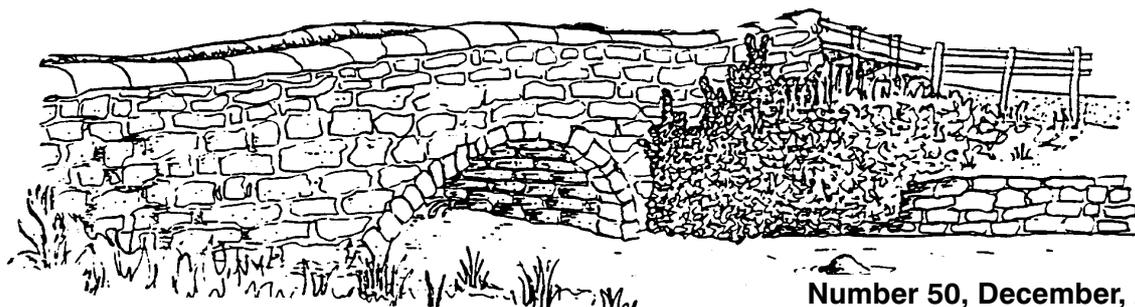


CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Number 50, December, 2007

CLAPHAM CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL Report of Meeting held 20th November, 2007

NEXT MEETING – the Council has decided to hold an extra meeting in Clapham Village Hall on Tuesday, 11 December, 2007 at 7.30pm in order to consider a planning application submitted by McGee Homes Ltd, for the redevelopment of the former Dalesview Garage site on Old Road, Clapham. The proposal is for 30 dwellings of which 12 will be affordable units, with associated public open space, highway improvements and landscaping.

Another plan will be considered in respect of the conversion of an existing stone barn into workspace with living accommodation at Scalemire.

FINANCE – the Council has set the Precept at £4700 for the year commencing 1st April, 2008. It has also decided to donate the sum of £75 to Clapham Park Association to cover the cost of the recent RoSPA safety inspection. A decision on any other donations will be taken towards the end of the current financial year.

PARISH PLAN – three successful open days have been held. Thanks are due to all members of the Steering group and working groups for their hard work.

PARISH NOTICE BOARD at Keasden cross roads – this is in poor condition and enquiries are underway regarding its repair. (The parish council is grateful to the Methodist Church authorities in Newby for allowing the posting of Parish Council notices on the Chapel notice board).

Our 50th issue

This is the 50th issue of the newsletter. The first newsletter was produced in September, 1999 and was usually 6–8 pages, and now eight years on, we have just produced our biggest issue so far, with 20 pages of local news and advertisements.

CHURCHYARD – following advice that the path was slippery. Cllr John Dawson cleaned it and the Council is grateful to him for his ready assistance in this regard.

HIGHWAYS – proposed no waiting at any time on the verges alongside the B6480 and the IN61R – formal notices now posted.

GRAVESTONES – the Council has undertaken its annual inspection and three stones have been identified as needing attention. A further report is awaited.

NEXT MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL – As mentioned above – an extra meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 11th December, 2007. Also, please note that the meeting scheduled for 15th January, 2008 has been put back one week and will now be held on Tuesday, 22nd January. Meetings have then been scheduled for 18th March 2008, the Annual Parish Meeting being held on the same date and 13th May, 2008 when the Annual Statutory Meeting of the Council will also be held.

Meetings commence at 7.30pm. They are held in Clapham Village Hall and everybody is welcome.

United Carols

This year's Clapham, Newby & Keasden United Carol Service is on Sunday, 16th December at 7pm, in the Chapel at Newby. The Children from Clapham School will be taking part and coffee & mince pies will be served after the service. Everyone is very welcome.



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The Vicar writes . . .

Jesus, the Light of the world'

Advent comes at the darkest time of the year. During the Advent season is the shortest day and the time when darkness seems to triumph over light. This is one of the reasons we choose to light candles and, as the darkness increases, we light even more candles. There are four Sundays in Advent and as the Sundays go by, we light more candles until 4 are lit and then 5 when it comes to Christmas.

We light the first when we give thanks for all who have gone before us in the faith, from Abraham up to the present day. When the second candle is lit we give thanks for people of vision, especially for the prophets. It is harder to think of people of vision but you could include those who you think have improved our world.

