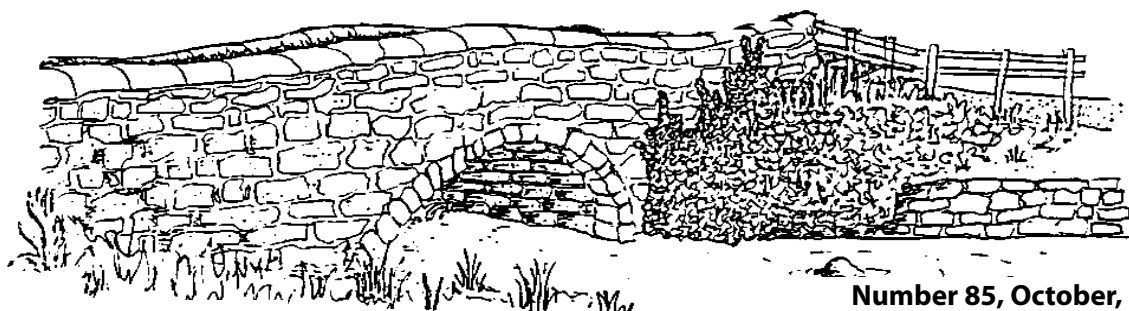


CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Number 85, October, 2013

Parish Council Report

The Parish Council met on 24th September, 2013.

Would you like to represent the interests of the people of Clapham, Newby and Keasden? Are you interested in improving services in our community? If so, you may wish to consider becoming a parish councillor. Parish Council elections will take place next year on 22nd May. For more information please contact the parish clerk whose details are at the end of this article.

The new Chairman of Craven District Council, Cllr Donny Whaites will be attending the meeting on 26th November to discuss issues specific to our parish. If you have any questions for the Chairman then please contact the Parish Clerk or come along to the meeting itself.

We have had a number of very helpful suggestions for maintenance jobs around the parish including path clearance, gritting and cleaning signage. The Council will be working with a contractor from Clapham to carry out caretaker tasks in the area. If you have any suggestions of work needing to be done then please contact the Parish Clerk.

You may have noticed that Little Red Bus no longer runs the 581 bus service since it sadly went into liquidation at the end of July. Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire took over the service at very short notice. A revised timetable is on display at both bus stops in Clapham or at www.dalesbus.org

The Parish Council continues to liaise with North Yorkshire County Council about unresolved highways issues.

There have been no further developments regarding the Old Mercedes Garage but the situation is being monitored.

The Parish Council considered the following applications:

- NYCC Planning Application: Erection of single prefabricated classroom unit with ramp,

demolition of existing temporary classroom unit and relocation of two existing sheds and summer house at Clapham Primary School

- C/18/620: Full planning permission for alterations and extensions to existing dwelling, Marton House, Riverside, Clapham.

It was noted that the following applications were approved:

- 18/2013/13721: Burnhead Farm Mewith, Retention of existing agricultural building for use as a general purpose building (To be demolished under planning permission 18/2003/3676.) Proposed lean-to extension to the above agricultural building and roofing over an existing area of hard standing for sheep handling equipment. Extension of the garden over an existing triangular area of agricultural hard standing.
- 18/2012/13681: Woodgill Farm, Clapham, Demolition of existing farmhouse and the erection of a new dwelling with associated garaging and external works (resubmission of application reference 18/2013/13681).
- 18/2013/13603: Old Butts, Clapham. Alterations to existing farmhouse and change of use of lean to shippon to domestic/residential use of the farmhouse.
- 18/2013/13553, Green Close House Clapham, Proposed new dwelling for agricultural worker.
- C/18/61H/LB: The New Inn Hotel, The Green, Clapham. Application for listed building consent for internal alterations
- C/18/65L/GPDO: Change of Use to Dwellings at Old Masons Yard, Clapham was received.

Continued on page two

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Contact Cherry Flitcroft
07969 984182 or 015242 51702

Parish Council Report – continued

It was noted that the following applications were withdrawn:

- C/18/61J: Full Planning Application for Installation of Containerised Biomass Boiler at New Inn Hotel, Clapham.

C/18/61K: Full Planning Permission for the creation of two new separate decked areas, New Inn Hotel, Clapham.

