vote for Bystanders can be lifesavers. If anyone is interested in getting training on first aid and using defibrillators then please let us know.



Look out for the next sketch club when the subject is "Cocktails" with Julie Sajous on Wednesday 16th April at 3-4pm via the Learning hub. You can book yourself on and join this at home or come to Sycamore Hall and join me there.

Following on from Tilo's learning hub talk about Durham in February, I was delighted when Susan Freer organised for our garden group to visit Crook Hall gardens plus a walking tour with a National Trust guide around Durham. So lovely to have the company and sunshine☺ On 24th March Tilo's talk had 74 attendees. We toured Kyoto in Japan where we discovered the Imperial Palace and Kyoto Sento Imperial palace (for retired Emperors) Nijo Castle which had it's own outer and inner palaces and gardens. There are many shrines, markets and amazing gardens. Here you find at this time of year the beautiful cherry blossom trees that we all associate with Japanese art and botany. We learnt about some Geishas, festivals and various buildings including a number of Temples. Lots of historic buildings remain despite earthquakes and typhoons.

Some Japanese customs such as the dancing at Nishi Honganji having paper doors, Saki and

Geisha's were all covered. Then after whisking us through more gardens and on various form os transport such as trains and boats Tilo surprised us ending his talk with an expected the Japanese are very polite, followed by how they have Musical toilets with high chairs in them to help Mum's accommodate their babies?! So from shrines and temples to toilet humour....

A fantastically informative talk – yet another place to add to my bucket list ☺

I still can't believe how many free courses we can do on the Learning hub; it's just a case of being selective so I can fit my choices in. We could never have achieved this number of workshops without accessing them on-line. How lucky are we? If you need help signing up let us know at a monthly meeting or email <https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk/>

Sue Stokes

Kynren - Group Trip 9 August

We are organising a group trip to the Kynren show, please let Sue Stokes know if you would like to go.

Kynren – An Epic Tale of England is the UK's ultimate live-action spectacular, a must-see for anyone seeking unforgettable entertainment. Travel through 2,000 years of history in a single unforgettable evening! Watch as legends come to life – Vikings storm ashore, battles rage, and heroes rise beneath a sky ablaze with magic and fire. In 2025, celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Locomotion No.1, the world's first passenger steam train, with a spectacular full-scale replica roaring into action in this epic tale. Experience the thunder



of Roman chariots, the majesty of jousting knights, and poignant echoes of history's greatest triumphs and tragedies. With breathtaking stunts, stunning special effects, and a cast and crew of a thousand, Kynren will leave you inspired and amazed!

Sue Stokes

Programme Corrections

There were a couple of typing mistakes on the printed programme given out at the Christmas Lunch. Please can you make a note of the following corrections:

The June meeting is on the 19th, NOT the 29th

The December meeting is on the 18th, NOT the 19th.

Thank you



Happy Birthday



Many Happy Returns to

Jean Dakin,

Anne Izard and Carolyn Rukin



Newsletter entries

If you wish to have an article included in our newsletter, please send it by email to bainbridgewinewsletter@gmail.com. If you do not use email, then please pass your entries to one of the committee members.

Hold the Back Page by Karen Prudden

This month, I am reflecting on a tragic situation that has sent shockwaves around the community.

Early on 21st March, there was a tragic accident in Bainbridge when a full animal feed lorry failed to negotiate the bend onto the bridge over the River Bain, crashing through the wall and ending up in the river, just a short distance from the bottom of our garden! Tragically, the young driver did not survive this accident and we have no idea how it happened.

However, as in any such circumstances it has brought out the best and worst in people. Many were ready to step up and try to help or provide refreshment etc for those called to help. But there were also those who appeared to do very little except waste time and not really help the situation.

Whilst it goes without saying that most local people would not think twice to offer help in such circumstances, those who are paid to do a job appeared less than good value for money!

There were many agencies involved, naturally, and most were of use and did their best. However, there is one that stands out as seemingly doing next to nothing as far as we could see! That was the Environment Agency who sent out two vans with staff, presumably to assess the impact of this accident on the river. They were there all day, and indeed most of the night, but their efforts seemed minimal and eventually pointless.

As you can imagine, a lorry full of animal feed, falling from a height of about 20 feet deposited its load straight into the river. Alongside that was the fuel and oil etc from the lorry which was also leaking into the river. Given that we are supposed to be protecting our water courses and wildlife, we were somewhat horrified to see just how little effort the Environment Agency staff put into caring for our River Bain on that day.

From our garden we could smell the fuel from the lorry and, in the right light, could see it creating a 'film' on the surface of the water. Along with this, was the strong smell of the animal feed which clearly started to break down when it hit the water. It was not pleasant!

After many hours of discussions and planning, the lorry was eventually removed from the river late at night, causing more damage to the bridge and riverbank. However, there appeared to be no attempts to remove

the animal food or prevent the fuel etc from flowing down the river and into the Ure. The following day, it was also possible to see bits of the lorry and contents of the driver's cab in the river - again with no attempt to collect these up.

We were extremely disappointed that the Environment Agency appeared to have given up all effort to clean up the river and indeed, to this day, there is still animal feed and detritus in the river and on the bank.

So, just who is responsible for clearing this up? Well, I am guessing that if any of us caused such a mess and it was reported to the Environment Agency, we would be in trouble and told to clear it up or potentially face a fine. Not only is some of this damaging to the environment, but it is also not a pleasant reminder of the accident. We were therefore relieved when two Police Officers came along two days later to clear up the worst of the detritus in the riverbank prior to a large party of family and friends arriving to lay flowers and pay their respects.

I suspect that, if we were to appeal to local residents to help clear up the area, we would have a good number turn up, but I tend to think that in this instance we were relying on the official services to do that. I must be mistaken!

Perhaps they were just there to fill in a report and then go away and file it?! This appears to be how a lot of organisations operate these days! Perhaps clearing that mess is easier than repairing the bridge and I am waiting to see just how long it takes the various agencies to agree on how and when that will happen! I wouldn't mind betting it will be several months during which we will endure all the moaning and groaning of the inconvenience.

Anyway, all that aside, I am sure you can imagine that the whole incident was traumatic and every time I now look in the river, I see the lorry and reflect on the day that changed a family's lives. It is so easy to forget that it literally takes a split second for a life to change or indeed end. Perhaps every now and then it is a good thing to be reminded of that, although that is very sad and a hard way to learn. but I think we are sometimes so busy 'doing' that we forget just how precious life is and don't actually 'live' it as we should.

Let this be our reminder and let that young man have not died in vain!