

# CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



We on the Newsletter Committee know that F&M has had an influence on everyone, and that many in our parish are having a very difficult time in one way or another. We are also aware that there are strong and varying opinions about it locally, and your views and experiences of this time will be welcomed in the next Newsletter. Our sympathies go to all those who are affected.

## CHURCH NEWS

Services at St. James, Clapham, are to continue as usual.

## STREET MARKET

Due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease our Street Market, planned for July 28th, has been cancelled.

## FUTURE EVENTS

Churches Celebrate Together

October 2001

Thursday 18th October 7.30 p.m. There will be a lecture by Dr. Angus Winchester, at St. Oswald's, Thornton, on 16th-18th Century Church History in this area.

Friday 19th October: Justice and Peace meeting at Bentham

Sunday 21st October: Rev. Daniel Cozens will preach at High Bentham Methodist Church at 10.30 a.m. Canon Hunter will lead the service.

Celebration Meeting at the Ingleborough Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. Chairman Thomas Fawcett. Speaker Rev. Daniel Cozens.

## Whist Drives

Whist drives will be held in Clapham Village hall on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds go to a charity fund which donated £100 to Settle Fire Brigade and £100 to Ingleton Scouts last month.

## COFFEE MORNING AND CAKE STALL

At Ingleborough Hall Outdoor Education Centre, Clapham

A Coffee Morning and Cake Stall will be held at Ingleborough Hall on Wednesday 8th August, starting at 10.00 a.m., with the opportunity for visitors to look round this impressive building. Admission £1.

Your contributions to the cake stall would be much appreciated. Proceeds from this event will go towards financing the Christmas Lunch for the over-65s in the Clapham area, traditionally financed by the now disbanded Children's Party Committee.

## AN EVENING WITH ALAN BENNETT

This postponed evening has now been rearranged for Saturday 22nd September. Please contact Liz Mason on 015242-51319 should there be any problems with ticket holders. We sincerely hope that this new date will have seen the end of the present troubles, and will be something to which to look forward. Please use the March tickets on the new evening.

E. Mason



## CHRISTIAN AID

This year, house collections have been achieved in different ways and the response has been generous, especially from the children at Clapham School, who have made a record amount with their baking and creative skills.

For more than 20 years Mr. Ted Dawson has done the collecting at Newby and surrounding area, and always made a very worthwhile contribution to Christian Aid. He is now taking well-earned retirement.

## CLAPHAM PARK ASSOCIATION

We intend to carry out extensive modifications to the Park to make it more attractive and enjoyable for the children - both those from Clapham itself, and those visiting the village. The plans include a Nature Trail running around the perimeter of the Park, a garden containing plants to attract butterflies, new goalposts and basket-ball nets, additional swings, and an "activity tower". We are applying for a grant towards the modifications, and are currently waiting for the final estimates.

Very many thanks to all those who have written letters in support of our grant application.

*June Morphet*



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## Rewiring

It takes less than two seconds to say "re-wiring" but 11 weeks to have a 250 year old house brought to present regulation standards and to clear it to a housewife's satisfaction. Sometimes we laughed and sometimes we cried as we found the mantle of black dust which settled under, as well as over, dust sheets.

Sidestepping long gaping holes in the floors was a challenge. However there was light throughout all that drama and we should like to thank all the kind people who brought us tempting goodies when we were almost too tired to eat. Others helped in many ways. Two seconds to say "re-wiring" but years to be able to express our gratitude.

