

CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Number 72, August, 2011



Clapham Street Fair

There is so much that is familiar about the Street Fair – after all it has been going for 32 years and it is one of the occasions which brings many people and groups in the village together. There are many things that are familiar most notably the stalls and the ever popular Duck Race organised by the Village Hall.

However, it is really good to see every year some things

Continued on centre pages

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Happy Birthday John



Dr. John Farrer enjoyed his 90th birthday party at home, shortly after coming home from hospital after a successful repair job to his hip. His son John Peter and his partner Jane came over from Vancouver for the occasion. Top left is a close-up of the cake which is another wonderful work of art created by Janet Wildman.

CLAPHAM POTATO PROJECT

Now in its second year, the potato project is going from strength to strength. Earlier this year we planted three varieties of potatoes on a new plot on one of John Dawson's fields off the old road to Ingleton. The varieties – Duke of York, Lady Balfour and Kondor – were the most popular (and best yielding) of the six varieties planted last year. The Duke of York new potatoes are now available for £1.50/kg from the village shop, Growing with Grace, and 'honesty' stalls on Riverside and Gildersbank. We're not taking phone orders as this was too time-consuming, but please do buy some from one of the outlets. Local pubs and restaurants such as the Hill Inn and The Traddock are using our potatoes, which indicates the quality of the spuds.

The main crop potatoes will be available in the coming months. Income from sales will be used to buy next year's seed potatoes and organic fertiliser, and any surplus will help support other projects run

by Clapham Sustainability Group.

If you'd like to help harvest the potatoes, we usually do this on Wednesdays from 5.30pm for an hour or so but we'll also arrange a few other digs during the school holidays – contact me for further details. Please support this local food project, producing locally grown potatoes without the use of chemicals.

Don Gamble

Clapham Sustainability Group (015242 51775)

Thank you!

Shelia Robinson and family would like to thank everyone for the amazing support at the their recent coffee morning held at the Village Hall. They raised the magnificent sum of £1200 for 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer'.



On Wednesday, 24th June many people in Clapham heard a mighty explosion, this happened when Peter Richardson was driving his tractor from Austwick back home to Green Close with a trailer load of muck. A warning light came on while he was coming along Clapham bypass so he pulled in and stopped just after he'd turned off onto the Bentham road. When he looked inside the fuse box it was glowing red and then it burst into flames. Within seconds the cab was alight.

A passing off-duty policeman stopped just as the fire started and he called for assistance. The Police and Fire Brigade arrived very quickly and extinguished the roaring flames. Unfortunately the front of the trailer was badly damaged in the fire, but fortunately Peter escaped unhurt.



Pictures of the burnt-out tractor – before and after



CHURCH NEWS

The Vicar writes . . .

The Arthur Rank Centre (ARC) is an ecumenical Christian charity funded in 1972 as a focus and resource for the work of Churches in rural areas, through the sharing of good practice, the provision of training and the encouragement of Christian ministry.

The ARC leads the Christian Churches in their efforts to improve the quality of life of those living and working in rural communities and supports and extends the work of rural Churches. It also supports the rural and farming community in a very practical sense through a programme of social and community projects.

For all its beauty, life in the countryside can be tough. At ARC they are concerned for the 900,000 households who are living on or below the poverty threshold in rural England, and those who feel isolated in places where demographic change, the lack of affordable housing, and the withdrawal of services are all taking their toll on communities. With projects such as the Rural Stress Helpline (which handles 2,000 calls each year) and Computers for Rural People, they can help people to cope.

It is so worrying that many farming families are still going through difficult times. For the unlucky few, problems of increased transport costs, lack of broadband access, lack of finance and the continued scourge of Bovine TB continue to cause hardship and distress. Help is often given through projects like Care Farming and the Church's network of Rural Officers and Agricultural Chaplains.

The ARC is the Church's rural resource centre and much is being done to resource God's people in their task of sharing in God's mission in the countryside. Rural congregations are often at the forefront in providing support to those in their communities who are in need. Help in this important work is needed more than ever as 20,000 people access ARC's

services each year. But all this costs money and they receive no statutory funding, but rely entirely on fundraising and the goodwill of friends and supporters.

