CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER Number 47, June, 2007

Congratulations to Joan and John

There can be few more special occasions than a Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

To celebrate 60 years of married life is a huge achievement and this was 'royally' recognised in Clapham Village Hall on Saturday, May 19th when friends and family joined with Joan and John Farrer to mark this wonderful occasion.

After the Farrer's 54 years in the village and their involvement in so many aspects of its life it was not surprising that there had to be two 'sittings' in order that the many well-wishers could join them to pass on their congratulations and celebrate with them. However, the guest list reflected far more than Joan's and John's life in the UK – family members were able to join them not only from their native Australia but also from Canada and the United States, making it a truly international occasion.

As usual, with a 'Farrer Event' the hospitality was truly first class, with excellent catering by Party Animals and the wonderful Sue Parrish Jazz Group. The hall, decorated by some of our very talented local ladies, was also a reflection of the 'style' which the occasion reflected.

However, what came over above everything else was that we were in the presence of a truly remarkable couple who have made an exceptional contribution to the very special community in which we are all lucky enough to live.

From donations received in lieu of presents, Clapham children's playground received £800 and St. John's Hospice, Lancaster received £1000.



The happy couple





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Enjoying the evening celebrations



On the day of their anniversary Joan and John were presented with a copy of their front door by the Knit & Knatter group

PARTY TIME – How can we say 'thank you' for a memorable day and night surrounded by so many friends?

It would be inappropriate to name individual people who had transformed the Village hall into a breath-taking party scene, which was enhanced by the bright smiles of all our dear friends.

We walked around in a daze and have yet to come down to earth!

We think that Annie now knows why we are so happy here, as her planning and plotting was assisted by those who are fast becoming *her* friends! We are so grateful to Annie, John Peter and all of you.

John and Joan

Congratulations to Joan & John

A world away from Yorkshire in Australia years ago. In fact the place was Melbourne in a hospital, you know.

A doctor and a nurse first met and became a loving team. An Aussie wedding followed to begin a lifetime's dream.

But then a call from England put a challenge to the pair. A huge estate in Yorkshire with it's land and country air.

A place of woods, a beck, a cave, and a village thrown in too. Clapham then became their home, fantastic pastures new.

We're talking of the Farrers, Joan and John to you and I. A friendly, active couple, which no one can deny.

John came by plane in '53 to meet the challenge set. A flight near halfway round the world, an ordeal, even yet.

The family, they soon followed, but this time came by sea, The 'Oronsay' was the steamship and the goal 'discovery'.

John worked on as a doctor with a large estate to run, It must have seemed a mighty task and only just begun.

Now Joan, she loves to garden with the flowers and the lawn, But John likes things mechanical that need a bit of brawn.

Both Joan and John support events that make up village life, They always take it in their stride with never a sign of strife.

Sixty years of marriage and still the joy shines through, Many treasured memories will mean everything to you.

And may this special milestone that you celebrate today Hold the promise of more happiness to share along life's way.

Congratulations Joan and John on this your special day, Gook Luck, Good Health and Happiness be with you all the way.

Eddie Braithwaite

VILLAGE PEOPLE - George Mason

George is not the oldest person living in Clapham but, as far as I know, he is the oldest person living in the village who was actually born here. He arrived on the scene eighty years ago at Smithy Cottage, the second of three children. His brother, John, who lives in Stokeon-Trent is five years older and his other brother, Eric, who lives close by is five years younger. Their father, the village blacksmith, was killed, together with Norman Cross, the brother of Bert and Geoff when George was only five and before Eric had been born. It must have been extremely difficult for Mrs Mason to bring up three children in the days before the welfare state offered proper financial help to families on a low income.

To add to her difficulties, George was 'a bit of a handful' who kept running away and was discovered one day fast asleep under a pile of rubbish beneath the counter of the shop. His more usual destination when he fled home was the school and so frequent were his visits that, at the age of three they kept him there. He has fond memories of a primary education featuring nature walks and country dancing. The head was Miss Swindlehurst, a kindly woman who could not travel to school on a daily basis so she lodged during the week in the house now owned by Pete and Brenda Everson. The school was heated by a coke stove which belched acrid fumes into the classroom whenever more fuel was added. If todays Health and Safety Inspectors sniffed it they would compile reports longer than War and Peace.

