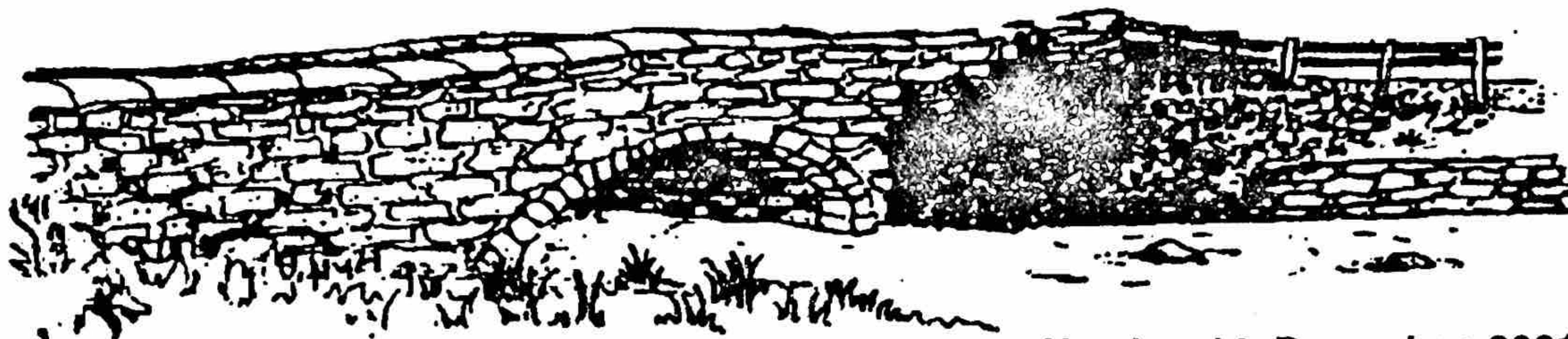


CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Number 14, December, 2001

THE TROUBLE WITH TRAINS . . .

Last year, the Parish Council was asked to get involved in celebrating 150 years of the Leeds to Morecambe railway line. At the time, there seemed precious little to celebrate. Services from Clapham were infrequent and mostly inconvenient for local people. There were no evening services at all. The trains themselves were 15 years old and most still provided a standard of comfort that should have been left behind with the 1950s. The railway station was a mile and a half from the village, with no connecting bus or taxi service. The passenger amenities there consisted of a squalid shelter on one platform (nothing at all on the other), a card-operated pay-phone, and another phone to ask the local signalman whether your train was ever going to arrive.

Eighteen months on and things have actually got worse. After a prolonged period of random cancellations, the train operator has now withdrawn four of Clapham's ten week-day services; and the so-called 'replacement' buses have effectively doubled the journey time to and from almost anywhere on the line. Punctuality of the few remaining services is unimpressive, and making connections with main-line services at Leeds or Lancaster can be a nerve-wracking business. There are still no evening services, still no bus link from village to station, and still no improvements to either the trains themselves or to the station amenities. Major engineering work on the line is expected to make matters worse still in the new year.

It is hard to see what our train service has to offer local people. It cannot really be used for commuting to Leeds or Lancaster. The trains either arrive too early for a normal working day, or too late. Getting home again is even worse. From Leeds, the last return train service of the day now leaves just after lunch!

The only later alternative is to get a train from Leeds to Skipton and then face an hour on a so-called 'replacement' bus – which doesn't get back to Clapham till 6.50 p.m.

Shopping trips to Lancaster can still be managed reasonably well, although you will have to stand in the rain on Clapham's newly-rebuilt platform, as there is still no shelter. Only one morning train from Clapham now offers a reasonably long shopping day in Leeds – unless you are prepared to come home by bus.

It is hardly surprising that the trains are so little used by local people when commuting, shopping or leisure journeys are often difficult, uncertain or impossible; and when the reliability and quality of the service is so poor. Nor is it surprising that people travelling longer distances should prefer to start their journeys from main-line stations, rather than gamble on the local train making an advertised connection. Those of us with cars can avoid all these troubles. Is it surprising that so many of us choose to do so?