There are many worthy causes across the world, but there are some acute and sometimes hidden needs within our own communities. So please consider helping ARC. More information can be found via www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk.

We are lucky to live in such a beautiful Deanery – do pray for and continue to support our communities.

Your friend and Vicar, Ian

Forthcoming Event

Sunday, August 28th, 'Tea on the Green'. From 2:30p.m. on Newby Green. If wet at Wyvern. Come and enjoy tea, cakes and chat. Donations will be divided between the Somalian Famine Appeal and Saint James' Church.

Thanks to all helpers

You did essential shopping and administration.

You painted, polished, cleaned and prepared the village hall.

You set up tables and chairs in the hall.

You brought a bowlful of pink and white flowers for the tables, daytime and evening.

You made 170 assorted sandwiches which had all sold by 1.15pm.

You baked wonderful cakes, buns, loaves and slices which were much appreciated by the public.

You served teas, coffees and soft drinks at speed.

You swerved round the kitchen table and zoomed round the hall clearing trays and debris at speed.

You washed and dried up the crockery at speed.

You worked as cashiers throughout the day, taking approximately £1,200 from the public.

You encapsulated and hung helpful signs around the village and collected them all later.

You swept and vacuumed floors at the end and probably did a hundred other things during the day.

Thank YOU ALL very much,

Liz Mason, Nicola Saward, Ann Stewart

Refreshments Team, Village Hall, 23rd July

John Murfin

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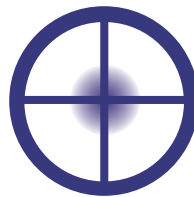
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CLAPHAM PLAYPARK

Lots of things have been happening at the park over the last few months, all thanks to the generous help of local people and businesses. Jim Fox has repaired the rutted patches and made two raised beds which have been filled with a range of plants chosen and planted by Lisa, and Ann Stewart has repaired and maintained parts of the boundary wall.

Les procured an old safe (empty, unfortunately) from Settle police station which will make a good donation box and it's now housed in a stone structure made by Rob Watson. The donation box has a plaque on it made by Red Hot Pixel, and some of the materials used were donated by the Ingleborough Estate and villagers. Les has also been busy strimming, along with Sue mowing.

Wayne has planted a willow sculpture which is growing nicely and will be used as a story-telling space, and Playdale have put right a few lengths of timber edging that had come loose. Eddie has been making final grant claims, while others have been keeping the park tidy, which should be made easier when we get a

new rubbish bin installed soon, near the equipment.

All of this work has been done for little or no charge, and the Association is very grateful for people's generosity and help.

The official opening of the park was on the afternoon of Saturday, 4th June. Dr Farrer kindly cut the ribbon to officially open it, Batala gave us a great samba drumming performance, and we all enjoyed Lisa's refreshments. There was plenty for children to do, with Stephen Williams leading games and Judith Whiteley showing off her cute piglets. Clapham's Waste Reduction Group had a stall selling plants and seed. Everyone seemed to have a good time – exactly the kind of community event that we hoped the refurbished park would be used for.

A lot of effort went into raising the £60,000 or so needed for the work. Support came from individuals, Clapham Snooker Club, Clapham Whist Group, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Bradford Potholing Club, Newby Landowners, and via the village store, the Old Manor House and Clapham Development Association. A large grant came from the Community Spaces programme, which is being managed by Groundwork UK as an award partner to the Big Lottery Fund. We now need to find around £1,600 per year to cover insurance (which has increased due to the value of the play equipment) and maintenance. We'll be running regular fundraising activities, for instance we had a stall at the street market selling second hand toys etc, and we'd be very grateful for any further help. In particular, it would be great if local families each chipped in a tenner or so a year.

Use of the park has soared since the new equipment was installed earlier this year, which is fantastic. The playpark is primarily to benefit local children but it also provides another attraction to draw visitors to the village, who then hopefully use the local shops and

businesses. The Park Association also has a large marquee (roughly 5 x 10m and 3.5m at its highest point) that local people can use for parties on the park, in return for a modest donation.

But as well as cash we want your brains. We really need some new members to help. The Association meets every couple of months, usually in the New Inn at 7.30pm. Meetings always finish before 9pm, although members don't seem to leave the pub straightaway. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 6th September.

