CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER Number 99, February 2016

End of an era as 100-year-old trees go

A few weeks ago folk travelling along Old Road, near the New Inn, would have seen two tree surgeons hard at work felling a row of tall and slender conifers standing close to the roadside. The falling trees marked the end of an era; they were the last reminders of Clapham's first commercial garage and filling station.

That garage had been erected on the orders of Claude Barton, who was the Farrer family's agent in Clapham for over 40 years. He was the man who supervised the affairs of the Ingleborough Estate on behalf of Mr Farrer; he was a big man in more than one sense.

At the end of the First World War Mr Barton suspected that the days of the big landed estates like Ingleborough were numbered and he feared that soon he might be out of a job. So he prepared an alternative source of income for himself – a commercial garage and filling station. The Old Road was then one of the main roads to Scotland and the north of England, and motor vehicles were driving through Clapham in ever increasing numbers; a garage should catch lots of passing trade, he thought. And Mr Barton was also personally interested in cars and motoring.

He asked Mr Farrer if he could build a garage and was given permission, he could get it built while the Farrers were away. The garage turned out to be 100 feet long, blister-shaped like an aircraft hanger – and black. It was built end-on to Old Road, about where the building site is now.

When the Farrers returned to Clapham they were apparently not best pleased. They might have had in mind something much smaller and less obtrusive. They felt that the big black blister spoiled the view from the hall. They suggested that Mr Barton should plant a row of trees to hide the garage from view.

In 1920 he seems to have planted 30 or 40 Scots pines alongside the wall by the road. Other trees have been added or have seeded themselves, making a long narrow screen between the hall and the garage.

In later years the garage burned down, was rebuilt, then replaced by more modern garage buildings which in 2009 were demolished to make way for housing. The trees survived all these changes – until December 2015, very nearly 100 years.

Ken Pearce



Since this photograph was taken, the stumps of the trees have also been removed



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Clapham Parish Council

4th Tuesday Evening of the month at 7.30 pm



Gillian Muir 51775

Clapham Art Group



Tuesday Evening Linda Clemence 01729 823767



Bowls Monday Afternoons 1.30 am to 4 pm Mrs. Denne 51617

Tiny Tots

Tuesday Mornings 9.30 am to 11 am Tracey Bilton

Whist

Friday Evenings 7.30 pm



Elsie Morphett 07951 295995

Clapham W.I.



2nd Wednesday Evening of the month 7.00 pm

Jill Walker 01729 825358

Tai Chi Thursdays 9 am to 10.30 am



Tony Bennett c/o 51240



1st Wednesday Morning of the month 11 am Brenda Pearce 51816

CHURCH NEWS

The Vicar's thoughts...

Church in The Alps – Zermatt

On St Peter's Day, June 29th, 1869, in the presence of a large crowd of British and American visitors, the foundation stone of the English Church in Zermatt was laid.

The first services were held one year later, and the dedication of the Church, St Peter's, Zermatt, was held on 6th August, 1871, when Bishop Parry, Suffragan Bishop of Dover, went out to perform the ceremony.

Since then the ministry has continued and remains as significant as ever. Zermatt has grown, almost out of recognition. Its permanent population has increased and now includes many non-Swiss, significant numbers of whom are English speaking. Zermatt remains a prime destination for skiers, snowboarders, walkers and climbers, and those who simply want to take in the beautiful scenery.

Chaplain's ministry for the Church has not changed and their work involves meeting and ministering to holiday-makers, resort workers and residents. English speakers from all over the world come to Zermatt and visit the Church to view its plaques and memorials and to find peace and quiet.

'The English Church' is an accurate nickname for St Peter's in that the English built it – but it is by no means a church only for the English, or even Anglicans, as evidenced by the huge variety of people, from many Christian backgrounds, who worship in it. People of every nationality come through its doors and hear about, and have the opportunity to discover, the ever-living Lord.

I was privileged to be Chaplain from 29th December to 11th January and it was magical to be in such a beautiful location to see another aspect of the wonder of Creation – the mountains and the snow are truly unbelievable. I met some lovely people from all over the world and shared in worship with God's family.

As Lent approaches, having time to reflect and ponder the wonder of a living Lord, do try to support some of the Lent Services.