*Sincerely, John and Joan Farrer*

**AGE**  
*Concern*

**NORTH  
CRAVEN**

Advice and information  
for older people and  
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Town Hall, Market Place,  
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Tel: 01729 823066  
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Registered charity number: 700054

## Request for Prints

Has anyone a spare print of a local event of the past 50 years? Some will have seen the collection on display in the church but there are gaps such as the Womens Institute Carol Service; Confirmation Service; Christingle; any concerts. We need one or two examples of each event only so could you leave your name and address as we may need to return duplicates

*Joan Farrer*



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## BIRDS IN CLAPHAM

A Golden Eagle was seen twice over the Mayday holiday weekend – by Isis and Kath at Keasden and then by Jess Hart above Trow Gill. The nearest, and only English, pair are at Haweswater some 50 miles as the eagle soars – no problem for birds with such huge territories. A Kingfisher flew down the Wenning April 6<sup>th</sup>. Great Spotted Woodpeckers have seemed particularly noisy this spring drumming along the nature trail and around the tunnels on Thwaite lane, and one was seen in gardens along Cross Haw Lane. A Green Woodpecker was “yaffling” from Limekiln Plantation.

Meanwhile the spring migrants arrived in regulation order, mirroring their leaving in autumn – first in, last out. By the end of March a Ring Ouzel had flown over on the 29<sup>th</sup> and Wheatear were by the Bentham Road next day. April saw a steady procession: 1<sup>st</sup> Chiff-chaff singing by the school, Sand Martin by Clapham Station and Reed Bunting by the Wenning; 3<sup>rd</sup> Willow Warbler by Rose Bank Cottages; 6<sup>th</sup> a solitary Swallow over Trow Gill; 10<sup>th</sup> Blackcap at the Hall; 23<sup>rd</sup> the first Swallows back in Clapham village; 25<sup>th</sup> a female Ring Ouzel on Newby Moss; 28<sup>th</sup> Cuckoo calling near the station, Redstart at Lawsings Farm and three Linnet at Meldingscales; 29<sup>th</sup> Tree Pipit at Newby Moss, Pied Flycatcher and two House Martin by the station; 30<sup>th</sup> Whitethroat and Whinchat Newby Moss.

The late arrivals waited until the lovely warm weather of early May: 1<sup>st</sup> a Swift appeared early morning joined by another late afternoon; 9<sup>th</sup> saw several Swift and House Martin move into the village and Wood Warbler on the nature trail; 11<sup>th</sup> Garden Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Twite. Young birds were already appearing, including a Tawny Owl May 1<sup>st</sup> Lapwing 8<sup>th</sup> and two Grey Wagtail on the beck by Broken Bridge 15<sup>th</sup>. Dipper are breeding in the showcave for the third year running.

**Records by Tim Hutchinson, Smithy Cottage, Clapham**

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### Victorian Rural Life

In these desperate days of restrictions imposed because of Foot and Mouth we can at least take comfort that we are able to feed our families with nourishing food. “In the 1850s a labourer stated that for months at a time he had existed upon nothing but a diet of bread and onions. These onions he ate until they took the skin off the roof of his mouth, blistering it to whiteness. They had no tea but his wife made her substitute – a burnt crust of bread soaked in boiling water. She managed to feed her 8 children with a little cheese and butter as well as onions.” *From: Rural Life in Victorian England*

**Joan Farrer**

### CLEANER REQUIRED

There is an immediate vacancy  
for a cleaner at  
St. James’s Parish Church,  
Clapham. Hours by  
arrangement, but approximately  
3 hours per week.  
Please contact Mrs. Mason on  
51319.



## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

This year Craven District Council would like to expand its Local Agenda 21 programme across the district. The Council wishes to help establish and support up to six new environmental-type projects.

There are two established projects within the district already, one in Sutton-in-Craven and one in Bentham, that are tackling a range of local issues. These include creating a community garden, improving road safety near schools, access to local beauty spots, and a nature study area for primary school children.

Local Agenda 21 is taking action to improve the quality of lives now, and in the future. It aims to find a way of living that sustains, rather than damages, the environment. While new projects need to fit the overall concept of Local Agenda 21, the Council will welcome an innovative and imaginative approach to proposed projects.