The Parish Council meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except December when it is 3rd Tuesday) and meetings take place in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Parish Clerk Gillian Muir can be contacted by email claphamclerk@btinternet.com or by phone 015242 51775.

Responsible Financial Officer Nicola Saward can be contacted on nicola.saward@btinternet.com or by phone 015242 51703.

Have you got a love of the railway?

Do you want to put something back into the community?

Clapham Station needs you. Is anyone interested in setting up a working group to look after Clapham Station on a voluntary basis? You could visit Bentham Station to see what has been achieved there.

If interested, please contact Clapham Parish Clerk on claphamclerk@btinternet.com

Come to the Games Club!

Clapham Games Club was started recently for members who enjoy playing indoor games such as board or card games or any other kind that anybody fancies. So far we have played a wide variety and members sometimes bring new ones to try for us all to have a go. It's very informal and there are often several different games going on at once. If this appeals we would love to see you. We meet fortnightly in the Reading Room on Monday afternoons at 1.30 p.m. We alternate with the Knit and Knatter group so there's another possibility. You could be occupied every Monday! Sue supplies us with tea and cakes during the afternoon at a very modest charge and during the winter months there is a lovely fire in the wood-burning stove. Do give us a try. You will be very welcome.

The remaining dates for 2013 are:

Monday, 14th and 28th October

Monday, 11th and 25th November and

Monday, 9th December

Any queries please contact Brenda Pearce on 51816.

CHURCH NEWS

The Vicar writes . . .

A friend sent me this message recently and I thought it to be very appropriate for us all. God bless you all.

The last three wishes of Alexander the Great

On his death bed, Alexander summoned his generals and told them his three ultimate wishes:

1. The best doctors should carry his coffin.
2. The wealth he had accumulated (money, gold, precious stones) should be scattered along the procession to the cemetery, and
3. His hands should be let loose, hanging outside the coffin for all to see.

One of his generals, who was surprised by these unusual requests, asked Alexander to explain.

Here is what Alexander the Great had to say:

1. I want the best doctors to carry my coffin to demonstrate that, in the face of death, even the best doctors in the world have no power to heal.
2. I want the road to be covered with my treasures so that everybody sees that material wealth acquired on earth, stays on earth.
3. I want my hands to swing in the wind, so that people understand that we come to this world empty handed and we leave this world empty handed after the most precious treasure of all is exhausted, and that is TIME.

TIME is our most precious treasure because it is LIMITED. We can produce more wealth, but we cannot produce more time. When we give someone our time, we actually give a portion of our life that we will never take back. Our time is our life.

May God grant you plenty of TIME and may you have the wisdom to give it away so that you can LIVE and LOVE in peace.

May God bless you all
Ian

Diary Dates for October

Saturday, 5th October – Muker Silver Band will be performing at St James' Church, Clapham. Tickets are now on sale at £6 per head, including refreshments (children free). Available from Sue (51792), church members, or at the door.

Decorating the Church for Harvest – we will be meeting in the church from 10am to carry out the decoration. Volunteers are always welcome – please see Melanie if you can help and for further details.

Saturday, 5th October – Parish Walk – meet outside Austwick Church at 9.30 am for a morning's walk.

Saturday, 19th October – Octameron Concert in Austwick Parish Hall at 7.30 pm.

Thursday, 31st October – House Communion at the home of Eileen Plumridge at 10.45am.

Future events for your diary

Saturday, 2nd November – The Autumn Fair coffee morning will be held in the village hall from 10am-1pm - stalls and refreshments – please come along and support this annual event. Entrance FREE.

10th November – Remembrance Sunday. A special Family Remembrance will be held at St. James' Church beginning at 10.55am. All are welcome to attend this important annual service.

Saturday, 30th November – Please put a note in your diary that the ever popular Steeton Male Voice Choir will be making its bi-annual visit to St James Clapham. Further details in November's edition of the Parish Newsletter.

Parish Notices

Austwick and Clapham Church Book Sales: If you're short of a good read, you may find what you are looking for at the back of church where there is an on-going sale of reading material. Hardbacks, paperbacks and magazines are all available in exchange for a small donation, with proceeds going towards the upkeep of the churches.