Blessings as ever, Ian

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday, 6th – Special Churches Away Day with Bishop James – 10.00am – 3.00pm in the Friend's Meeting House, Settle. Please let the Vicar know if you intend coming.

Saturday, 6th – **Juke Box Junkies** playing in Austwick Parish Hall, £10.

Lent Services – every Wednesday at 7.30pm. A special service and talk will be held in each of our Churches – do try to support these services as part of your Lent devotions.

Saturday, 13th – **Parish Walk** – meet at Austwick Church at 9.30am

PARISH NOTICES

Church Choir Our Choir was marvellous over Christmas and we now start rehearsals ready for Easter. The first session will be at the Vicarage on Monday, 22 February at 6.30pm. New members are always welcome.

Church Flowers Please add your name to the rota at the back of church if you would like to put flowers in church for a Sunday Service during 2016. The ladies who regularly see to the flowers would be happy to arrange them on your behalf.

Austwick and Clapham Church Book Sales If you're short of a good read you may find what you're looking for at the back of church where there is a good selection of reading material, from hardbacks through to magazines. Please leave a small donation, with all proceeds going towards the upkeep of the church.

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, 7th – 11.00am Holy Communion at Clapham and Keasden. 7.00pm Church in the Pub at the New Inn, Clapham

Ash Wednesday, 10th – 7.30pm Holy Communion at Eldroth

Sunday, 14th – 11.00am Holy Communion at Clapham. 2.00pm Holy Communion at Keasden

Wednesday, 17th – 7.30pm Lent Service at Keasden

Sunday, 21st – 11.00am Holy Communion at Clapham. 7.00pm Evensong at Eldroth

Wednesday, 24th – 7.30pm Lent Service at Newby Methodist

Sunday, 28th – 11.00am Holy Communion at Clapham. 11.00am Family Baptism at Eldroth. 2.00pm Evensong at Keasden

Holy Communion is held in Austwick Church every Wednesday at 10.30am.

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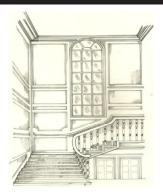
Village Shop opening hours

From Monday, 2nd November will be:

Monday to Wednesday 8am–5.30pm; Thursday 8am–6.30pm; Friday 8am–5.30pm; and Weekends 8am–1.30pm.

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TB or not TB

TB, or, tuberculosis is among the best known bovine diseases and has been much in the news in recent years, partly due to some of the more controversial methods which are being employed in trying to limit the spread and impact of the disease.

Currently our farm and many others in our area (not all) are considered by the government to be at low risk of contracting TB so we are in TB 4. This means we are tested every four years. The main reason we are considered low risk is because we do not buy in cattle from other areas of the country but breed all our own replacements. Farms considered at greater risk for various reasons are in TB 1. Some farms which are in "hot spots" are not allowed to move animals on or off without a pre-movement test.

The last week has seen us test our whole herd as part of the government's compulsory scheme. This involves a vet for two full days, three days apart, in our case Tuesday and Friday. It also involves eating up the last of the Christmas cake, several cups of coffee, lunch, which is dinner at our house, as well as numerous ginger biscuits. Vets are expensive to maintain.

Each animal, over six weeks of age, that could be used for breeding has a small area on the neck shaved and then injected with avian and bovine tuberculin. That is actually the easy part. First, she must be persuaded into the crush where she can be safely restrained in order to minimise the risk of damage to her or the vet. Our cows are never keen on seeing the vet, I think it has something to do with those arm length gloves he often wears when he visits. Each animal is back through the crush on day three to have the test read. By this time, if TB is present, a lump will have appeared on the injection

site, known as a reactor. Needless to say they are not keen on going in a second time. Any reactors must go for compulsory slaughter. By the end of the week both farmer, cows and possibly the vet (who does eat quite a lot) can breathe a sigh of relief.

We are in the depths of winter on our farm and the sheep are now beginning to eat haylage quite well, which is what we like them to do as grass is not growing, but hopefully their little lambs in the tummies are. It is much easier to keep the sheep fit and well fed than to try and get them fit as lambing begins to appear on the horizon. Our sheep live outside all the year round and we take them feed every day through winter.

There are two very important things that happen on St Valentine's Day on our farm. The most important of these is that about half of the winter feed should be left as we are about halfway through the winter period. I forget the second very important thing about 14th February but I have been told it is very important.