Paul Pearce

CLAPHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Issue 3/2001 of the Craven Neighbourhood Watch Association Newsletter is currently in circulation (15th November). I managed to obtain 8 copies (we used to receive only 2) but with 113 properties in Clapham, this still means that each copy has to be shared by groups of about 14 (and in one case 17) houses. I know that some people probably do not see the newsletter because it gets 'lost' on its way around. We need at least a dozen copies in circulation so that each copy is shared by a group of 10, or fewer, houses. This would speed up circulation and help ensure everyone sees it.

The current issue includes an account by one co-ordinator, of a training seminar held recently for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. I attended the event in Settle on 17th November and found it very useful. One comment made by some co-ordinators was that not all residents in their area wished to be members of their scheme. I found this to be rather surprising, as I cannot imagine anyone in Clapham not wanting to be a member of the Clapham Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Membership requires no more than that each of us remains vigilant at all times, reporting any criminal, suspicious or anti-social behaviour to the police and to keep an eye on neighbours' property in their absence. It is important, of course, to inform your neighbours if you are going to be away, even for a short break, so that they are aware of your absence. Many insurance companies give a discount on house insurance premiums to

members of an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Furthermore, when the police wish to warn members of a scheme of any potentially criminal activity in the area, they send out a telephone message to all scheme co-ordinators via their automatic 'Ringmaster' message system. When we receive such a message, I print it on slips of paper and post one through the letterbox (where they exist!) of all the houses in Clapham. This process could be speeded up if we had one 'contact person' in each group of about 10 houses in Clapham, who would be willing to post the message to each house in their group. We also need a deputy co-ordinator for our scheme who would be willing to receive and distribute any messages when I am away on holiday.

The secretary of the Craven Neighbourhood Watch Association (Margaret Benson) requires a list of names and addresses of members of each NW Scheme so I will be calling at each house over the next few weeks. I can also offer members a NW sticker to display on an appropriate door or window and provide an ultra-violet security marker pen for post-code marking of your portable property.

With an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, hopefully we can ensure that Clapham is crime-free and a safe place in which to live.

Bill Summers

Clapham NW Co-ordinator

Tel. Clapham 51655

FIREWORKS

Bonfire night and fireworks should be fun and for many people they are. For those who don't enjoy them, listening to music or watching a television programme can provide a distraction and a reduction in the impact of the noise outside on frightened pets.

Everyone knows when bonfire night is and we all expect to hear the fireworks. What we don't expect is to hear them for about half an hour between one and two o'clock in the morning, as we did in Clapham on 10th November. This caused distress to some people in the village and annoyance to many more.

Next time, enjoy fireworks by all means, but without causing such disturbance to people and pets in the middle of the night.

Eileen Plumridge, Bryngwyn, Clapham



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THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Rosemary Jenkins and Mark Simpson for all the effort they have put into the Newsletter over this first two years. As ever with 'good ideas' initial enthusiasm from everyone ends up creating work for the same individuals every time! While a lot of people have helped, these two have been the driving force behind getting us through this initial period. We have had some fun and games trying to produce this newsletter; chasing funding, worrying about how to get contributions from more people, trying to read illegible handwriting, technical problems from photocopiers overheating to articles disappearing, too many articles or not enough, and so on. The main thing though is that we are still here with the 14th issue – and still getting a good reception. Thank you Mark and Rosemary!

David Sharrod

CLAPHAM SCHOOL – THE AUTUMN TERM

Preparations are well under way for Christmas at Clapham School. Both Infants and Juniors are currently working on a performance which will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, 11th December. Term will finish with a Carol Service in the church at 2.00 p.m. on 20th December. Visitors will be very welcome at both events.