There was no provision of leisure facilities for youngsters in those days and children made their own entertainment, apart from the annual village sports day held on the Coultherd's field behind the houses down The Green. George recalls bowling iron hoops made by his uncle who had taken over as the village blacksmith. The annual family holiday for the Mason family was a day trip by train to Morecambe. Always there was the need to supplement the meagre family income. When he was ten he became the organ blower for the two weekly services at thirty shillings per year. However, sometimes the best man at a wedding would tip him half a crown.

He paid his first visit to Ingleton when he was eleven in order to sit the forerunner of the 11+ exam but was so daunted by the large hall and the strange circumstances that he failed. He enjoyed his secondary education at Ingleton where his form teacher was Mr Humphries who still lives in Burton. When he started work he travelled by bike to Brassington's in Settle where he was employed as an apprentice joiner at two and a half pence per hour for a 44 hour week. The qualified joiners earned one shilling and nine pence per hour. His next job was with Ingleborough Estate and this was followed by at spell at Angus fire armour. He then set up his own joinery business in Clapham sawmill and he finished his working life as an employee of the national park at Grassington.

In his later teenage years he met Daisy, a young lady from Newby Cote who worked in the shop. They married in Clapham Church in 1951 and have one daughter, Katherine.

It was fascinating to hear from George how different life was in his younger days. Clapham had a grocer's shop, a butcher's and a post office and the blocked doorway in Valerie Potter's house where the Station Road sign is today was the entrance to Miss Howson's toffee shop. The grocer used the cellars under the post office opposite his shop to store huge piles of potatoes which George and friends were paid to de-sprout. Another of his jobs was the daily trip on the shop bike with its traditional front pannier to collect the evening papers which were delivered to Clapham Station. Across the bridge from the shop, near the New Inn stables, was the slaughterhouse, the details of which I will spare our gentle readers. Robert Howson, a wheelwright, had premises down Station Road and he was also responsible for the hearse house which can be seen to this day in Nelson's farm alongside the road.

Dr Lovatt ran his practice from Fall View, the home today of Richard and Justina Sexton and when he left for Austwick Miss Hardisty and another district nurse continued to operate the practice.

The official cave guide. Harry Harrison, lived in the house where Gordon and Janet Wildman now live. Even in those days there were lots of visitors, many of whom came by train and walked up to the village. There was no council refuse collection but each house had its own tip. Any excess was dumped on the land where Croft House was built more recently and that was the site also of a public toilet

George remembers that many people lived in fear of authority. Those who lived in tied houses had no long term security. Mr Barton, the estate agent, was a daunting figure and even more terrifying was the gamekeeper who carried his gun at all times and was known to shoot cats but so far as George can remember he did not actually shoot any humans. Certainly nobody dared to stray from the footpath through the woods.

I was fascinated to hear all that George had to say but it confirmed my long held opinion that those were not the good old days.

Stuart Marshall

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Why I Raced for Life at **Broughton Hall**

by Jayne Lodge from Newby

21st April 2005 at the age of 35 my husband Christian and I were on our way to Lancaster Royal Infirmary to find out if I had breast cancer I DID.

My first thoughts were how I am going to tell my beautiful children, Matthew then age 10 and Amy age 6. You all of a sudden end up on this "rollercoaster" and you cannot get off, you need to be here at a certain time to do this, you need to be there at a certain time to do that, your "normal" life of looking after the family, work, meals out with friends become part of a life you "used" to have.

Everything now is hospital/doctors/nurses everyone so very, very nice but a world you don't want to be part of BUT have no choice, I did sometimes feel quite mean thinking things like this especially when I did have a chance, I was not terminally ill. However, you do soon get used to this new life and routine and find you meet many, many nice people along the way.

I managed my operation well and the physiotherapy afterwards. I reacted quite badly to the chemotherapy and only managed 8 sessions out of the 12 before I became seriously ill in hospital, I nearly didn't make it out, the radiotherapy wasn't so bad just a long way to travel every day when you are already worn down.