Milking cows tends to start quite early in the day, building lights go on in fair time and so are obvious to those in the district. I remember a few years ago our neighbour commenting that we must start work very early because he started quite early (about 5am) and could always see our dairy light on, no matter how he tried he could not get his lights on before ours. I did not have the heart to tell him that I wandered down the yard and put ours on before going to bed.

Here is an interesting question, our milk price goes down by 0.8 pence per litre on February the first, how many pints of milk do I need to sell in order to pay for one pint of quality beer at £4?

John Dawson



Jess Bagnall The i Centre, Ingleton

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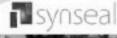
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Clapham cum Newby Parish Council news

The parish council met on 26th January.

The inclement weather has caused much disruption in the parish: there has been flooding in Newby and near Clapham Station, and a landslip has occurred on Reebys Lane in Keasden. The parish council has informed North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department of these instances. Residents in Newby very recently met with NYCC Cllr David Ireton and NYCC Highways Officer Gary Atkinson to highlight the specific problems it has experienced. As a result, works will soon be undertaken to tackle various drainage issues.

Cllr John Dawson and the parish caretaker will soon be working round the parish removing leaf debris from the surfaces of roadside drains. This will hopefully help to lessen the amount of water run off onto our roads. Councillors acknowledged the efforts of those residents who have also taken time to do this.

If you wish to report any blocked drains please contact the clerk (details below) or North Yorkshire County Council Highways department directly by calling 08458 727374 or emailing Area5.Skipton@northyorks.gov.uk

A new community defibrillator will soon be provided and installed free of charge by the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group. It will be situated on the outside wall of the Cave Rescue Organisation building and maintained by CRO. The parish council has agreed to cover the ongoing cost of replacements batteries and pads. Once installed Yorkshire Ambulance Service will provide training on how to use the equipment. More details to follow.

Catherine Huddleston, the community rail partner-ship officer from the Bentham Line, described the various projects being undertaken to improve links between the local community and Clapham station. The aim is to provide a better train service to improve access to Clapham and the surrounding area, developing innovative marketing schemes with local businesses and community groups. Potential links with Clapham Development Association and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust were discussed, along with ways to improve disabled access, the possibility of forming a volunteer group to improve the appearance of the station, and utilising local

artwork to join up the route between Clapham and its station.

The council has installed a new community notice board next to the post box at Clapham Station. Please feel free to use it to promote local events.

The following planning applications were reviewed:

- 18/2015/16506 Proposed Detached Dwelling (Resubmission Of Previously Withdrawn Application Referenced 18/2015/15834) Greenways, Newby, Clapham, LA2 8HS
- C/18/615D full planning permission for erection of replacement of uPVC glass conservatory with stone built and natural slate roofed lean-to garden room, Deighton House, Riverside, Clapham.

The following approvals were noted:

- C/18/65P: full planning permission for erection of two-bedroomed bungalow, Old Mason's Yard, Clapham
- 18/2015/16216 external alterations to existing premises, former Little Chef, Henbusk Lane, Newby
- 18/2015/16232 Conversion of Adjoining Barn Section to Dwelling House - Part Demolition of Attached Lean-to Shippon to Form Additional On-Site Parking, The Laithe, Lower Hardacre, Bentham.
- 18/2015/16278 Change Of Use Of Derelict Former Church Hall To Form A Camping Barn, Temperance Hall, Keasden
- C/18/611D full planning permission for erection of rear dining room extension, Sycamore House, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

For more information on the work of the parish council please click on the 'parish council information' link at www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk.

The parish council meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month except August and December. Meetings take place in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Gillian Muir can be contacted by email: claphamclerk@btinternet.com or by phone 015242 51775.

New year coffee morning

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to the New Year Coffee Morning on January 9th in Clapham Village Hall. The event was raising money for my project Big Build Nepal, with Childreach International and, thanks to everyone's generosity, I am over halfway to my fundraising target. In August, I will be team leading a trip to Nepal with 20 other students from the University of York in order to re-build schools that were destroyed in the devastating earthquake last year.

The earthquake struck on the 25th April and was the worst natural disaster to hit Nepal since 1934. More than 9000 people were killed and 23,000 injured. Entire villages were destroyed including schools, leaving thousands of children out of education.