This term has seen some wonderful new experiments. Many of the older children collaborated in producing the first issue of the school's own newspaper, 'Clapham Chatter'. It is fully illustrated and highly informative and was produced under the expert guidance of *Craven Herald* journalist Sue Marshall.

In early October the Infants visited Clapham Nurseries to mark Organic Week. Thelma Barlow read 'Pumpkin Soup' to them and, if you are a

Jackie & David of Arbutus House

wish to invite everyone to an

OPEN HOUSE

on Sunday, 6th January
from 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

*to enjoy a glass of wine and to welcome
in the New Year*

shopper there, you will maybe have enjoyed the children's own stories and pictures displayed in the greenhouses.

Recently the Year Five group were treated to a Skipping Workshop run by Austin and Jennifer Sellers from Ilkley. They learnt all sorts of skipping techniques which they have been passing on to the rest of the school. The playground is now awash with skippers of all sizes at playtime.

A new fundraising initiative is also under way. Tea towels have been produced, featuring the self portraits of all the children at school. They will be on sale, price £2.50, at the School Fair on December 1st, or afterwards from members of the School PTA – surely a collectors item in years to come!

— The Spring Term begins on Tuesday, 8th January. —

CHRISTMAS AT BETHEL CHAPEL

Christmas Carols and Christmas tea will be on Thursday, 6th December at 2 p.m.

The Chapel Anniversary weekend will be on Saturday and Sunday, 8th and 9th December.

The Sunday evening Christmas Carol Service will be held on 23rd December at 6.30 p.m. Followed by coffee and mince pies. All are welcome.

There will be a short service on Christmas morning 25th December at 10.30 a.m.

Paula Langdon who is a Christian Schools worker in the Craven area is now living in the Chapel House, and is kept busy working under Northern Inter Schools Christian Union.

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MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

North Yorkshire Mobile Library has been in service for over 40 years, so says Paul, the present driver and librarian, who has been driving the van himself for the past 25 years. He provides a friendly, helpful service, unfortunately now reduced to visiting us every three weeks instead of the once weekly visit. In addition to the normal selection of fiction and nonfiction books the van carries large print books, also videos and audio cassettes. Paul is also happy to order books for you.

Please note the dates for the next two visits. The next one to **Newby** is Tuesday, 11th December and then Monday, 7th January, whilst **Clapham & Keasden** visits will be Wednesday, 5th December and Monday, 31st December.

I have recently discovered a fascinating book from the mobile library shelves –

'Yorkshire Dales Stonewaller'. It has a wonderful collection of photographs by Geoff Lund and as it says on the back cover of the book 'pictures of an outstanding calibre, portraying through the lens of a true Dalesman, the moods, the seasons, the storms, the serenity of the Dales'. The text by Richard Muir and Maurice Colbeck provides interesting insights into the building of the walls, why they were built and the geology of the various stones.

There is also a chapter on wallers of old and one chapter about the interesting life of Geoff Lund.

'Yorkshire Dales Stonewaller' was first published in 1992 by the Dalesman Publishing Co. and is available in both hardback and paperback editions. An interesting browse, but I'd like my own copy.

W.D.H.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

Here is a list of regular events in the newsletter area, together with telephone numbers for you to contact for further information, or just go along and see for yourself.

Ladies meeting at Bethel Chapel on the third Thursday of the month at 2.00 p.m. First meeting of the new year 17th January. (Tel: 51363)

Clapham Art Group meets in the Village Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.
(Tel: 01729-822445)

The Women's Institute meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. (Tel: 51219)

Whist Drives in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. three Fridays in four. In December they are on the 7th, 21st and 28th. Proceeds for various charities. (Tel: 51357)

Senior citizens meeting and tea at Bethel Chapel on the 1st Thursday of each month at 2.30 p.m. First meeting in the new year will be 7th February. (Tel: 51363)