Christmas Trees – Top quality Christmas Trees on sale again via Austwick Church – order forms are at the rear of Church or ring the Vicar on 51313.

Go Places with Clapham Age Uk Group!

Clapham Age UK Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month in the Village Hall at 11 a.m. We have coffee and a chat followed by a speaker or an activity. Once a month on the Thursday of the week following the meeting in the Village Hall we have the use of the Age UK minibus for a day trip. We can choose our destination so we visit a wide variety of places which vary according to the time of year and the weather. After the Wednesday meeting the cook and teachers in the village school kindly invite us to go to school for lunch at a cost of £3.50 each, but members are very welcome to attend the meeting without the lunch or come on the trips without attending the meetings. It's very flexible! We are always happy to meet new members so if you have a few hours free once or twice a month we would love to see you. Any queries please contact Brenda Pearce on 51816.

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CRO Family Fundraising Day

As many of you may be aware this year we lost one of our biggest fundraising events when the decision was made not to continue with the Broughton Game Show, as a result this has prompted us to try and find new and innovative ways to fill the gap and make up some of the short-fall in the revenue received from the Game Show.

As a result on 26th October in conjunction with the New Inn we will be holding the CROlympics a fun day for all the family with a host of sporting events and challenges from a climbing wall to an artificial cave from wellie throwing to archery, pool and darts challenge and a Tyrolean rescue challenge. There will also be a duck race and a display of cars from the Dales Historic Car Club.

Ongoing throughout the day there will be a Land Rover pulling contest sponsored by Kentdale Land Rover. For an entry fee of £30 we invite teams of six to pull a Land Rover over a set distance the fastest time being the winners (prize to the fastest team) each team will be allowed three attempts.

In the evening commencing at 6pm the New Inn will host a charity auction where a variety of donated items will be auctioned. Items include two weeks luxury villa accommodation in Florida for up to 8 people (www.homeaway.co.uk/p717656). A champagne afternoon tea for 2 at the Traddock, Montane jacket and a Liverpool Stadium and Museum tour for six people.



For the full list visit www.cro.org.uk.

The evening will conclude with a live band at the New Inn. We would be delighted for local people to join us for the day.

Further information and entry forms for the Land Rover pull can be found on the CRO website.

Hope to see you on the Day

*Heather Eastwood
Chair, Cave Rescue Organisation*

Many thanks

Liz and Eric Mason would like to thank their friends and neighbours for the many kindnesses shown to them during the weeks of Liz's unexpected surgery and recovery. We have been overwhelmed by the support shown to us. A great big thank you!

Liz and Eric Mason

. . . and more thanks

Thank you once again to all who supported our barbecue for East Timor at fall View in August.

We raised £350 for this worthy cause which supports medical, educational and basic human needs to the impoverished people of East Timor.

We have been having the barbecue for the past 13 years and next year we plan to have a smaller fundraising event, perhaps afternoon tea.

Once again many thanks for all your support.

Rose Pierce (Trust Chairman)

If you wish to advertise in the Newsletter
please contact:
Ray Hull at Park View, Church Ave, Clapham
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Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire took over the
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A revised timetable is on display at both
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Dangerous plants in Clapham

A lot of work has been carried out in recent weeks to clear snowberry from the becksides beside the waterfall next to the churchyard and beside the footpath which leads from the church bridge to the play field. Some residents have queried why this has been done.

The work to eradicate the snowberry in these areas was approved by the Ingleborough Estate, which owns that land, when the original waterfall enhancement scheme was launched in 2005. Clapham Development Association (CDA) carried out the enhancement scheme with help from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and has taken on the on-going maintenance of the scheme for the present.

Snowberry is believed to be non-native to the area and has not arrived naturally. It was introduced to the Estate many years ago for the benefit of the pheasants which frequent the woods, to provide them with shelter and some forage. However, the white snowberries are poisonous to humans though they cause violent vomiting which normally leads to them being expelled from the stomach before causing a fatality. According to one website they can also cause skin irritation, bloody urine and delirium.