Don Gamble (chair)
Clapham Park Association
(015242 51775)



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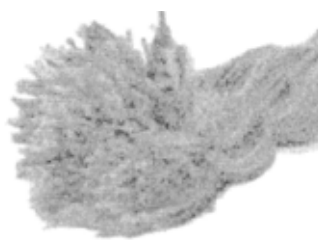
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This stall is not for stalling

The two cyclists nearly fell off their bikes for laughing: pouring rain, a solitary figure in dripping waterproofs standing behind a little stall that looked almost empty . . . ‘**Clapham Fruit Share**’ said the jazzy banner round the stall top, but all they could see, as they lurched past, was a wooden box of lettuces – and perhaps one small punnet of fruit . . . “A wet – and rather wild – flop”, they must have been thinking, as they wobbled back into balance. Little did they know! They didn’t see the five punnets of glowing, rosy gooseberries that arrived a few minutes later, (or, for that matter, the box of home-made redcurrant muffins lurking behind the lettuces); they didn’t know that, had it not been for the rain, there would have been a wheelbarrow-full of community-crop new potatoes, just harvested, and bunches of Esther’s lovely herbs, with recipes to match – and perhaps a repeat of Di’s delicious elderflower cordial, or Eleanor’s bountiful bringing of excess vegetables from Growing With Grace!

So far we’ve only had three Saturdays of stall-life next to Croft Cafe, two of them wet, but already we are warm with delight at what has happened. Local people are beginning to seek us out, to bring fruit, or find it, for jam-making, or that crumble – or cobbler – or pie. Passing visitors are interested: we tell them about Clapham’s determination to produce local

food – and offer them fruit to nibble as they walk. And for those of us behind the stall there is this lovely, releasing pleasure in handing out free fruit to the community. It is this sense of sharing that is warming us – and, we hope, all those who come to visit. With that in mind, can we stress that those hoping to find fruit, don’t need to have something to exchange for it. ‘Free’ means free. Our donation pot is simply there for anyone who wants to contribute to the Orchard project in that way.

Fruit growers are promising future abundance of plums and apples; the early potatoes, (at a buyer-friendly price), will be steadily on offer from now on in the Village Shop, even if rain keeps them away from the stall – and who knows what else you might find on a Saturday, between 10 and 12, next to Croft Cafe . . . ? Do come and visit us – even if it’s just for a laugh.

A fruit-grower’s tip: ‘When picking raspberries I tend to note which canes are the most prolific and mark these with a piece of string, so that I know to keep them for next year’.

And when the fruit reaches the kitchen: ‘a favourite recipe for a family

pudding which is quick and simple, as long as you remember to get the butter out of the ‘fridge in advance and have scales and mixer ready.

Ingredients:

Plums, (de-stoned), or blackcurrants, or raspberries – enough to cover base of casserole or lasagne dish.

Little sugar to sweeten – but note: topping will add sweetness.

Cake-mix topping: (quantity for 2 people)

2 oz butter

2 oz caster sugar

1 egg

1½ oz SR flour + ½ oz ground almond

(or 2oz SR flour)

Method: Combine cake-mix ingredients and cover fruit. Bake in moderate oven for 30–40 minutes, covering surface with a sheet of greaseproof if it browns too quickly. Check mix is cooking underneath with knife point; extend cooking if necessary; dish is very ‘forgiving’. Serve with lashings of pouring cream.

Or: Add a layer of luscious ripe elderberries on top of the apple in the pie you are making, and you have a great alternative to plain apple pie. A beautiful purple to boot! The added bonus is that the elderberry bit is a freeby.

Clapham Community Orchard Group

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Book Review

“One of the most glorious train journeys in Britain” is Michael Williams’ description of the Morecambe to Leeds line in his new book, *“On the Slow Train Again”*. He is especially impressed by views of the hills and fells around Clapham station.

Beginning his journey in Morecambe, he looks back to the resort’s heyday, which was largely created by the railway. He stops off at Carnforth station, with its “Brief Encounter” associations, and also at Bentham, before reaching Clapham. Here he highlights the surviving mock-Tudor former station-master’s house at this gateway to Ingleborough hill and cave, and then rhapsodises about the view across to all Three Peaks as the train travels on towards Giggleswick.