'Age Concern' for the over 50s Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month. 10 a.m. to 12 noon, with speaker and coffee. Regular mini-bus outings are also arranged. (Tel: 51491)

The Dance Club meets in the Village Hall on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. till 10.00 p.m. for old-time and modern sequence dancing. (Tel: 51287)

Local Food for Local People

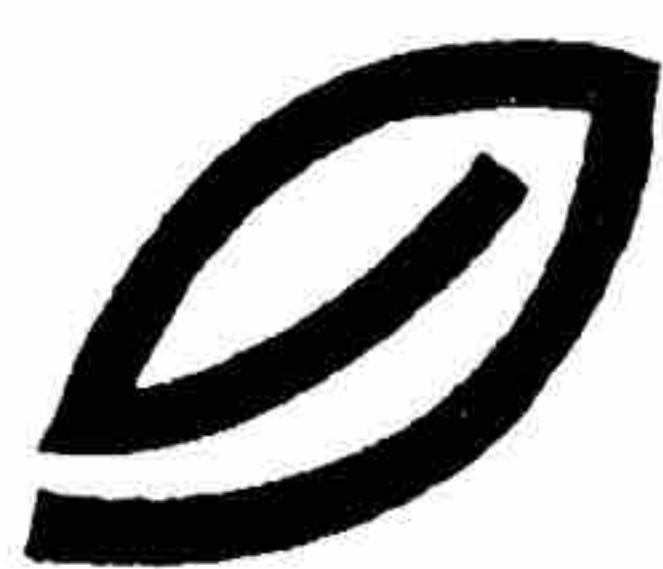
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BIRDS IN CLAPHAM

The real winter birds about at the moment are 15 or so Snow Bunting – but you have to go to the top of Ingleborough to see them! Once there, you should see them as they are quite confiding, and obvious when they move with their white wing and tail flashes. Just 'over the border' at Stocks reservoir is an amazing spectacle; a flock of Starling estimated at 200,000 which gathers just before dusk, swirling and corkscrewing over the water before the whole lot suddenly drops as one to roost. Not usually before a Peregrine has a go at them though. The winter birds arrived on cue, with 4 Redwing at Ingleborough Hall on October 4th and the first Fieldfare flying over on the 18th. Redwing call constantly as they fly over at night now. 10 Siskin were feeding on October 10th and 60 Pink-footed Geese flew over on October 13th. However, many summer visitors were late going – House Martin still feeding young at the end of September on the Old Post Office, and 2 Swallow flying over October 11th.

Mild weather saw the trees turning slowly and butterflies still on the wing - Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and also Silver Y moths all during the last week of October. Chiff-chaff and Blackcap were seen several times during October, but who knows if these were 'our' late or even over-wintering birds, or early winter arrivals from Northern Europe? Other sightings included: Twite at Meldingscale September 23rd; up to 7 Stonechat seen by Peter Woodruff at Hardacre October 10th; Buzzard October 11th; Great Spotted Woodpecker on Dave and Lesley Crutchley's garden feeder;

Short-eared Owl Hardacre October 13th; 4 Goosander October 22nd; and several Grey Heron including one feeding regularly in Clapham Beck.

Tim Hutchinson, Smithy Cottage

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Clapham Community Playgroup meets in the Village Hall Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for all pre-school children, including babies.

(Tel: 51687 or 51113)

'Mums and Tots' at Bethel Chapel Fridays 9.45 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. (Tel: 51363)

Children's Club at Newby Chapel. Mondays 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Tel: 62099)

Four to nine years old meet at Bethel Chapel Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Tel: 51363)

Youth Club for 10 years and over at Bethel Chapel on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. Local, young people all welcome. (Tel: 51363)

CLAPHAM PLAYGROUP

Christmas events at Playgroup include a trip to the Fun Factory at Kendal and a party with a special visit from Santa on the last day of term (December 20th).

Playgroup is open to children of all ages – including babies and toddlers. It is excellent value at just £2 a session for those over 2 years 6 months, £1 a session for children under 2 years 6 months, but over 1, and free for the under ones.