Clapham's snowberry has demonstrated amply that if left to 'grow naturally' it will create such dense cover, to a height of four or five feet, that it will extinguish every other plant in the undergrowth. There is a patch on the west side of The Green, opposite Tinklers Cottage, which illustrates this. Prior to the work carried out in 2005 the snowberry by the waterfall was also blocking views of the waterfall,

which is one of Clapham's features most attractive to many visitors.

For these reasons it seems sensible to limit the spread of snowberry and to cut it back periodically.

Another unwelcome plant found in Clapham is the monk's hood, a five feet tall elegant perennial with brilliant blue flowers shaped like a monk's cowl. There is one close to Station Road and until recently there was a clump in one of the gardens down The Green. One written authority on British plants says "Monk's Hood is one of the most poisonous of all British plants, containing the narcotic alkaloid aconitine, which acts by slowing the heart-rate." The web states that it has an extremely unpleasant taste which tends to prevent people from eating it accidentally but that eating it causes "severe gastrointestinal upset", slowing of the heart and death in extreme cases. It was apparently used to murder someone in the 19th century! We are advised to dig up and remove the whole of any Monk's Hood plant in our gardens – roots, stems, flowers, leaves – everything, but wear gloves to do the job because even handling the plant has been claimed to cause skin irritation and illness.

Ken Pearce

CLAPHAM COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE

Bulk Oil Buying Scheme

Subscriptions – Once again we are asking for a contribution of £1 from households participating in the Bulk Oil Buying scheme run by Glenys. This is to cover running expenses, such as telephone costs incurred by Glenys over the past year. We hope you will find this a reasonable request and an acceptable amount in view of the savings we all make on our domestic fuel and in appreciation of the work carried out by Glenys on our behalf.

If you missed out on the opportunity to pay your contribution at the 'Food Share' stall on Saturday mornings you can now drop it off at either: 'Long Barn', CrossHaw Lane, Clapham or 'Wyvern', Newby. (post-box on the fence).