You are invited to come to hear Michael on Friday, 6th September, at 7-45 pm in Bentham Town Hall, when he is to be guest speaker at the AGM of the Lancaster & Skipton Rail User Group. This is an open meeting, and all are welcome.

John Bearpark

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Welcome to May Kathleen

Clapham welcomes a new arrival to the village – May Kathleen, daughter of Richard and Tracey Bilton of Rosedean, Riverside, a little sister for Joseph, she was born on Friday, 29th July and weighed in at 7lb 10oz

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Continued from front page

which are a bit different. For example, this year we were pleased to be able to welcome some new groups who were raising money for various good causes. These included The Smile Train, the Motor Neurone Disease Society and the RNIB. While we welcomed back the stunning Batala Lancaster with their fantastic samba rhythms we also had a new street entertainer in the shape of Pete White's Suitcase Circus. Pete had a mad mixture of stilt walking, magic and fun which attracted all ages. The Classic Car Rally is a relatively new addition to the Street Fair but every year it has been bigger and better. This year there were nearly 50 cars ranging from the 1920s to the 1990s, all beautifully presented. This has become a great attraction for all ages.

Food and drink are an important element of the Street Fair and it was possible to eat your way from the top to the bottom of Church Avenue and then slip off to the Village Hall for lunch or tea – and many people did if the 100 pounds of bacon which went into the butties was anything to go by!

None of this happens without a huge amount of effort from many people in our community. There are too many to name individually but thanks go to anyone who helped in any way, shape or form to bring off another successful day.

The Street Fair is organised by Saint James' Church as its main fundraising event of the year. However, over the years, it has become much more than that in that it is a real day for the community. There is a small Steering Group which organises the Street Fair. It does not meet often and does not only consist of church members. If anyone would be interested in joining this group to plan the 2012 'Olympic Street Fair' please contact Sue Mann on 51792.





Village people . . . Look out for

If you are a vegetarian you may not know Christine and Martin Wilcock. Those of you who enjoy meat will certainly know them if you attend the Street Market because they are the couple who work with Marilyn to produce those delicious bacon sandwiches at their stall near the bridge. The best tactic is to eat one in the morning to see if they have maintained last year's standard and then have another a couple of hours later just to ensure quality control.

Christine was born in July 1944 in Mexborough, South Yorkshire where her dad was an engineer with the NCB and her mother worked in a sewing factory. She grew up in Bolton on Dearne, attended Goldthorpe School and enjoyed practical subjects more than written work. Her first job was in a chemist's shop as a dispensing assistant. After six years she got married, moved to Penistone and worked in the same kind of job



for seven more years before leaving for the birth of her daughter, Sharon Jayne. Her first husband was a very practical man who worked as a blacksmith, a farrier and a fitter but the marriage ended in divorce after 24 years. Christine's later jobs included working at Boots and in the lighting department at BHS before she moved to become a security officer with Morrison's, a job which was interesting, varied and occasionally frightening when she had to apprehend shoplifters. It was this job which unexpectedly changed her life because she met David, a fruit and veg manager who told her about his brother, Martin, who was fairly recently divorced. Eventually, after much hesitation and uncertainty, Martin and Christine phoned each other and agreed that they would meet outside Wakefield Cathedral. The problem was that neither of them knew what the other looked like so Martin asked how he would recognise her. Christine said that she would be wearing a purple top and flowery bottoms so Martin arrived early for the date and scanned the horizon. Eventually a woman walked up wearing clothes that seemed to match the specification but she was about three stones heavier

and two decades older than he expected. He looked for a quick escape route but he was saved because his real date, Christine, arrived before he could run. The drama was not over because when they went into a nearby pub for a drink Christine bumped into someone she had detained in the supermarket earlier that day so a second escape was necessary. However, that first potentially disastrous date 22 years ago resulted in a happy marriage and a world famous bacon sandwich enterprise.