Come along and enjoy a coffee on Tuesday or Thursday – 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. whilst your children play. A snack of milk and organic fruit is also provided.

Please support us by attending – we need enough children on our register to keep playgroup thriving.

Ring Sue: 015242 51687 for more details.

AGE
Concern

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Appologies

We must appologise for the unexplained poor quality of the fine (Alan Bennett) cartoon by James Innerdale in the last issue.

TOLL BAR COTTAGE

When turnpike roads were the order of the day, Toll Bars were plentiful. Clapham had one near the entrance to Bowsber Farm off the old road and there was also one near the village hall where the house *South View* is presently.

Many toll bar cottages had a plantation behind them or other means of preventing folk from escaping paying a toll.

At one time Bradford Pothole Club rented the house. Then Mrs. Vant (who had Shamba built) lived there on her own, water having been laid on in the 1930s. Following Mrs. Vant there was a man from Morecambe who owned a 'fruit machine' establishment.

Eventually it became vacant, mainly because the road resurfacing raised the land



and the floors became flooded during heavy rain. Also, there was no electricity, no sewerage and the water supply became intermittent.

As disrepair increased, the decision had to be taken to demolish it to the state it is today. The wood has been felled and replanted and grown up considerably.

Dr. J.A. Farrer

SUNDAY SERVICES

Clapham Church	(Tel: 51313)
Keasden Church	(Tel: 51313)
Newby Methodist Chapel	(Tel: 62099)
Bethel Chapel, Clapham	(Tel: 51363)

IDEAS PLEASE!

The Parish Council has been asked to sound out the residents of Clapham Ward for their ideas for spending money. This is something we are all good at in the normal way! However, this time, not much has been forthcoming. Paul Pearce, as Parish Clerk, has asked for ideas in an earlier edition of the newsletter for the two bodies that can access funding. The first is the Local Development and Employment Pact, which can access European money for local employment and training – and, possibly, some aspects of transport. The second, the Community Investment Prospectus that can access funds for local community projects. For the first, no suggestions have been forthcoming.

For the second, the ideas of improvements to the park and a computer suite for the school have been put forward.

Come on! Where's your wish list? All suggestions will, of course, need to be spelt out as specific projects in some detail. Please pass them on to Paul Pearce and don't miss out on this; it may be a chance in a million.

Valerie Potter

Rowan Management Services

Nick Burton, F.C.A.



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Dec. 16th Newby Chapel, 7.00 p.m. United Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.
- Dec. 19th Carol Singing around Newby – everyone is welcome to come. Meet at the Notice Board at 6.30 p.m.
- Dec. 20th Carol Singing at Clapham – every voice welcomed. Meet by the New Inn at 6.30 p.m.
- Dec. 21st Keasden Carol Singing – meet by the Church gates at 6.30 p.m.
- Dec. 23rd The Christingle Service to help the Childrens' Society is at 11.00 a.m. Settle and Giggleswick Band will play at the service. Please speak to Liz Mason (51319) if you wish to come for a Christingle.
- Dec. 23rd Carol Service at Keasden, at 6.45 p.m.
- Dec. 24–25th At Clapham Church, 11.45 p.m. Midnight Mass.
- Dec. 25th Holy Communion at Austwick, 9.30 a.m. and Keasden 11.00 a.m.
- Dec. 30th This being the 5th Sunday the United Service is at Austwick at 9.30 a.m.

READING ROOM AND LIBRARY

The popularity of book stalls at Street Markets and other local functions and the regular attendance at the Mobile Library van is proof that many people are not enamoured by television.

Reading matter was not as easily available to the residents of Clapham in 1886, so a Reading Room and Library was established with Mr. H. Harrison appointed as Secretary and Librarian at an honorarium of one shilling per week.