It is estimated that 20,000 children are trafficked from Nepal each year, and this figure will only rise after the earthquake. Children, who have lost homes, schools and family members, are often looking for a better future. Instead they are forced into sex work, domestic work and other forms of

exploitation and abuse. Keeping children in school by building semi-permanent classrooms after the earthquake is the best way to prevent trafficking. A child in school is proven to be at significantly lower risk of being trafficked.

Childreach International is a children's rights charity working in seven different countries including the UK. Their mission is to improve children's access to healthcare, education and child protection, restore children's rights and empower children to create positive change.

I have so far raised more than £775 which is fantastic and means I am halfway to my target. Next up for me is a sponsored Swim February during which I am aiming to swim the height of Everest (8,848 metres) by swimming every day in February.

Finally, I have to say an enormous thank you once again. Through supporting me in Big Build Nepal you really will make a difference to children's lives, and I have been overwhelmed with the amount of kindness and generosity the community has shown.

Roz Walton



- G.......

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If you wish to advertise in the Newsletter please contact Ray Hull at Park View, Church Ave, Clapham LA2 8EA If you have an article or some interesting news that you would like to appear in the newsletter please email or telephone.

hull365@btinternet.com or phone 51492

Clapham Playpark

Don Gamble has taken on the role of treasurer, so we could do with a volunteer to take on his old role of secretary. It's not very onerous, as we only meet a few times a year, but we could do with a new volunteer to help spread the load of managing the playpark. If you are interested please contact me.

The next meeting is in the Bunkbarn on Saturday 13th February at 4pm – all welcome.

Tracey Bilton Clapham Park Association Tel. 015242 51856

Village Hall quiz night

For all you quiz enthusiasts out there . . . there is another one coming up in October. The Village Hall is going to host an evening of fun, good food and good company, with a few questions thrown in just to keep you on your toes. So have your pencils sharpened (that's at the pointy end, the other end is for chewing) and get your brains in gear for Friday, 7th October.

Full details available nearer the time.



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Congratulations to George!



The father of Susan Stride, of Cross Haw Lane, has recently celebrated his 100th birthday and was very pleased to receive a card from the Queen to mark the occasion. He also received a telegram from Ian Duncan-Smith, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

He lives permanently in his own home in Dorset and, in the main, manages to look after himself.

Lent Lunch

at the

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Brought together by books

Rob and Kristen Bullock live at the top end of the village with numerous two and four-footed nonpaying guests who are clients of Bentham Pet Rescue. Kristen was born on August 10th, 1948, in Bradford. Her father was a representative for various companies including Crosse and Blackwell, whilst her mother was a book-keeper. They lived with grandparents. Grandpa was an overlooker in the mill and Grandma was a burler and mender. I was going to suggest that younger readers would need to use their dictionaries but I am as out of date as burlers and menders because younger folk these days Google everything. They lived in Tyersal, a small community which had dances, pie and peas suppers and other communal activities such as coach trips to the seaside. She remembers that grandpa bought a TV for the coronation and all the neighbours were invited in to watch it and to enjoy Grandma's chips served in enamel bowls. Screens in those days were so small that it is a wonder everyone could see. I declined the opportunity to watch that event but I saw the 1958 World Cup in similar crowded circumstances and the players were scarcely visible, never mind the ball.

The family moved to Sunderland where they were near the sea but on the whole Kristen did not enjoy life so much because she missed the community life she had enjoyed in Yorkshire. She passed the 11+ and went to Bede Grammar School but she was tiny and frightened so she did not enjoy the experience until her final year. Art gave her great pleasure but maths was a nightmare. She embarked on a four year course at art college but left to work in public libraries, followed by work in the library of a teacher training college. She married and had a son but later she and her husband divorced. When her father died she moved to IIkley and worked in the library of the International Wool Secretariat for seven years. I have great admiration for people who choose to study after they have left full time education and Kristen did just that; collecting A-levels, a BA and a masters degree.