The third candle is lit for a single person, John the Baptist reminding us to listen as he says '*Prepare the way of the Lord*'. The fourth candle is for Mary, the mother of Jesus. Because Mary said 'Yes' to God, Jesus could be born in the world. As disobedience separates us from God, to obey brings us closer to him. Though God can do all things, he wants us to work with him, and that is how his kingdom comes on earth.

The candles can be seen to represent faith (of our ancestors), hope through vision (of the prophets), repentance and preparation (as with the message of John the Baptist), and obedience (as that of Mary), but above all, they tell us of the light that shines in the darkness of our world. Jesus is the light of the world. May we all walk in his light this advent, this Christmas and throughout 2008.

*Every blessing,
Ian.*

CHURCH SERVICES

Clapham St. James

Sunday, 16th December

Christingle Service at 11.00a.m.
Carols & Lessons, Newby Chapel at 7.00p.m.

Sunday, 23rd December

Holy Communion at 11.00a.m.

Christmas Eve

Crib Service at 5.00p.m.
Midnight Mass at 11.30p.m.

No service Christmas Day

Sunday, 30th December

United Service at 11.00a.m.

KEASDEN CHURCH

16th December

No service at Keasden. Carols & lessons at Newby Chapel at 7.00p.m.

23rd December

Carols & Lessons at 6.45p.m.

Christmas Day

Holy Communion at 11.00a.m.

CAROL SINGING

at which everyone is welcome to join us.

Saturday 15th December

Walk and carols at Ingleborough Cave, meet at Clapham Church 10.45a.m.

Tuesday 18th December

Newby at 6.30p.m.

Wednesday 19th December

Clapham at 6.30p.m.

Thursday 20th December

Keasden at 6.30p.m.

Saturday 22nd December

Carols & Mulled wine at The Traddock Hotel at 6.00p.m.

COFFEE MORNING

You are welcome to a coffee morning at Wyvern, Newby the home of Sue & Marilyn, on Saturday morning, 8th December 10a.m. to 12noon.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

by Steeton Male Voice Choir.

On Saturday 15th December at 7.30p.m. The Steeton Male Voice Choir will be performing in Clapham Church. This will be the first time this very popular Choir has visited Clapham and we are looking forward to a lovely evening. Tickets are available from Church members, Sue Mann and the Village Shop at a cost of £6 including wine and mince pies, (Children £4).

Christian Shelter for the Homeless in Lancaster.

The collection of non-perishable food, warm bedding and winter clothing is being made now at the back of the Church. Please note the final collection date is Sunday 16th December. The shelter has real need for these goods and they are very much appreciated.

EPIPHANY PARTY. Saturday 5th January 2008 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall. Anyone in Clapham, Newby and Keasden is invited but numbers are limited to 80 so please take tickets as soon as possible. (P.C.C.members). Supper is Jacob's Join. Please bring your own drinks and glasses and we hope to repeat the happy time we had last year.



Christmas Greetings



The following readers send Christmas Greetings
to their friends in Clapham & District

Gordi, Janet, Emma,
Sarah & Laura
Home Farmhouse

David & Denise
Sawmill Cottage

Richard & Justina
Fall View

Rosie & Ray
Park View Cottage

Liz & Eric
Clareson

Gus & Ann
Eggshell Lane

Gerald & Dianne
South View

Brian & Doreen
Newby

Annie
Hall Garth Cottage

Stuart & Sheila
Flying Horseshoes Cottage

Margaret & Tom
The Green

Ian & the Girls
Jaques Farm

Ron & Denise
The Station House



Chris & Chrissie
Gildersbank

Jill & Eddie
Long Barn

Lesley & David
Gildersbank

The Daniels family
Gildersbank

Stuart & Barbara
Old Manor House
The Green

Alan & family
Brookhouse Café

Susan & Norman
Limefold House

Bethel Chapel
Cross Haw Lane

Isobel & John
The Green

Glenys & Mavis
Gilgen

Christine & Martin
Bedale

Sandra & Earl
Ingleton

Val & Eddie
Hill View

John & Ann
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PARISH PLAN – UPDATE

On 17th and 18th November and 1st December people who live in the civil parish of Clapham cum Newby (with Keasden) had a chance to see the parish through the children's eyes. Many of the children at Clapham School participated in the camera project over the summer holidays and the results have been on display at the Parish Open Days held in Newby, Clapham and Keasden.

Subjects that caught the children's attention ranged from fly tipping in Keasden through muddy and overgrown footpaths to the desire for more equipment in the playing field at Clapham.