'During reading and games, all persons are desired to make as little noise as possible by loud talking, whistling or otherwise as such disturbance is annoying to readers.'

'Spitting on floors, and striking matches on walls or furniture is strictly prohibited. Placing of lighted cigars or cigarettes on the billiards table is also prohibited.'

Newspapers taken – one copy of each – were *The London Daily News; The Graphic; The Yorkshire Post and Punch*.

In its infancy a hope was expressed that as an institution of mental culture and social union, it might be permanently established. Out of the sale of surplus books it was decided to procure a complete set of the works of Charles Dickens.

The librarian stated, in 1887, that the weekly average issue of books was 18, making a yearly circulation of over 930 volumes of varied literature. A further addition of 150 books has been added to the Library, which then contained 1832 books.

So what do we think of the standard of education over 150 years ago? Inadequate heating in school rooms—a small coal fire; no electric fires or lighting; no transport provided; pupils shared text books. Few provided nourishing school dinners.

Joan Farrer

THE GROTTTO AT THE CAVE

Once again the Father Christmas Grotto at the Cave will operate for the three weekends before Christmas, Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. through to 4 p.m. With the kind permission of the Estate the mini-bus service will be available through the Nature Trail and the Cave is accessible for push chairs. A wonderful Cave for the grown-ups and a unique, magical experience for infants and children which has become increasingly popular through the years for both locals and visitors alike. The charges at the Cave this year for the Grotto are Adults £2 and Children £3. The staff at the Cave would like to use this opportunity to wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a very much happier 2002 New Year than 2001 has been!

Linda & John

welcome you to

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GET FIT OR KEEP FIT

Join the over fifties class at Settle High School & Community College. The class takes place on Tuesday mornings, starting at 10.00 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. and is run by David Halsall of Bentham who has made a special study of exercises for the older person and provides lots of stretching exercises for all body parts . . . **OR** Perhaps Yoga is more your thing. If so, there are two classes, for all ages, at the High School on Mondays, the first from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and the second from 2.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Both the Keep Fit & Yoga classes are for men and women. All classes recommence the week beginning 7th January, 2002.

Robert Wilson

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RECIPE

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Roasted Root Vegetables

Marinade:

3 tbsp olive oil

1 clove garlic – crushed

2½ cm fresh root ginger – grated

1 tbsp tamari or shoyu

Black pepper

Cut any of the following into chunks:

Parsnips, aquash, turnip, carrots, sweet potato, swede.

- Add peeled shallots or halved small onions.
- Toss in the marinade and leave for a few hours.
- Put into a roasting tin and cover with foil.
- Cook in a pre-heated oven – Mark 6, 200°C, until nearly tender.
- Uncover for 15–20 minutes in a hotter oven to brown.

CLAPHAM WEATHER

Clapham weather has been recorded since 1966 and has shown as many variations as one could name.

The rainfall to the end of October, 2001 was 38.92 ins. (990.5 mm). Whereas for 2000 it was 50.54 (1285.2) and 1999 was 40.09 (1020.3).

Of more interest is the running total for each 12 months:

To March 1996 this was 23 ins. (585.6 mm)! but has gradually increased to 63.4 ins. (1613 mm), and is now only slightly less at 58.3 (1483.7).

October, 2000 was the wettest with 11.31 ins. (288 mm) whereas August, 1995 was the least with 0.49 ins. (12.5 mm).

The amount of warmth can be measured according to the frozen pea growers rules (average for 24 hours less 6°C). This varies between 1100 and 1500 units with no particular increase.

The 12 month running total at the moment is 1457, whereas to June, 1998 it was 1522 units. The driest months this year were May 1.94 ins. (49.4 mm) & July 1.32 ins. (33.6 mm).

John Farrer

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 and services, please contact **Sylvia Haxell** on 015242 51603
Articles, News and Ideas PLEASE! for the next issue by **25th January, 2002** to the Village Shop, Liz Walton or David Sharrod.

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