I finished my treatment the week before Christmas 2005 what a lovely family Christmas we had. I have now been back at work at Settle College Special Needs Department for over a year now and I will be on medication for 5 years and need to have regular check ups at the hospital but things are looking good. Amy and I have just completed the Race for Life at Broughton Hall in Skipton and we managed to raise £539 for cancer research. We both wanted to say a



Amy and Jayne at Broughton hall

massive thank you to all in the community who supported us with sponsorship. Cancer will always be a big part of our family life now and it feels very good to give a little back as a way of saying thank you for all my excellent treatment and support from Lancaster Hospital and Bentham Doctor's Surgery.

HELPING HANDS -

If you don't need weekly help but require help with one-off jobs, I could be the person you are looking for.

From taking-down curtains, preparing for a guest, waiting for an important delivery, preparing for the arrival of workmen and helping get back to normal when they have gone, help while you recuperate from an illness, sorting out that overflowing cupboard. Help moving-in or moving-out.

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Craven District Council has recently launched two loan schemes aimed at Craven residents who may not have the necessary financial resources to carry out essential work on their homes

such as repair or replacement of windows, re-wiring, repairs to roofs or heating systems – in short, keeping their homes safe, warm and weatherproof.

The Repairs Assistance Scheme (RAS) can assist with small to medium sized repair work up to £6,000 in value and takes the form of an interest-free loan, which must be repaid in full when the property is sold or ownership is transferred. The Home Appreciation Loan (HAL) scheme is for major works up to £30,000 in value. The amount borrowed is calculated as a percentage of the value of the property and when the property is sold or transferred, the equivalent percentage of the sale proceeds must be repaid to the Council. Both loans are secured as a legal charge against the property and applicants are strongly advised to seek independent financial advice before committing themselves to the work.

In order to make the process as easy as possible for the householder, the Council's Home Improvement Agency, Anchor Staying Put, will assist from the initial enquiry and in assessing whether an applicant is eligible, to obtaining tenders and overseeing the work and finally to arranging for the Council to pay the Contractor(s).

To qualify for one of these loan schemes, applicants must be owner-occupiers, over 60 or with children under 16 at home and in receipt of an income or a disability-related benefit.

For further information about these schemes, disabled facilities grants or any other housing related matter, please call the Council's Environmental Health & Housing department on 01756 706293.

Easter Flowers

Thank you ladies for a wonderful Easter floral display in our church of St. James. Your famous flower arch at the back of the church was absolutely magnificent. With the window display also looking stunning, a truely 'Chelsea' moment. (Hey there's a thought).

John Sanders (Tinklers Cottage)

Peter Allen

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The Vicar writes . . .

'Thought for the Season': A threefold card is not easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:7–12)

This is the time of year when many people make the extra commitment to each other and get married. During the coming months I will be conducting nine weddings in Austwick and Clapham. Ecclesiastes makes some important points regarding marriage and friendship. 'Two are better than one, or 'if one falls down, his friend can help him up', or 'if two lie down together, they will keep warm'. Note that the emphasis in these sayings is on two people, but at the end of this passage, Solomon says something possibly unique: 'A threefold card is not easily broken'. The point is that when you are in a close relationship with someone you love and who loves you, you have a third quality - a strength and power which unfolds from out of the relationship. In the fusion of friendship, you discover something you could never discover - except in a relationship. It is your strength, plus your friend's strength, producing an even greater strength.

The great thing about faith is that God gives to us all that extra ingredient of strength, thus love. A wedding I conducted last year had a special Celtic Wedding Prayer which I think sums up perfectly the truth of that verse from Ecclesiastes. Here it is:

As you love each other Grow in the love of God.

As you give yourselves to each other, God gives Himself to you.

As you share your lives together, God shares his life with you.

As you grow in awareness of each other, Grow in awareness of God.

Let his love encircle your love,

Let his love fill your lives.

Let him bind you as one together, And one in him. Amen.

May God bless your marriage, your friendship and all of our lives, as his love warms us and renews our faith.

Your friend and vicar, Ian

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

28th June – The Vicar will be leading a quiet day at Parceval Hall. Contact him for further details (Tel. 51313).