Rob was born on September 23rd, 1969 and spent his childhood in Settle where his father worked as a mechanic and his mother worked in the Co-op followed by catering work in a school canteen. He enjoyed his childhood and has happy memories of holidays in Marske, near Redcar. He loved local walks at home and was really fascinated when he first went into Victoria Cave, so much so that it

gave him the inspiration for his first children's novel nearly 40 years later. He made a real impression when he embarked on his educational journey at Settle Primary School. He was reluctant to leave his mother so his class teacher, a kindly woman so they tell me, took him gently by the hand. His reaction was to bite the hand of friendship but she forgave him and she made such an impression on him that one of his novels is dedicated to her for giving him an introduction to reading and the world of books. Her name is Barbara Marshall.

He enjoyed both school and the friendship of girls during his time at Settle Middle and Settle High and then enrolled at Bradford and IIkley College for a degree in community studies which involves such subjects as sociology. On his first day he met Kristen but she was unimpressed by his denim jacket and long-haired rocker look. They shared some lectures and became friends but then lost touch. They met up again in a library which seems a suitable starting point for a romance which led eventually to marriage in Zion Chapel, Settle. Had they known then what they know now they would have realised they were meant for each other because research on their family tree has shown that both their families' ancestors are registered in St Akelda's Church in Giggleswick at the beginning of the 19th century.

Their belated camping honeymoon in 1993 was spoilt by their tent being flooded, but much more disturbing was the sound of gunfire across the Adriatic from the civil war in Yugoslavia.

Rob worked as a court officer for Craven District Council but he hated it and this prompted the dramatic decision in 2001 to sell their house, buy a caravan and move to the south of France, accompanied by four dogs, two cats and two rats which required special certification from Paris. After two months they found a house to buy with three acres of land. At this point in the story I was expecting them to tell me that they established a menagerie on their land but instead they renovated the house, sold it and repeated that process a couple of times more. One of these purchases featured a pipe which ran down the garden and disappeared into a pile of rocks. It was only after they moved in that their senses alerted them to a potential problem. The pipe was the sewerage system but sadly there was no mains sewer for it to enter nor even a septic tank.

Another memory they shared with me concerned



a wedding anniversary when they planned to go for a special meal in a restaurant. It was market day so they went into town and Kristen enjoyed a coffee as all French people do whilst Rob visited the weekly market. When they met up later that morning Rob announced that the celebration meal would have to be cancelled because he had spent the celebration money on four turkeys to save them from strangulation. Some wives would have made sure that there was a strangulation later that day but Kristen is a kind and understanding soul who would have sympathised with Rob's decision to save them from becoming part of somebody else's evening meal.

When Kristen became a grandma they took the decision to come back to Yorkshire. If a house move involves just a couple it is stressful. If it involves a couple moving from one country to another it is more stressful. If it involves a couple and their four dogs, eight cats, 10 chickens, six ducks plus, of course, four turkeys it is Please think of your own polite adjectival phrase! To add to the fun they found out when they reached Dieppe after a six-hour drive that the certification for the poultry was filled in on the wrong form so they

had a 12 hour return journey to their town so that they could obtain the correct certification from the Department of Agriculture.

Rob had earned an income by doing contract work for local councils as well as writing for American magazines, Christian Science, The Lady and producing an award-winning blog for an American website about living in France. His first novel for children was inspired by his thoughts about the lives of those who lived in Victoria Cave long ago. It was a first appearance for Noah Ramsbottom, the hero of several of his later books. So far he has had seven published with another four awaiting publication but it was not easy to break into this world of books: 50 or 60 publishers rejected him before he had his first book published. Charlotte Bronté had similar problems!

Rob is currently working with the Black Cultural Archive in Brixton on a major project about Septimius Severus, the first black Roman emperor who ruled Britain and died in York in AD211. He intends to produce a novel and a play on this subject and the plan is that the play will be taken into schools with black actors. When he is not writing he tours schools giving talks, reading his books and running workshops. This term he already has a full diary which includes venues such as London, Liverpool, Durham, Sussex and Cheshire.

Meanwhile Kristen devotes a lot of her time to Bentham Pet rescue and is one of the key figures in the group. They love living in our village because of its sense of community and the setting so when Rob has a major triumph and becomes as wealthy as JK Rowling they intend to stay here. I wonder if The Great Breakthrough Novel will be partly autobiographical and include some violent biting scenes. The formula worked well for Peter Benchley with Jaws. Perhaps then they will buy a bigger house with a few more four-legged companions.