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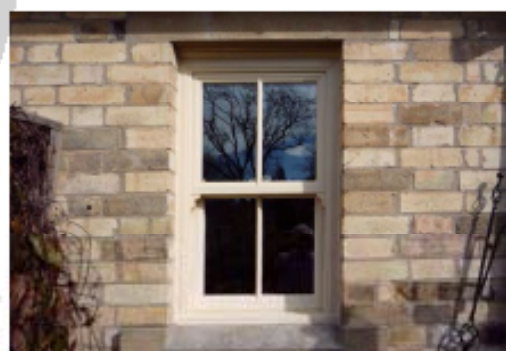
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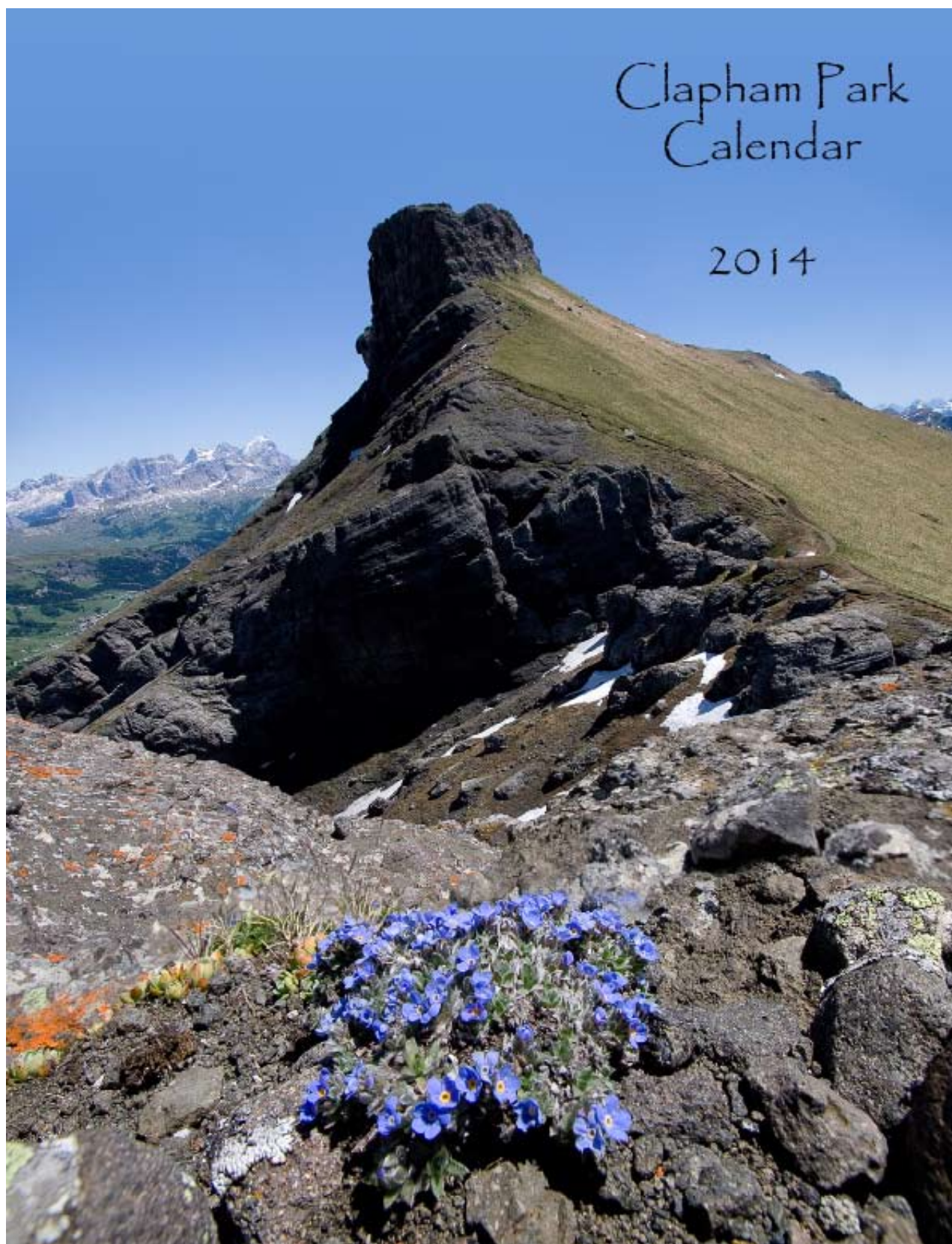
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The Clapham Park Calendar is soon to be available again at a cost of £4. They make a perfect addition to your year's organisation, contain stunning images from around the county, make fantastic presents for the person who has everything at Christmas and most importantly help fund the fantastic facility that is available for the children of this village and visitors to use as a play area. We are privileged to have it and it needs support and by buying a Calendar you are making an active contribution. The Calendars will soon be available at the Shop and for larger orders (reductions for orders of 20 or more!) or any order no matter how small you can contact me on 51433 or by e mail ... claphamolddog@hotmail.com. Many thanks David Crutchley

Village people . . .

Susan and Norman Stride who live near the top end of Cross Haw Lane arrived here six years ago via a roundabout route. Susan was born in Boumemouth in 1945, the only child in the family. Her father, a butcher, was also an only child because her grandfather was killed in the first world war before there could be further additions to the family. Susan's mother was an accountancy clerk and Susan enjoyed a happy childhood with her parents. She found school to be tolerable but not very thrilling. Her educational experiences could have been much more exciting because at the age of 11 she won a place at Sadler's Wells Ballet School and was desperate to go because dancing was her passion but her parents were unhappy about her leaving home when she was so young. Instead they paid for her to go to a private school in order to make her a lady! (Did they succeed? Answers on a postcard, please, to the editor of The Tatter). To pay for this private education Susan's father worked in the shop from 7.30 until 5.30, cycled ten miles to serve in a chip shop before cycling home in the dark at midnight. He must be made of tough stuff because, far from being killed by hard work, he is still alive at 98, looks after himself and goes on the bus to do his shopping.

She left school at 15 to begin a job as a punch card operator with the local electricity board where she worked for nine years, ending up as the supervisor of the department. It was during this time that she met and married a local chap who was doubtless overwhelmed by her gentle smile and her ladylike demeanour.