This wonderful exhibition together with a series of thought provoking displays on the environment, social issues, community facilities etc. stimulated a lot of visitors to add their own comments, questions and issues.

The information and views gathered at the open days will be used to draw up a questionnaire that focuses on the key issues which have been identified by the community for the community. The questionnaires, which can be completed anonymously, will be delivered early next year to each household in the

civil parish by members of the Parish Plan Working Groups and arrangements will be made to collect the completed forms.

The Parish Plan project will then move into the next phase of analysing the results of the questionnaire and drafting a Parish Plan for Regular updates on the progress will be included in the Clapham village newsletter.

If you would like to talk or comment on the Parish Plan, or were unable to attend one of the open days but would like to have your say, please contact a member of the Steering Group:

Chrissie Bell	01524251610
Jill Buckler	01524251030
John Dawson	015242 51350
Jim Hall	01524251232
David Kingsley	01524251240
Eddie Leggett	01524251030
Colin Price	01524251349
Richard Sexton	01524251593
Denise Wilson	01524251104

Nicola Saward

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New Gas Pipeline Completed

The new gas pipeline which crosses Clapham and Newby was commissioned at the beginning of October. The work on it was very noticeable as it wended its way across the parish but soon there will be little trace of it because the constructors have been careful to return the topsoil, replant hedgerows and restore dry stone walls.

The pipeline forms part of a new link to carry gas from a terminal at Easington on the East Yorkshire coast across to the North West. It will be capable of carrying 20% of the UK's gas requirements. The gas comes from the Ormen Lange gas field off the coast of Norway and reaches the UK via the longest sub-sea pipeline ever constructed. It was necessary to build it as the UK's own supplies of natural gas are now insufficient



The drystone wall on Station Road repaired and no trace of the pipework to be seen

to supply all our needs. It will eventually connect with other sections of pipe which run from Scotland down each side of the country, allowing imported gas to be moved to areas of the UK where it is most needed. Regrettably there is still no supply for Clapham and Newby!

C M Bell

Plastic Waste Disposal

The site for recycling plastic waste at Whitefriars Car Park, Settle is for the following bottles only: fizzy/water, milk containers, shampoo/conditioner, bleach/detergent and washing up liquids.

They do not want margarine tubs, ready meal trays, plastic bags, yoghurt pots or cling film.

AUCTION SUCCESS

Seventy lots were donated for an Auction of Promises to raise funds for Clapham's Early Years group. The auction raised £1,600 and the whole event went on to make £1,820 in total. Ruth Woodhouse was thanked for organising the event and has now stood down as chairman of the committee.

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VILLAGE PEOPLE

Valerie Potter, Clapham's Windmill Girl

You may have met Valerie at the village shop or the church or via the social activities in the village hall. She is always so friendly, smiling and unassuming. You may know that she is the widow of John who was a vicar and you may have assumed that her life has been an endless quiet round of vicarage tea parties, coffee after Matins and smiling nicely at village fetes. You would be wrong. As the Sunday tabloids might say, "All will be revealed". Valerie was born eighty years ago on a tea plantation high up in the hills of Ceylon, in the days before it was renamed Sri Lanka. Her father was the manager of the plantation and her mother was a teacher.

Valerie was the third of four children and the only girl. She recalls being taught at home by her mother, visiting the tea factory with its huge packing cases, developing a terror of snakes and enjoying the perfect climate, except the monsoons, as she rode round the plantation on a donkey.

The family returned to England when Valerie was seven. She still remembers the fear of her first day at a private school but that feeling was soon replaced by the enjoyment of some outstanding music lessons and the chance to learn French at an early age. She loved her early years at the local high school but Hitler intervened and she was evacuated to Little Langdale for a year when war broke out. Valerie was wildly patriotic and she yearned to join the WRENS but, just before she could do so, they increased the entry age so she decided to train as an occupational therapist at Chalk Farm in London. Her first job was in St Albans where she helped many patients, mostly injured servicemen, who had been sent from Bart's hospital in London to escape the bombing. On one occasion she finished her shift at midday on Saturday and dashed to Twickenham by train and tube to watch England play Scotland. By the time she arrived the match was under way and the gates were locked so she borrowed a bike standing nearby, leaned it against the wall, hitched up her skirt and climbed over.