Martin was born in Cross Flatts, near Bingley in February 1936, the third in a family of seven. His mum was a weaver and his dad was a long distance lorry driver. He enjoyed a very warm happy family life in which there was no money for presents but compensation came in the form of his mum's exceptional baking. No wonder he later fell for Christine who is



equally skilled in this regard. Martin went to school in Bingley but he preferred playing truant so that he could work on a farm. He got his first evening paper round when he was eight and this was soon followed by a morning round and a Sunday round. His first full time job at the age of fifteen was in a butcher's and his next was as an apprentice painter and decorator. He signed on for twenty two years in the Duke of Wellington's regiment when he was eighteen and he loved the life of a signals instructor. He trained for boxing, swimming and running and served in Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus – and Halifax! He took the option of leaving after three years because it was clear that army life was incompatible with the normal family life which he hoped to enjoy.

He worked initially in a wool warehouse in Bradford and then as an instructor at Shipley Baths where he met his first wife who was a member of the swimming club. They later had two sons, but the marriage ended in divorce. Other jobs included weaving, selling insurance and running a general store which he bought, only to see it wiped out when Morrisons opened up nearby. It was ironical that

Flowery Bottoms

Morrisons ended his business but provided his future wife with employment. Later he had a market stall but then he worked for 31 years in a business which printed labels.

When he married Christine they lived in Glusburn and later in Barnoldswick. Christine worked for Whitaker's, the chocolate makers as factory manager and then personnel manager. Sixteen years ago Martin was diagnosed with bowel cancer which was obviously frightening in itself but it also led indirectly to the fact that they were forced to sell the home they were buying. They came to visit friends here in Clapham, quickly realised how appealing it is and rented Jasmine Cottage for five years before moving to Crakehall, near Bedale. Eventually the pull of Clapham proved too strong and they came back to their present home, Yew Tree Cottages where they received a warm welcome from old friends.

When I interviewed them over a glass or two of Martin's malt whisky it was clear how happy they are and yet I could not help thinking how different their

lives might have been. Suppose Martin had taken out the other woman with flowery bottoms and then married her. Mistakes can easily occur if you rely for identification on a man's eye for clothing. On many occasions when Barbara and I have agreed to meet in M&S or BHS I have combed the shop floor in a desperate attempt to spot her green top only to discover when I find her that she is actually wearing brown that day. Fortunately Martin is obviously more aware than me and he spotted the right target in the end.

Stuart Marshall

ELGA RETIRES



A party was held in the garden of Fall View to mark the retirement of Elga Balmford who has worked as a physiotherapist in Clapham for nearly 40 years. She was presented with two lovely rose bushes.

Above & Below

A local company providing outdoor activities in the area – rock climbing, caving, hill walking, gorge scrambling, abseiling and mountain bike guiding. Groups, families, individuals and training courses catered for – complete novices to advanced skills.



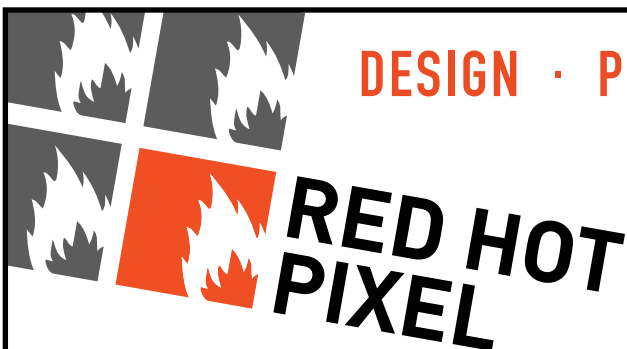
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Growing with Grace – Summer Open Day

Summer arrived again in the form of pouring rain for the start of the Growing with Grace Summer open day on July 16th! We had just finished building a tent-like structure to provide both shade and, more appropriately, shelter from the rain! People were rushing around putting finishing touches to the roof and emptying water out of one point where it had collected overnight; others were organising kettles for teas and Greg who had travelled up from Nottingham to cook lunch from Growing with Grace ingredients was calmly looking for large pans and dishes.

A few intrepid people arrived for the first tour of the glasshouses at 11am, including a couple from Settle and others from London and Bradford. Large white umbrellas were available for people to use as they walked between the glasshouses! As the day went on the weather improved, lunch was lovely and more people arrived for the later tours. People always seem to be impressed by the size of the glasshouses and are interested in seeing the vegetables growing. It makes me realise that people do not have as many opportunities to see vegetables growing as they did say 40 or 50 years ago.