Norman was born in 1943 in Bournemouth and had one younger brother. His father was a roundsman for the Co-op bakery who married one of his customers. Norman enjoyed a happy family life but it was certainly not a privileged upbringing. There were six of them living in Grandma's rented house with no electricity, no running hot water, no bathroom and no indoor W.C. Norman still has the tin bath in which he bathed in front of the fire but I am sure he is discreet enough to draw the curtains when he uses it these days. The house was lit by gas mantles and any reading in bed was done by candlelight. It was not until he was 13 that the family moved to another rented house with electricity and a bathroom. Norman passed the 11 + and went to Bournemouth School. He liked school and did

well at 0 level but preferred sport and hobbies to academic work. He sold programmes at Dean Court, Bournemouth's ground, where he not only made some money but he gained free admission. He played the violin in the town's amateur orchestra but he never quite made it to the famous Boumemouth Symphony Orchestra.

He would have liked to stay on at school but, like so many others in those days, his family could not afford it. The later achievements of people such as Norman are all the more creditable because they were made from a difficult starting point. His first job was with The Inland Revenue as a tax officer where he served for six years. During this time he went one evening to The Boumemouth Pavilion to hear a singer who later became a DJ by the name of Tony Blackburn. There was also dancing that night (a good job you might think because the prospect of listening to T.B. all night would have made me jump off the pier). He asked a local young lady to dance and at the end of the evening he suggested a further date at the cinema. The next outing was to an evening of wrestling because Norman had been given two tickets but after that they pursued more civilised courting activities such as walking, cinema going and nine pin bowling, a superb game with wooden skittles which is very popular in the bowling alleys attached to many pubs in that area.

They married in 1967 and at the reception Norman could not stop himself from quietly singing and humming the number one pop song of the time. Unfortunately it was Englebert Humperdinck's 'Please release me~ let me go'. Susan refused to do so and they are still happily together 46 years later. Friends decorated their car extravagantly for the journey to Exmouth for their honeymoon but sadly they picked the wrong vehicle so it was Norman's parents who had to drive home from the reception looking very embarrassed. The early years of their married life were spent in three different small towns and villages north of Bournemouth and they had two daughters, Caroline and Rebecca.

After six years with the Inland Revenue, Norman jumped to the other side of the tax fence when he joined Barclays Bank and advised clients about personal taxation and the management of investment portfolios. In 1977 he was asked to transfer to the Isle of Man. They set off to travel there for an initial meeting but nearly turned round

Please release me

because when they reached Heathrow there was a baggage handlers' strike. They made alternative arrangements to fly from Blackpool but found on arrival at the airport that their flight was delayed for five hours. They eventually reached Douglas in the middle of the night in tropical rain which persisted all the next day. For those accustomed to Bournemouth's gentler climate it must have seemed a daunting prospect but they enjoyed their life on the island after initial doubts. They spent 13 years there during which time Norman specialised in offshore financial matters and ended up running the unit trust

section whilst Susan worked on a voluntary basis at a nursery.

In 1990 Norman moved to a new post, still with the same bank, in London. They lived in Woking and Susan worked for C&A in the admin section. Their next move was to Peterborough where Susan worked as a library assistant and Norman was a compliance manager for the bank. I naively assumed that this meant complying with all their customers' requests but he explained that it involved checking that the bank complied with the eight trillion regulations that affect their day to day operations. I should explain that the figure of eight trillion is my estimate based on my knowledge of the number of regulations dreamed up for schools.

Norman retired in 2000 and became a magistrate after completing the required training because he knew the work would be interesting, he wanted to see a different side of life and he wanted to give something back. Their grandson was born in 2005 and this was one of the triggers that made them decide to move to this part of the world where they could be nearer to their daughters who live in Arkholme and on the Isle of Man respectively. They fell in love with the house they now live in and soon learned how delightful life in Clapham can be. They lead busy lives and involve themselves in numerous village activities. They used to play bridge



to a competitive standard but now they play twice a week, in Settle and Barbon, in a slightly more leisurely fashion. At home they play cards, enjoy puzzles, cryptic crosswords and jig saws when they are not reading. Sadly there is no opportunity to play flat green bowls which they enjoyed down south because all bowls played near here is crown green bowling but Susan has found a new hobby to replace the yoga and pilates which she used to do. She goes every week to a Tai-Chi group which meets in our village hall and she tells me that it is very calming. She also tells me that they are really keen to find new members so if you need to be calmed down or to find a new challenge you should join them. Norman missed his chance of fame some years ago when he applied to take part in Fifteen to One on TV and was accepted. He made it through to the second round but was so nervous he could not think straight and was so disappointed with himself that you will not see him with Daphne, Kevin and Barry on the panel of Eggheads. However, he polishes his talents these days by attending our quizzes in the village hall. If you have not met Susan and Norman yet there should be plenty of chance to do so because Norman's parents lived until they were 95 and Susan's father is still active at 98 so we can look forward to having them with us in Clapham for the foreseeable future.