She gained promotion and became Head of Department at the Central Middlesex Hospital, London and it was during her time there that she enjoyed her brief appearance as a Windmill girl. Valerie was preparing for a quiet Saturday night in as her flat mate set off for a party. An hour or so later she returned to say that as part of the treasure hunt at the party she had to find a windmill girl. You cannot find them easily so Valerie agreed to be made up using the 'cosmetics' available, including shoe polish and she returned with her to the party in the pub. You will not be surprised to know that she carried off the role convincingly for the rest of the evening. Alas

there was no contract offer from the Tiller Girls and so she decided, after four years in London, that it was time to put her French to good use in Brussels where she worked in the main accident centre for two years. Her next job was in Chelsea and this was followed by a post in Rhodesia as the matron at a school where her brother was the headteacher. In addition to her routine duties, Valerie had to learn the emergency procedures in case a boy was bitten by a snake. This involved cutting near the bite and rubbing in the antidote. She also had to teach the boys not to bully or look down on the Africans. Her three years in Africa gave her the opportunity to travel to Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania where she went up Kilimanjaro.

She then obtained a job in an equally exotic location: Rochdale. The vicar at her local church was John, formerly the curate at a church in Chelsea which Valerie had attended. They wasted little time in renewing the friendship and four months later they were engaged. In 1962, after six months' engagement, they married and moved to Sevenoaks in Kent where their only daughter, Caroline, was born in 1965. It was a particularly busy and anxious time learning to be a vicar's wife and a mum because Caroline suffered from asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia. John became an RE teacher, initially in Rugby and later, because they both wanted to head north, in Rochdale. They bought Bridge Cottage where Valerie lived with Caroline whilst John spent weekdays in Rochdale. Later, when John was appointed vicar of Stainforth, they moved there and let out their cottage for ten years.

John retired in 1987 so they came back to Clapham, but their hope of spending days walking the fells were dashed by John's heart problems which led to his death in 2000. Valerie has kept herself busy doing craft work, reading and walking as well as doing work for various organisations, including the Lib-Dems and Age Concern. Valerie loves the friendliness of Clapham and I enjoyed hearing of her experiences but I could not help speculating how different it might have been. As a very young woman she was travelling to work on a packed tube train which was blacked out in wartime, as were the stations. 'Where are we, miss?' asked a handsome young soldier, peering into the blackness at a station. "Angel," replied Valerie. He blushed deeply and turned away in embarrassment, thinking that Valerie was too forward. If only he had known it was a station, who knows what the conversation would have led to.

Stuart Marshall

A NEW ENTRANCE FOR THE CLAPHAM TRAIL

Set at the head of the village, the Clapham Nature Trail has for many decades been a major attraction for visitors and residents alike. Leading to the Ingleborough Cave a mile and a quarter away via a beautiful lakeside walk and then a gradual climb with great views, it can then be continued on to Gaping Gill pothole and many of the main walking tours of Ingleborough, and is a very popular and well trod route.

The entrance to the start of the walk has until now followed quite a circuitous route, heading away from the trail initially, to lead the visitor past the Sawmill Cottage and old lumber yard and then reversing direction back to the Nature Trail past the automatic coin operated toll machine to rejoin the main path on the Trail upwards to the lake. This imposed detour was originally put into place to facilitate the collection of trail fees, which at one time were literally collected by hand from the cottage, the automatic ticket machine being a relatively recent innovation.

It has been decided that this somewhat unnecessary detour through the cottage yard should go, and the old, more direct pathway through the gates, "bricked up" for many years, reinstated.

The automatic "toll" machine will be moved to follow this change, and the new entrance will be much more direct and certainly with regard to safety much more satisfactory, especially for families with young children or handicapped individuals who at the moment have to pass through a sometimes busy yard with old uneven steps to turn back on themselves to access the trail. It will also afford a good deal more privacy for Dave in his cottage who's role as a ticket collector is nowadays obviously redundant.

Volunteers from the village have carried out the work of re-instating the gateway and levelling and re-surfacing the new pathway, erecting fence posts etc. (see photos) and all being well the work should be completed before Christmas. It will definitely give a much more direct and safer entrance, as well as opening up a beautiful view of the large Sequoia tree framed in the gate entrance as the visitor approaches the start of the Trail.

Mike Cornwell



The old entrance that has been blocked off for many years

Bethel Chapel

Here is a list of our Christmas Celebrations, please feel free to come along if you can.