The forest garden is always a popular area and people comment on the feeling of peace and calm in this area. This year we have our own apricots

growing and visitors were able to sample these, along with cucumbers, various edible flowers and herbs, including a rare, but delicious desert 'ice' plant which seemed to go down well. There were also opportunities to hear about the composting operation and Jim explained about the biodiesel production. Sue and James also made an appearance to check up on the bees! Lots of questions were asked and answered and Share investments on the day brought the total to £40,000 which was very encouraging.

Line Dancing

Come along for a fun evening
and learn to Line Dance
on Saturday, 10th September
at 7.30pm
Clapham Village Hall.



Everyone welcome no matter what age or ability.

Tickets £6 (£3 for those under 14 years)
to include supper.

Please bring own drinks - it can be thirsty work!

Tickets available from Denise Wilson, Melanie Greenhalgh and Liz Mason.



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Fundraising Success

Thank you once again for supporting the Animal Rescue Fundraiser held in the Village Hall in June. We had a brilliant day, the good weather brought people out, and we managed to raise approximately £985 for the attending animal charities.

This is our best result so far! Many thanks to everyone who donated cakes and savouries which were as usual very gratefully received, and to everyone who helped behind the scenes. Hope to see you again at the next event.

Best wishes, *Sally Dewhirst*

Returning to my Roots

I graduated from University of Cumbria in 2010 after achieving a 1st Class (Hons) degree in Physiotherapy. I then moved to Nottingham where I worked for a large NHS trust, gaining invaluable experience in core areas of the profession. However, I have a passionate love of the countryside and after venturing afar, truly appreciate the meaning of home.

I returned to the area in March, working freelance for a private clinic in Otley three days a week, whilst building up my local client base for the remainder. I currently provide a mobile physiotherapy service offering assessment and treatment of a wide range of spinal, joint and muscle problems, as well as aiding recovery from respiratory and neurological conditions. I am very dedicated to my profession and I am committed to providing effective treatment solutions as well as preventing injuries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank locals for their support over the past few months. In particular Miss Balmford who has kindly donated some equipment, for which a donation to Clapham Church has been made. Ultimately, I am very proud to work and live in the area in which I was born and bred and look forward to serving the community for the foreseeable future.

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Bethel Chapel

Bethel Chapel would like to thank all who contributed to the sum of £234 which was raised at the Street fair and donated to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

The annual **Soccer School** will be held from the 10th – 14th August for boys and girls aged 7–14 years. A few places are still available. Please contact Mark Hutchinson on 51228 or mobile 07968 182866.

The Winter programme of meetings begin in September with 4 2 9s for children aged 4–9 years, meeting each Wednesday at 6.00 pm from 7th September.

The **Encounter** for young people aged 9 and upwards begins on Friday, 9th September at 7.30 pm and meets fortnightly after that.

Clapham Tots begins on Friday, 9th and meets each week during school term-time at 9.30 am. Parents and carers with pre-school children are welcome.

The **Senior Citizens** meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month beginning at 2.30 pm. Other **Thursday Fellowship** meetings are held on the 3rd and last Thursdays of the month.

The **Harvest Supper** is to be held on Saturday, 24th September at 7.30 pm.

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More Sunday Trains

The Lancaster & Skipton Rail User Group are very pleased that Northern Rail is to operate a full Sunday service of four trains each way all the year round on the Leeds–Morecambe line. For many years now there have been only two trains each way for more than half the year. Trains leave Clapham for Lancaster and Morecambe at 10-00, 12-02, 16-08 and 18-33, and from Skipton and Leeds at 13-24, 15-26, 18-40 and 20-56. This will be a great help to local people, especially those making longer journeys via connections at Lancaster or Leeds, and also to visitors heading for the hills and caves and the other attractions of our village and surrounding countryside.

LASRUG continues to press for an improvement to the weekday service, in particular for trains to take people to and from work in Lancaster, and a later last train from Leeds.