14th July – Vicar's Triathlon. Ian will swim across Lake Ullswater at the Patterdale end, cycle around the lake and then run/walk over Helvelyn before finishing at Grasmere Church. If you would like to sponsor his efforts, the proceeds will go towards the cost of running our four Churches. (share alone is £50,000).

22nd July – Afternoon walk from Clapham and Songs of Praise. The Vicar will be leading a walk on Sunday afternoon starting from Clapham Church at 2.30pm. Then a Songs of Praise will be at the Caravan site on Station Road (near the A65) at 4.30pm.

29th July – United Service at Keasden 11.00am.

30 and 31st July - Children's Holiday Club. All children are invited to Ingleborough Hall, between 1.30 and 4.00pm. Further information from the Vicar.

5th August - Open Air Service in the grounds of Ingleborough Hall at 11.00am followed by a picnic.

11th August - Keasden Walk and BBQ by kind invitation of Richard and Margaret Parker, Oaklands Farm, near Bentham. Walk begins at 6.30pm.

Confirmation – The Bishop of Bradford will be conducting a Confirmation Service in Clapham Church on Sunday, 18th November. Any adults or children interested in being confirmed should contact the vicar.

STREET MARKET

On Wednesday evening 18th July there will be the usual house collection at Newby and Clapham of goods for the street market on 28th July.

Gifts of Books, Glass and Pottery and articles for the Tombola, Raffle and White Elephant stalls will be appreciated. Any time before then, the Jam stall (Valerie 51628) would welcome spare fruit, and any plants now surplus to needs or waiting a new home are being assembled (Elga 51324). Cakes for the Cake stall and refreshments in the Village Hall please leave with Liz 51319, on Friday, 27th July. If Wednesday evening is not a convenient time for collection please phone Sue Mann 51792.

Children's Football Club and Training

A summer soccer school for boys and girls aged 7-14 years is to be held between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm on 15th–18th August at Ingleborough Hall. Qualified football coaches will run this along with church members. The cost is £40.00 per child, but this may be subsidised. Again, more information from the Vicar or from Bethel Chapel.

CLAPHAM CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL Report of Meeting held 15th May, 2007

Elected Officers of the Council – at the Annual Meeting of the Council, Councilor Eileen Plumridge was re-elected Chairman and Councilor Colin Price, Vice-Chairman. Those Members who represent the Council on various outside bodies were all re-elected. However, there was an addition in that Councilor Nicola Saward was elected to represent the Council at meetings of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations.

Highways – a number of matters requiring attention had been reported at the last meeting. Some had received attention but some had not. The Council is to chase the outstanding items. Between meetings, the loss of a number of reflective posts outside Wenning Hipping had been reported however, the Council has now been informed that they have been restored. The continuing disrepair of Reeby Lane is of particular concern to one parishioner. This has already been reported to NYCC Highways Department who have advised that it is hoped to carry out patching work in the near future and that it is on the shortlist for dressing or micro-asphalting next year. As regards, the 'No Waiting' signs for the grass verges near Clapham, it is hoped that these will be in place shortly.

Finance – the internal audit has been undertaken and

the Annual Audit Return has been completed by the Council and submitted to the External Auditor. The Council has renewed its membership of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance.

Parish Plan – a steering group has been formed to consider the undertaking of a Parish Plan.

Newby notice board – enquiry has been made to see if it may be possible to erect a new notice board near the notice board at the chapel in Newby.

Next Meetings of the Council – Tuesdays, 10th July, 18th September and 20th November, 2007. These will commence at 7.30pm and will be held in Clapham Village Hall. All welcome.

STOPPRESS – Biodiesel production at Growing with Grace will be in full swing by the middle of June.

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Bethel Chapel News

Ever been to Bethel?

Here's a selection of what's on in the next few weeks. There's something for every age and stage. Feel free to come along and find out more.

Every Sunday:

10.15 – Sunday School Bible stories, songs and activities for ages 4 upwards. 11am – 12pm – Family service 6.30pm – 7.30pm – Evening service

Every 4th Sunday of the month:

Young Peoples After Church

For ages 16 upwards.