December 6th at 2.30pm

Christmas Carols & Tea. Taken by Mr. E. Park & Friends

December 8th & 9th

Chapel Anniversary Weekend

Taken by Mr. Alec Passmore, Special singing

December 8th at 7.30pm

Refreshments

Sunday, 9th December at 11.00am and 6.30pm

December 13th at 7.30pm

Christmas Celebration. Taken by The Shepherd's Choir of Bentham. Refreshments

Freewill Offering for Macmillan Nurses

December 21st at 9.30 am to 11.00am

Mums & Tots Christmas Party

December 23rd

Christmas Nativity at 11.00am

Carol Service at 6.30 pm

Coffee and Mince Pies

December 25th at 10.30am

Christmas Day Service

December 31st from 7.30pm

New Years Eve Party & Watch Night Service

Everyone welcome

*Bethel Chapel would like to wish
all their friends and neighbours
a Happy Christmas and
a Happy New Year.*

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APPLE DAY 'TWO' AT GROWING WITH GRACE

On Saturday, October 13th we again celebrated National apple day at Growing with Grace, our local organic farm.

Having attended last year and been suitably impressed by the sheer variety of this very common but under-rated fruit available outside of our more common supermarket sources . . . perfectly edible, but extremely bland . . . I once again visited the small exhibition put on by GwG together with Middle Wood Organic farm, situated in Roeburndale, and once again was pleasantly surprised by the “new” array of apple varieties on offer both to sample and purchase.

The very texture and taste of such “non-mainstream” fruit alone made the short trip worthwhile, let alone the exotic stories behind the origins of some of the varieties on display.

One piece of ancient lore especially caught the imagination . . . the variety in question receiving the epitaph “Bloody” in it’s name as it’s origins were apparently due to the wife of a poacher rescuing a bag of apples from a dump they had been thrown on by her husband on the night he subsequently was caught in his nefarious activities and shot dead by a gamekeeper, hence preserving the continuance of the strain!

Even from less macabre origins, the varieties on display from Cox’s Pippins to Russet were a real treat and once again it was a small but very enjoyable and informative celebration of our favourite fruit, the Apple

A Few More Apple Facts

7500 varieties of apples are grown throughout the world.

Apples are fat, sodium, and cholesterol free.

A medium apple is about 80 calories
Most apples are still picked by hand in the autumn.

Apple varieties range in size from a little larger than a cherry to as large as a grapefruit

Apples are a member of the rose family.

Mike Cornwell



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Church Rotas

The brass, flower and refreshment rotas are now being prepared for 2008.

Should you wish to add your name to the current list or perhaps reserve a particular date, please advise the PCC secretary as soon as possible.

CLAPHAM WHIST GROUP

The Clapham Whist Group meet on Friday evenings in the Village Hall at 7.30p.m. All money made goes to chosen charities. We have recently donated £100 each to Anley Hall, Settle, the Ingleborough at Ingleton and the Air Ambulance.

Throughout the year we have made donations of £900

The dates for future whist drives are

December 14th, 21st and 28th

January 11th, 18th and 25th

February 8th, 15th and 22nd.

Everyone is welcome.

PCC Meeting 10th January

The main agenda item at the next PCC meeting will be the Street Market. A review will be made of this years' event and preliminary planning for the 2008 event. Should you wish to contribute to the discussion please forward your comments to the PCC Secretary (Denise Wilson Tel: 015242 51104. Email: denise.wilson@hotmail.co.uk). By Friday, 4th January.

Clapham Mobile Library

The mobile library van visits Clapham on Wednesday every three weeks. It stops by the bridge opposite the New Inn from 11.25 to 11.45 am., Ingleborough Hall from 11.50 to 12 noon and Clapham Station from 1.20 to 1.30 p.m., Middle Birks, Keasden from 1.45 to 1.55. It also calls at Newby on Tuesdays from 10.25 to 10.40 am.

As well as fiction, non-fiction and children's books it stocks videos and DVDs. The librarian is extremely knowledgeable, helpful and efficient. She can order any book, even if it is not available in the Craven district, from library services elsewhere, and the book can be collected from the mobile library on its next visit, or by arrangement can be picked up from Settle library. This is a very valuable service and one which needs to be used to the full to ensure its survival.

The next visit to Clapham will be on Wednesday, 19th December. Please consider calling that day and becoming a member. It's free. The librarian will give you a printed list of dates and times so you do not have to try to remember them, and you will be able to ensure having plenty of interesting Christmas reading!

Brenda Pearce

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