Stuart Marshall



Jenny M Parker

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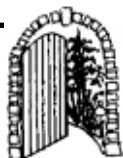
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Which Witch is Which?

In August 2012 I visited Art in the Pen at Skipton's Auction Mart. For a weekend each August the animal pens are cleared out and a wide range of artists take a space and show their work. I got into conversation with Ian Scott Massie, a painter from Masham, who was starting a project based on gathered tales from the Dales. I told him about the story of the Witch of Clapham, and sent him a copy of the pamphlet, published in 1983 by Rev. Peter Winstone, predecessor to Ian Greenhalgh's predecessor Rev. John Dalby.

I visited this year's Art in the Pen and met up with Ian Scott Massie who has not only published his book 'Tales of the Dales', beautifully illustrated with his paintings, but has a touring exhibition which will come to the Farfield Mill Sedbergh from Oct 5th to Jan 5th 2014 and maybe to the Folly in Settle later. I asked him if the Witch of Clapham featured in the book and he became quite animated and said it was one of the most interesting tales amongst the many he had been sent. Now take a deep breath.

For those of you unfamiliar with the story as retold by Rev Winstone, which is depicted on the recently re-sited Millennium Stone, briefly, in 1468 John de Clapham who lived at Clapdale Castle needed 500 horsemen to support the Lancastrian cause in the Wars of the Roses. Alice Ketyll, his foster mother who lived by Trow Gill, swept Clapham Bridge while muttering spells and ritually slaughtering nine red cockerels on the bridge. The soldiers arrived magically, he saved the day, she was accused of witchcraft but confessed and was let off because after a little bargaining with the local bishop, she managed to get Clapham Church re-roofed. Or did she?

Ian Scott Massie discovered that research done by Helen Sergeant of the North Craven Heritage Trust in 2006 put a rather different slant on matters.

Peter Winstone credits his main source for the story as R B Cragg, a local writer who published 'Legendary Rambles' in 1905. However Helen Sergeant's research showed that there was no trace anywhere of any of the main characters in the Clapham story. However, the Dictionary of National Biography showed her that Alice Ketyll was tried for witchcraft for the forementioned crimes in Kilkenny in 1324. The story in all its aspects is true, but from a hundred years earlier and set in Ireland. To quote Helen Sergeant's article: 'Cragg was a writer who was interested in selling books about the area in which he lived, so cannot be blamed too much for creating the myth...' Cragg had found the story in Latin in an 1843 Camden Society translation from the Irish original



and in need of a bit of spice for his book translated the tale to Clapham. Helen Sergeant's article can be found in full on NCHT's website.

Despite all this, if you can find a copy, Peter Winstone's booklet 'The Story of the Witch of Clapham' is a very good read and has wonderful illustrations by Barbara Yates in the style of early woodcuts.

I also recommend Ian Scott Massie's book 'Tales of the Dales'. It is worth it for his illustrations alone, but carries fascinating tales both ancient and modern from diverse areas of the Dales. It is available from him : enquiry@mashamgallery.co.uk or for those of you who still treasure the pen: Ian Scott Massie
24 Market Place, Masham, Ripon HG4 4EB

Gus Stewart

Quiz Night

Don't miss the Quiz! On Friday, 11th October at 7.30 in the Village Hall, hosted by the Village Hall Committee. Quizmaster will be Stuart Marshall so lots fun and not to be taken as a serious IQ test! Come as a team of four or help to make up a team on the night – but make sure you come. Help us to raise funds for our village hall, to keep it the brilliant village asset that it is.

Tickets are £6.00 including supper with a dessert, and are available from the Village Shop and from David (51240) or Lorraine (51219).