We also have a wide range of activities running through the week including:

Every Wednesday (term time only) 4 2 9 between 6.00pm – 7.00pm. For ages 4 to 9.

Loads of fun activities such as games, crafts, singing and stories.

Thursdays:

7th June 2.30pm – Senior citizens **21st June** 2.30pm – Ladies Meeting

Mrs Barbara Clarke,

Carnforth

28th June 7.30pm – Coffee Evening

Mrs Marjorie Barker, Kendal

Every Friday Clapham Tot's (term time) 9.30am – 11.15am. Grown ups relax and chat over coffee whilst the young ones play with our wide range of age appropriate toys or take part in supervised activities such as sticking, glueing or painting to name but a few.

Every Friday Youth Club 7.30pm – 9.00pm (finished for summer but will resume in September) For ages 10 to 15. Snooker, Table Tennis, Games, Basketball and a tuck shop.

SCHOOL LEAVERS SERVICE 2007

The annual leavers service for our ten year 5 pupils will take place in

Clapham Church on Wednesday, 18th July at 2pm.

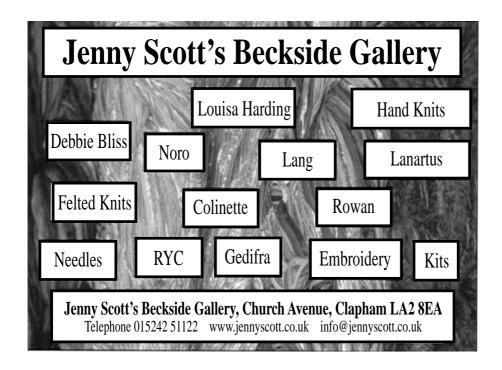
This year the service will have an added dimension as Shena Minnitt, our headteacher has made the decision to take early retirement and is also leaving us after 10 years of very valuable work in Clapham. If you would like to contribute to a leaving present for Shena, please pass it directly to our school secretary, Anne Pybus or myself.

We extend a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us and help celebrate both the children's and Shena's achievements and wish them all the best for the future.

Judith Dawson, Chair of Governors - Tel: 51350

Newsletter

The Newsletter Group will once more have a stall at the Street market raising funds for production costs. We will be selling second-hand DVDs, CDs, Videos and Tapes, but no records. If you have anything to offer please leave them with any member of the committee. Thank you.



WHIST DRIVES

The whist group meet in Clapham Village Hall on Friday nights at 7.30pm on:

June 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th July 6th, 13th and 27th

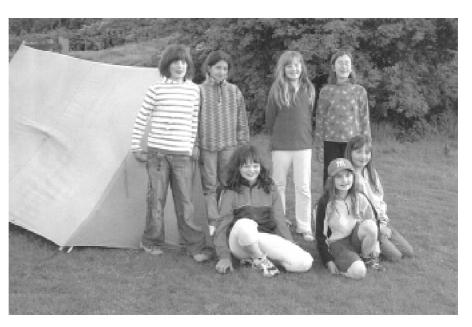
August 3rd, 10th, 24th and 31st

Money raised is donated to charity. This time we have given £100 each to Guide Dogs for the Blind and Clapham Cave Rescue.

School trip to Humphrey Head

On the Monday, 30th of April the year fives from Clapham primary school went on the annual trip to Humphrey Head, they had a wonderful time on the lake, canoeing, abseiling, and walking in Grizedale Forest, etc.

Picture right shows the girls with their finished tent, and below the group with Mrs. Minnitt at the summit of Coniston Old Man.





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Chernobyl Children

Over the past eight years, Clapham has hosted a day for Chernobyl children, from Belarus (via CCP UK and a group based near Skipton). Sadly, the organiser cannot get sufficient host families for a group of children in 2007. Any monies donated this year will help to fund respite holidays for children in a CCP home in the north-east of Belarus. Hopefully it will be business as usual next year.

Janet Raine

Belltower Project

During the Bank Holiday weekend 27th and 28th May, Clapham Church housed an exhibition of bells and bluebell paintings, to raise money for the belltower



project. There were also greetings cards and attractive craftwork on sale and tea and cakes for hungry visitors.