Stuart Marshall

Easter coffee morning

All things bright and beautiful all creatures great and small.

To celebrate Easter we are having a coffee morning in Clapham Village Hall on Saturday, 26th March from 10 am to noon.

There will be a raffle, tobola and a cake stall along with home-made refreshments, raising funds for Bentham Pet Rescue and Craven Cats Rescue.

Hope to see you there, veryone welcome.

Sally, Kristen and Rob

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This free Newsletter aims to keep everyone in Clapham, Keasden and Newby in touch with what is happening in our community. It does, however, cost a significant amount to produce, and advertising is a very necessary aid to the finances. An advert costs as little as £3.50 per issue. To advertise your products and services, please contact Ray Hull on 015242 51492 or by email below.

Articles, news and ideas please for the next issue

by 25th February, 2016 to

Chrissie Bell: ChrisHarte@aol.com or Ray Hull: hull365@btinternet.com

Forthcoming Film Attractions

Following the release of Alan Bennett's The Lady in the Van (12A) we are planning to show it in Clapham as hopefully the first of a few films. The planned screening date is in March – exact date to be confirmed – please keep an eye on the village noticeboard.

Don't forget that Austwick, Ingleton, Settle and occasionally Bentham also show films using the TRAMPS equipment (The Ribblesdale Area Moving Picture Show). Please do go along and support them if you can as each showing generally needs 30 people to break even. Most shows are £5, and will save you a 50-mile round trip to the nearest cinema; they are on a 14 by 10 foot screen with professional sound equipment and are lovely sociable events with an interval and refreshments. The reason we stopped showing films in Clapham was that audiences were too small and we were continually losing money. We would however like to show more and are considering some way that you can vote for the films you'd like to see.

The upcoming programme of local showings can be seen at www.tramps.org.uk and includes:

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Wednesday, 3rd February at Settle, Victoria Hall at 7.45pm – Force Majeure (15). Various languages with English subtitles. A family on holiday in the Alps is thrown into disarray by an avalanche. Jury prize, Cannes Festival.

Friday, 19th February – Austwick at 7 for 7.30pm. Suffragette (12) – Carey Mulligan, Meryl Streep, Helena Bonham Carter.

Wednesday, 24th February at Settle, Victoria Hall at 7.45pm – Kuma (12) Turkish/German with English subtitles. A young Turkish woman faces challenges with her new family in Vienna.

Thursday, 3rd March at Ingleton Community Centre at 7.00pm – The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12) – Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, Richard Gere, Judi Dench, Dev Patel, Penelope Wilton, Celia Imrie.

Friday, 18th March at Austwick, 7 for 7.30pm – The Lady in the Van (12A) – Maggie Smith, Dominic Cooper, James Corden.

March date to be confirmed at Clapham – The Lady in the Van (12A).

Wednesday, 30th March at Settle, Victoria Hall 7.45pm – Cycling with Molière (15) French with English subtitles. A comedy in which two middle-aged actors cautiously rekindle their past friendship.

Thursday, 31st March – Ingleton Community Centre 7.00pm – A Royal Night Out (12A) – Sarah Gadon, Emily Watson, Rupert Everett.

Friday, 15th April – Austwick Parish Hall at 7.30pm – Spectre (TBC) (12) – Daniel Craig.

Sue Manson

BUS SERVICES (581)

Clapham to Settle (weekdays):

0734 0909 1109 1309 1509 1719

Saturdays:

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0930 1130 1330 1530 1740 1830

Saturdays:

0930 1130 1330 1530 1740 1910

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Station Road, Clapham LA2 8DP Telephone 015242 51506 www.bridgecottageclapham.co.uk

Clapham village store

There's quite a lot of building work taking place in the shop at the moment. The stairway, firstfloor office space, kitchen and lobby are all being redecorated and new wiring is being put in. Where possible, a lot of the work is being carried out by our brilliant volunteers. The idea is that the shop's office will move upstairs and the main upstairs office space will be sub-let to generate more income for the shop. We are also going to increase the downstairs retail space by knocking through into an adjoining room. This will inevitably cause a bit of disruption, but once completed it will enable us to stock even more products and provide an even better service for our customers. The shop is funding the upstairs work, while the downstairs extension is being paid for by Ingleborough Estate, which once again shows its support for the shop.