If you are interested, either as an individual or as a member of a group, in starting a project, and you would like more information, please contact:

*Andy Binns, LA21 Officer, Craven District Council, Tel. 01756-706212.*

### CLAPHAM VILLAGE STORE & POST OFFICE

Offer a friendly service

This shop is open  
Mon-Fri 7am/6.30pm, Sat & Sun 7am/5pm  
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Julie and Paul are pleased to announce that in addition to their new Post Office facilities, they can now offer Dry Cleaning/Laundry and Film processing services.

We also have a selection of groceries, green grocery, frozen food, bread, pies & cakes, newspapers, videos, confectionery, cards & stationery available.

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## AGE CONCERN NORTH CRAVEN TRANSPORT SERVICES.

### Volunteers Required

Can you spare one day per month (or more) to help us provide transport for the elderly and disabled in North Craven? Our transport services help to keep older people independent by providing access to essential services such as medical services, shopping etc. To maintain these services we urgently need volunteers for the following;

**Minibus Drivers** are needed for:

**Settle Shuttle** - providing a shopping service in and around Settle every Tuesday and Friday.

**Kirkby Lonsdale Shuttle** - Twice monthly shopping service for residents in Austwick, Clapham and Ingleton.

**Monday and Friday Lunch Clubs** - providing transport to and from the Monday Lunch Club and Friday Drop-In.

**Swimming Club** - transport to Settle Swimming Pool on Monday mornings.

**Longer Shopping and Leisure trips** on Wednesday and Thursday.

### Minibus Couriers

**Car Drivers** with own cars willing to provide transport for individual clients for their essential journeys. In particular, at present we need volunteers to provide:

Transport to medical facilities from Austwick, Clapham, Ingleton and Settle

Evening transport once a week for a regular client from Hellifield to Settle.

Occasional transport from Settle to Gargrave and return.

Contact: David Pemberton, 01729-825669



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## A Black and Terrible Troop

In the 17th century, violent crime was unusual in this area, but in 1680 there formed a band of men whom records describe as a "black and terrible troop". Operating mainly around Kirkby Lonsdale, they caused alarm and suspicion from Lancaster and the Lune Valley to Leeds and Carlisle, frequenting the ale-houses along the highways to meet and gather news of anybody who had valuables in the home, had recently sold land or property, or even been successful at the races.

Informers were awarded a share of the prize.

One such man was Edward Lodge, curate and schoolmaster at Old Hutton, near Kirkby Lonsdale. He leased the house of Robert Robinson, a frail old man, and then took him and his son as "tablers", or lodgers. Knowing him to have money and silver, Edmund Lodge told William Smorthwaite, the ringleader of the terrible troop. On the night of November 3rd 1680, the house was "broken". Six horsemen, masked and armed with swords, surrounded the building. Two entered by the maid's window, she being sent downstairs to stay with her mistress, who had recently had a child, and they unbolted the door to let in the others. There followed threats and a great deal of shouting. Edmund Lodge was confronted on the stairs by a masked man wielding a sword. "Damn you for a dog, hold your peace! I will cut your flesh from your bones!" It was reported that Edmund Lodge laughed. Robert Robinson was robbed of £43, valued at thousands today, silver spoons and weights, and a pair of shoes. Nothing more was taken from the house, but two weeks later, Henry Smorthwaite, William's brother, sent 40 shillings to Edmund Lodge.

William Smorthwaite was driven by greed rather than poverty. He inherited his father's estate, which included Abbey Farm at Middleton, and in 1678-79 became High Constable for Kirkby-Lonsdale Ward. He neglected his duties and stubbornly refused to hand over public money to his successor, so he was taken to Appleby gaol, to stay until he did so. Afterwards, he came to live in the

"township of Clapham", at Orcaber Farm, now in Austwick.