The weekend raised the sum of £530.36.



Saturday Night 6-8pm

Starters from £3.50 Main Courses from £7.95

served with fresh vegetables and potatoes

Meat supplied by local award-winning butcher

Theme nights starting again with:

Halloween 26th October Chinese Buffet 30th November

Christmas Party December 1st to 23rd lunch or evening menu for parties of over 8 people

Christmas day lunch, limited numbers for that special day.

Burn's Night 25th February, 2008 Italian Night 29th February (leap year) Curry Night 28th March, 2008

Booking advisable - Bring your own wine

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Lancaster Samaritans

Lancaster Samaritans (Registered Charity 501761) is one of about 200 Samaritans branches in UK and Ireland each of which is an independent Charity supported and co-ordinated by the national body. Our 'local area' includes South Lakeland and the westerly part of the Yorkshire Dales, including Clapham.

Samaritans offer a listening, confidential and non-judgmental ear to people in crisis. We give emotional support to people who are distressed for any reason at all. Some are suicidal, some are not – we listen to any sort of distress.

We answer telephone calls on 01524 61666 (or 08457 909090) and our lines are never closed – no answer-phones or recorded messages, we give a fully reliable personal "24/7" service, thanks to a nationally co-ordinated scheme. We welcome personal callers at 21 Sun Street and we answer emails (jo@samaritans.org), a growing call on our resources. In total, Lancaster Samaritans had well over 25,000 contacts last year, some 70 contacts a day.

We have around 80 listening volunteers, who each give about 3 hours a week of their time. Volunteers are fully trained in listening skills and Samaritans provides effective support structures for volunteers, especially important following difficult calls. We need more volunteers to share in this rewarding activity – anyone interested in exploring the possibility can phone 01524 61666 to make a first contact. Even though we run an entirely voluntary operation, it doesn't come cheaply – our telephones (including the email service) cost us over £4000 last year and we always welcome donations towards these essential costs.

We have recently (January 2007) opened a charity shop at 12 Damside Street, next to Lancaster bus station. This is a new venture for us, and is intended to provide funds to keep our listening service adequately funded in future years. Please encourage us further by supporting this project!

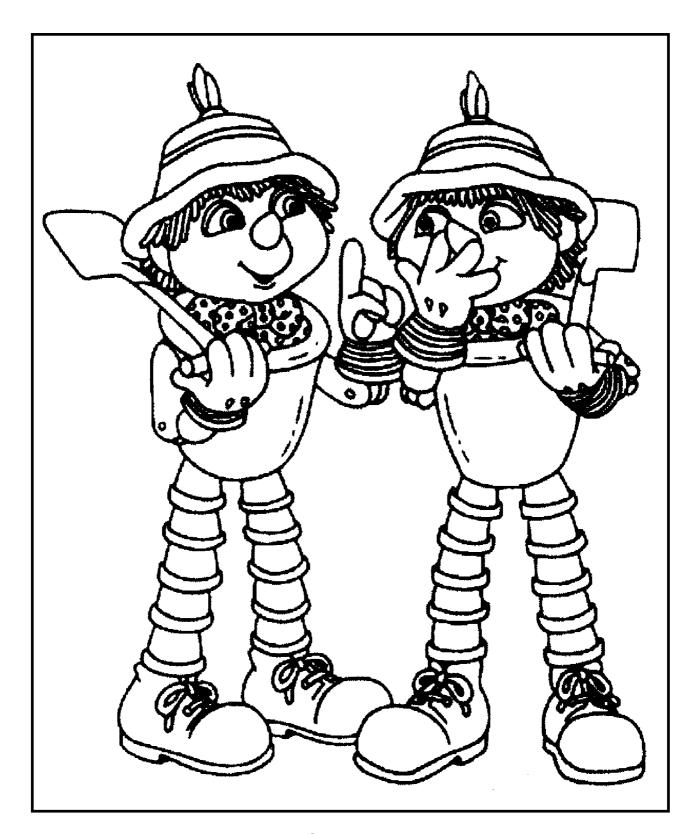
Lancaster & District Samaritans

Registered Charity No 501761

We are looking for someone in the CLAPHAM AREA who would like to help our Charity Shop in Lancaster.