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Give and Take

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Reduce, Repair, Re-use, Recycle

Following the success of our **Give and Take** events in 2010 and 2011, we will be holding another supported by York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership.

A **Give and Take** event is a chance to pass on unwanted items and to pick up something you want FREE. The event seeks to encourage the re-use and recycling of items. It is also fun, surprising and a paradise for creative scroungers.

A descriptive leaflet will be delivered in advance to households in Clapham and Newby. For more information, or if you need help transporting goods to the Village Hall, please contact: Jill Buckler on 51030 or Ann Stewart on 51118. Your items can also be dropped off at the Village Hall on Friday 8th November between 6 – 7pm.



St James' Church, Clapham
presents

An Evening with
Muker Silver Band
on Saturday, 5th October
at 7.00 pm

Tickets are now on sale at £6 per head,
including refreshments (children free).

Tickets available from
Sue (51792) or David Parry (51132)
or church members, or at the door.



Meg (formerly of Sawmill Cottage) and Chris Harvey are proud to introduce their son, Finlay Newton, born 8th August weighing 7lb 14ozs.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This has been a fantastic success yet again. We managed to raise a tremendous £357 and when we take the gift aid in to £475 00.

This would not have been possible without everyone's generous support. From those who came to the coffee morning those who offered help and of course all those of you provided raffle prizes and cakes of the finest quality.

It made this years coffee morning another social and financial success.

Jackie Kingsley

Christmas Greetings

In the next issue of the Newsletter (December) we will again be having a 'Christmas Greetings' page. If you would like to have your name included please fill in your details below and return it with your donation (most people donated at least £4) to any of the committee members before November 25th.

Name

Road or house name

☐

The newsletter appears on the Clapham website, if you do not want your entry included, please put a cross in the box.

Wildlife in Clapham

In the last wildlife report I wrote a paragraph about the lack of butterflies being seen around the local area maybe due to the bad weather we had the previous year, about a week after writing the article the weather warmed up and hundreds of butterflies were seen around the local area, they were mainly Small Tortoiseshell, Large and Small Whites and Peacocks.

On one of my walks around Hardacre Moss and Newby Moor virtually all the flowering thistles had Small Tortoiseshells on them, also quite a lot of Meadow Browns, Large and Small Skippers were seen at Hardacre Moss, Newby Moor and Clapham moor. Only a few Red admirals and one Painted Lady have been seen so far this year but these are migrants from Southern Europe.

One reason we saw large numbers of butterflies at one time could be due to the cold spring we had which put the emergence date for the butterflies back by a few weeks and when they did emerge they did it en mass. Some of the Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks are now looking for warm and sheltered places to hibernate for the winter. At the moment I already have two Small Tortoiseshells and one Peacock hibernating in my house.

The last Swift was seen over Clapham on 30th August and by the end of September most of the Swallows and House Martins had left the local area to winter in Africa. Despite arriving late due to the cold spring both Swallows and House Martins still managed to have two broods. Another species that did well this year was the Meadow Pipit. Last year they had abandoned their nest sites and left the local area by July due to the wet weather, this year large flocks of adult and juveniles were still being seen on Hardacre Moss and Newby Moor in early September.

Two Chiffchaffs were seen and heard calling at Ingleborough Hall on 26th September.



Two female Whinchats were seen at Newby Moor – 8th September, these are the only Whinchats I have seen around the local area this year.

One Red Kite flew east over Ingleborough Hall – 9th August.

Several Migrant Hawkers (Dragonflies) have been seen around the grounds of Ingleborough Hall during August and September, one was still flying around the grounds on the 26th September. This species used to be quite rare in the north but over the last few years it has slowly spread northwards to colonise new areas.

Tim Hutchinson, Smithy Cottage

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This Free Newsletter aims to keep everyone in Clapham, Keaden 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 £3.50 per issue.

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

Articles, News and Ideas please for the next issue by **28th November, 2013** to the Village Shop,

Chrissie Bell: ChrisHarte@aol.com,

Mike Cornwell: mike-corn@tiscali.co.uk or

Ray Hull: hull365@btinternet.com.

Articles submitted but not included in the present publication will be printed in future issues.