We've also had a couple of heaters fitted downstairs as the recent cold snap made working in the shop a tad uncomfortable.

The shop has been open 10 months now, and we'll be marking its first birthday towards the end of March – look out for details.

As ever, if there's anything you'd like us to stock please let us know and we'll see what we can do. Tel. 015242 51524

info@claphamvillagestore.co.uk www.claphamvillagestore.co.uk



Jim Fox helping with the decorating

Clapham school news

Some of you reading this might have read Clapham School's weekly newsletter. One regular feature is Clapham School's step back in time section where more than 150 years' worth of school log books are scrutinised each week for insights into the lives of those who attended your village school in the past. These windows of the past are published around the same day of the month they were written originally and prove an interesting read.

Some interesting social history has emerged. Events such as the first football ever to be played in the playground, presented to the children by Mr Farrer in one of his many acts of noblesse oblige in 1901.

The severe headmaster from the 1860s who punished children for falling down pot holes in the playground and for escaping under the floorboards in the hall with two candles.

There were certainly harsh winters in those days – snow storms that lasted days, iced ponds where the children would skate (and be punished for being late into school!)

Some of our recent discoveries:

December 3rd, 1878 – George Drinkwater's parents took their cart to Lancaster this morning and Mr Drinkwater was too harsh with the horse, causing it to upset the cart. Mr Drinkwater was injured but worse was the torn ribbon on Mrs Drinkwater's crepe bonnet.

December 18th, 1905 – Spent the greater part of the scripture lesson in putting the partition right as a result of the ball held on Friday night. The master's desk was also disgraceful, it having been used as a refreshment stall. The stove in the school was almost out. A boy had to re-light it.

December 22nd, 1899 – And so we step forth into the Christmas holidays once more, with much merriment did the children run from school, some losing clogs along the way. As for me, I watched from the doorway contemplating the end of term and the start of a peaceful new century.

July 2nd, 1866 – The heat is causing much sickness with the children. Reginald Capstick punished today for removal of his jacket.

We are extremely lucky to have our precious log books that contain so many insights into the lives of those that went before us. Our Friday letter is uploaded to the school website where you can also find out more about what the children are doing in this century!

Matthew Armstrong *Headmaster* www.claphamcofeschool.co.uk

Wildlife in Clapham

The robin is one of the most common UK garden birds and one of its favourites. It is about the same size as a house sparrow with olive brown upper parts, orange red face and breast and pale under parts. It is common in almost every habitat in the UK except for high mountain tops. The robin is a very tame bird which will eat out of people's hands and it will also follow gardeners around looking insects and worms that have been disturbed by them. In Europe the robin is totally different to the British robins. It is very shy and stays in the vast woodlands across Europe and it very rarely visits gardens looking for food. In the UK the male robin is very territorial and it is also one of a few birds that sing all year round. A pair of robins will start breeding in late March and they can have up to three broods in a good year. The nest site is usually quite low in a hollow in a bank, a tree stump, among tree roots, or a man-made site from a gap in a brick wall to a shelf in a garden shed.

With this winter being very wet and mild, robins have been singing all through the winter. I even saw a male robin singing and displaying to a female robin at Farrer Lodge on the 24th January. A couple of mistle thrushes have also been heard singing all through the winter and a pair of blue tits was even seen checking a nest box out at Ingleborough Hall on the 20th January.

Three barn owls have been seen regularly during



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Robin – erithacus rubecula

the last two months. One has been seen day time hunting over Newby Moor and Hardacre Moss, while another was also seen day-time hunting around Meldingscale farm and a third barn owl was seen by Gareth Copsey between Clapham and the A65 as you go out towards Austwick.

Two pairs of stonechats are wintering on Hardacre Moss and Newby Moor. One brambling is wintering at Ingleborough Hall, it was seen on the 8th December and heard calling on the 12th January.

One mute swan (which is not common around the local area) flew north over Clapham – 29th December and a flock of 43 pink-footed geese flew north west over Ingleborough Hall – 13th January.

On the 20th January, which was the first sunny day we have had for almost a month and a half, three species of ladybirds were found at Ingleborough Hall, these were 7-spot, 10-spot and Harlequin Ladybirds.

Tim Hutchinson, Smithy Cottage