If you feel you have the time and inclination to work with us, in the gathering, storing and transporting of donated items for sale in the shop, then we would very much like to hear from you.

For more details ring 01524 382058.



Art Competition

A special competition for children up to the age of ten

Simply colour or paint this picture and send it to Lesley Crutchley, Gildersbank, Clapham.

Competition closes 30th August. Super prize for the winning entry. Good luck!

Congratulations to Annie Parker winner of the April competition.

Name:	Age:	Tel:
1 (41116)	1 150	

CLAPHAM PARK ASSOCIATION

Clapham Park Association held their annual meeting recently. Lorraine Wildman and Lisa Clark welcomed everyone, thanking them for their interest and support after the many years of the two of them managing the park largely on their own.

Lisa explained how recently, the park had relied mainly on regular donations from organisations like Newby Landowners and The Pothole Clubs to cover their running costs. The sale of CDs in the village shop has raised £200 for the park since Christmas, and local children raised a substantial amount at last years Street Market.

The insurance for the mower costs £52 a year and it is about to be serviced which will cost a further £120.

The election of new officers was as follows: Chairman: Lorraine Wildman, Treasurer: Sue Latimer and Secretary: Henrietta Nieper. A rota is to be compiled for the mowing of the grass, this will be available for the next meeting.

The council have been asked about emptying the waste bin in the park. Stephen Williams has offered to do weekly Saturday morning litter picking sessions but it would be appreciated if everyone could be

conscience of picking up litter when using the park. Help will be needed when new bark needs putting under the equipment. The community service lads that have been working on the park are due to come back and finish the fence and possibly repair the hut roof.

It was agreed that fundraising events should be held over the summer and several ideas were put forward. These will be discussed at a smaller meeting. It was suggested that some kind of collection box should be placed on the park. The meeting agreed that plans for new park equipment should be based around recycling and the environment and also that local children should be involved in fundraising and planning.

CLAPHAM W.I.

On June 13th Mr Fodden will give a talk on 'Gardening for Everyone'. All welcome.

On July 11th there will be a visit to Giggleswick School Chapel with a guided tour. For details please contact Lorraine Wildman Tel. 51219.



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FOREST OF BOWLAND FESTIVAL

The Bowland Festival is now in full swing, running from 2nd to 17th June and involving a wide range of activities from fly fishing and wildlife walks to brick carving and cheese-tasting throughout the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Clapham perched as it is on the edge of the Forest is well placed to explore Bowland and the festival activities provide a good opportunity to discover what it has to offer.

Lots of activities are planned during the fortnight of the Festival, including walks, talks, art and craft workshops, family activities, exhibitions and open studios.

There's a street fair in Bentham on Saturday, 16th June with stalls and produce of a local nature. There is also a seven-a-side cricket tournament, barbeque and family activities on the playing fields from 1.00pm.

Looking Well Studios in Kings Street, High Bentham are also having an open day on Saturday, 16th from 10.00am to 4.00pm to coincide with the street fair; there will be coffee and cakes, stalls, an exhibition and various activities in the garden, including a performance by the children's Theatre Group, have a go at throwing a pot, Poi swinging



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workshops in the afternoon from 1.00pm to 4.00pm and various other activities, so do come along.

For more information see local posters and leaflets or visit www.bowlandfestival.com or www.pioneerprojects.org.uk.

Clapham Book Group

"A brilliantly crafted story", "a triumphant success on every level", "intelligent, ingenious and humane". We couldn't wait to get our teeth into A.S. Byall's highly recommended 'Possession'.

Two young scholars embark on a journey of intrigue to find out the truth concerning their respective icons – Victorian poets Randolph Ash and Christabelle La Motte, about whose connection they had learned through the discovery of some unfinished correspondence in the dusty Reading Room of London Library. The ensuing careful analysis of old letters, poetry and private journals leads the pair from London to Lincoln, Boggle Hole to Brittany, hotly pursued by several rivals in their quest for the truth.