John Bearpark

FIRST RESPONDERS

On Wednesday, 6th July, **Clapham Age Concern Group** heard a talk by Mr. Geoff Ferris, leader of the Hellifield First Responders Group. The First Responders scheme is a partnership between the Yorkshire Ambulance Service N.H.S. Trust and local groups of volunteers. The idea of First Responders is that people on the spot can often reach a patient before an ambulance arrives. In many medical emergencies the first few minutes are critical and if effective treatment can be provided in that time lives can be saved and disability reduced.

First Responders are trained in basic life support skills, the use of an automated external defibrillator and the administration of oxygen. When a 999 call is received at the Y.A.S. Communications Centre an ambulance is requested and at the same time the First Responder on duty in the area is alerted. All equipment necessary plus a dedicated telephone is provided for the volunteer. The Ambulance Service

would like to have an active group in each village along the A65. At the moment Clapham does not have one. Volunteers need to be in good health, aged between 18 and 70, have their own vehicle and a full driving licence. If anyone in the village is willing and able to become part of such a team the number to ring is 0845 120 3155 for further information. It would be very good for Clapham to have this facility.

Age Concern

The next Age Concern meeting will be on Wednesday, 3rd August at Ingleborough Hall at 10 a.m. It is their annual Open Day, which is always enjoyable. New members are always very welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. In the Village Hall.

Brenda Pearce

The recent collection for Christian Aid raised the magnificent sum of £759.04. Many thanks to all who donated.



Function Room Hire

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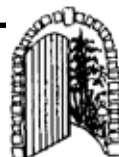
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WILDLIFE AT CLAPHAM

For the 2nd year running Crossbills have been seen around the local area. A flock of about ten were seen at Ingleborough Hall – 28th June, one was heard calling at the Hall on 15th July and two were seen at Ingleborough hall 18th and 20th July, a small flock were also seen between Austwick and Feizor a couple of weeks ago. Nationally there has been a small influx of Crossbills seen around the country; this could be due to a good breeding season and a shortage of their food in northern Europe. The Crossbills are about Bullfinch in size, the males are bright red, females are a yellow green in colour and juveniles are speckled brown, but they all have this characteristic crossed bill for extracting the seeds out of pine cones.

Another Finch species the Siskin has bred again this year either at Ingleborough Hall or on the Nature



Willow Warbler seen at Crooklands

Trail. At the beginning of the breeding season a male Siskin was seen and heard singing at the back of Ingleborough Hall near the lake and in the last few weeks a family group of Siskins have been seen around the Hall. Siskins and Redpolls used to be only winter visitors seen feeding on Alder trees and at bird feeders; they are now both regular breeders around the local area.

One male Pied Flycatcher was first seen around the 14th June by Simon Gresswell and Rob Watson by the beck near the Bunk House, it has been seen regularly since then up to the middle of July. Pied Flycatchers are annual spring and autumn migrants and occasionally a pair might stay to breed locally.



Hummingbird Hawkmoth

Its cousins the Spotted Flycatcher are also breeding around the local area with at least five known breeding pairs nesting.

A pair of Tawny Owls have been successful this year at Crooklands B&B and a Willow Warbler has also been seen in the area by John and Diane Elphinstone.

One Red Kite drifted east over Clapham on the 3rd June, it had been seen early on in the day over Leighton Moss.

One male Wheatear was seen near Crina Bottom Farm – 1st July; I think this is a bird returning south early after failing to breed.

Another migrant seen around Clapham was the Hummingbird Hawkmoth. One was seen feeding on red valerian at Smithy Cottage – 10th June and another was watched feeding in John Eaton's back garden by myself, John and Audrey Wallace – 6th July.

The first juvenile Swallows were seen at Clapham – 9th June.

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. An advert costs as little as £3 per issue.

For Advertising your products and services, please contact Elga Balmford on 015242 51324
Articles, News and Ideas please for the next issue by **28th September, 2011** to the Village Shop,
Lesley Crutchley: lesley@gildersbank.co.uk,
Chrissie Bell: ChrisHarte@aol.com,
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Articles submitted but not included in the present publication will be printed in future issues.

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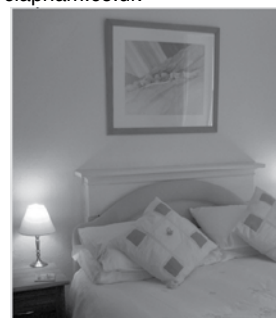


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