At that time, a most serious crime was the clipping and counterfeiting of silver coins. Classed as treason against the King, and a capital offence, its practice was widespread, and made a lucrative addition to the value of stolen money. Much of the silver, gold and clippings was taken to York to be crafted into fine pieces, or turned into bullion by the smiths working there. Ready markets were found throughout Europe. The Smorthwaites and Edmund Lodge were very involved in this trade.

Rumour and suspicion grew. The robberies continued. In 1683, warrants were made for the arrest of William and Henry Smorthwaite, and a hue and cry was issued. By now, people came forward with evidence, and the Smorthwaites and their main accomplices were imprisoned, as was Edmund Lodge on suspicion of "treason and felony". They appeared at Appleby Assize Court and, in spite of the strong case against them, the jury, either intimidated or weak, acquitted them. At the same court they also acquitted a witch.

Afterwards, the Smorthwaites grew bolder and boasted of their crimes. A drover from Ireby was robbed of £60 on his way home from Appleby Fair. A shop at Keasden Head owned by John Stout was robbed of 8 stones of flax, 19 of hemp, brandy, and 5 horse-loads of iron. Arrests were made again, but the thieves fell out. Condemning evidence was given. The Smorthwaite brothers were tried at Carlisle Assizes under the famous Judge Jeffreys. They were convicted, and in August 1684 hanged, probably at Lancaster.

For Edmund Lodge, presumably one brush with the law was enough. Early in 1684 he came to Clapham as vicar, and as the board at the back of the Church records, stayed until his death twelve years later. He was buried at Clapham leaving property worth £58, including £5 worth of books.

Reference: The Justice and the Mare's Ale, by Alan Macfarlane



**Tales of times past, by E. Dawson****THE FAMILY**

Great-gran'dad William's brother, Robert, farmed at Myersfield, Malham, across the beck from the Methodist Chapel. His wife was a Hunter. They had a son, Andrew Hunter Dawson. When he was born, Robert went upstairs to see the new-born baby and jokingly said "Umph, it looks like it's dropped off a potter's cart". His wife didn't think much of his joke and never spoke to him again throughout their married life, only via the cat.

Another brother, Andrew, was a cattle-dealer and lived at No.1 Castle Park Terrace in Kendal. His wife was Jane Taylor from Padget Hall, Gargrave, where her initials are - or were - scratched on a diamond-shaped window pane. They had no family. In the mid-1800s, Andrew was mayor of "Doodleshire", which was in the borough of Kendal, the castle side of the river. There was a reference to "Doodleshire" recently in the Westmorland Gazette.

Great grandfather also had a brother, John, who lived at Cowan Bridge, but we don't know anything about him. His widow died in 1902, when with their daughter and son-in-law at 11 Kilnside Road, Paisley. We have a black-edged letter written by the son-in-law to my grandfather, saying that "Mother dide last nite. I was the only one at her side. Will you tell your father and everyone, as she used to talk a lot about you all."

**NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITTER-LOUTS IN CLAPHAM**

*From "A Month in Yorkshire", by Walter White, first published in 1858 and republished in 1991 by M.T.D. Rigg Publications*

The fee for a single person to see the [Ingleborough] cave is half-a-crown; for a party of eight or ten a shilling each. The guide, who is an old soldier, and a good specimen of the class, civil and intelligent, called at his house as we passed to get candles, and presently we were clear of the village, and walking up-hill along a narrow lane. Below us on the right lay cultivated grounds and well-kept plantations, through which, as the old man told me, visitors were once allowed to walk on their way to the cave - a pleasing and much less toilsome way than the lane; but the remains of picnics left on the grass, broken bottles, orange-peels, greasy paper and wisps of hay, became such a serious abuse of the privilege, that Mr. Farrer, the proprietor, withdrew his permission. "It's a wonder to me", said the guide, "that people shouldn't know how to behave themselves".

This Free Newsletter aims to keep everyone in Clapham, Keasden and Newby in touch with what is happening in our community.

This periodical does, however cost a not insignificant amount to produce and advertising is a very necessary aid to the finances.

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