Romance? Mystery? Tragedy? Adventure? - well it seems to be all of these at different levels with a good dose of Victonan poetry and fairy tales thrown in and as such could have quite wide appeal. The group generally felt that the book was pretty heavy going in the first half, with almost all admitting to skipping whole sections, but perseverance paid off and most enjoyed the challenges and rewards of reading to the end. Not for the faint-hearted or impatient, but if you are ready for something completely different, then perhaps this book is worth a try.

The next meeting of the group at which we will be discussing a somewhat lighter read 'All Points North' by Yorkshire writer Simon Armitage will be at Kathy Hall's on Wednesday, 11th July at 8.00pm. New members very welcome. Please ring Sue on 51684 or Jill on 51030 for more details.

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WILDLIFE IN CLAPHAM

At the beginning of April, summer migrants started to arrive back to the local area. The first Chiffchaff of the year was heard singing at Ingleborough Hall by Jess Hart – 1st April. Two Sand Martins flew over Hardacre Moss and one flew over Clapham Station – 6th April. The first two Swallows of the year flew over Meldingscale Farm towards Austwick – 9th April and the first Willow Warbler was heard singing at Clapham – 11th April, by the end of April all the above were being seen and heard singing around the local area. On the 12th April, 41 Wheatears were seen at Clapham Bottoms, the Allotment, Norber and Thwaite Lane. One female Ring Ouzel flew over Hardacre Moss and Newby Moor towards Ingleborough on the 13th April.

The first Blackcap was heard singing on the Nature trail – 12th April and by the middle of May they were being seen and heard singing on the Nature trail, Ingleborough Hall, Clapham, Crina Bottom plantation and Meldingscale Farm.

Three male Redstarts were back at Trow Gill on the 20th April and on the 18th May two pairs of Redstarts were seen at Trow Gill, also at Trow Gill the first Spotted Flycatcher was seen on the 18th May

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2 Church Street, SETTLE BD24 9JE 01729 824292 settle@bairstoweves.co.uk and by the 20th two more were seen on the Nature trail, five were at Trow Gill and one was seen on the old railway line near Nutta Farm. The first Swifts were seen over Clapham by Dave Sharrod on the 20th April.

On the 27th April one Grasshopper Warbler was heard singing on Newby Moor and by the 5th May at least three more had been found in three different locations on Newby Moor and Hardacre Moss.

One Dotterel was seen on Ingleborough on the 28th April and a party of eleven Dotterels were on Ingleborough during the middle of May, they were all seen by visiting bird watchers. One Dotterel was found on Little Ingleborough – 20th May.

One Cuckoo was heard calling at Green Close by Chester on the 14th May; it was also heard calling there on the 19th May. The first Lapwing chicks were seen at Meldingscale Farm on the 12th May and two pairs of Stonechats have successfully raised young on Hardacre Moss and Newby Moor, these were seen on 19th May.

Throughout April and May Butterflies were seen around the local area, they were Large White, Small White, Green Veined White, Orangetip, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell. One Brimstone was seen at Ingleborough Hall – 26th March, it or another Brimstone was seen at Dave and Leslie Crutchley's garden – 14th May. One Holly Blue was found at Ingleborough Hall – 2nd May and the first Red Admiral was seen at Ingleborough Hall – 12th May. One Emperor moth flew into the kitchen sink at Gary and Karen Gleave's house on Station Road. It took Karen about two hours to dry the moth in the sun before it flew off. Emperor moths breed on upland heather moors like the Allotment on Ingleborough and the Bowland Hills.

Tim Hutchinson, Smithy cottage

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 not insignificant amount to produce, and advertising is a very necessary aid to the finances.

For Advertising your products or services, please contact Ray Hull on 015242 51492.

An advert costs as little as £3 per issue.

Articles, News and Ideas PLEASE! for the next issue by **25th July, 2007** to

the Village Shop, Lesley Crutchley lesley@gildersbank.co.uk, Chrissie Bell ChrisHarte@aol.com,

Mike Cornwell mike_corn@tiscali.co.uk Ray Hull ray_rosie@btinternet.com

Articles submitted but not included in the present publication will be put in future newsletters.



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