# CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER Number 22, April, 2003

# Mercedes Garage set to close

THE Mercedes Benz and Daihatsu garage in Clapham is to close at the end of June unless new dealers step in to save it.

Mercedes Benz manufacturer Daimler Chrysler is axing dealerships across the UK in favour of larger Mercedes centres in major cities. The whole franchise is being split between two large vehicle traders – Pendragon Plc and Bramall Motor Group.

HL Gorner at Clapham will fall victim to the centralisation.

The garage, which employs 25 people, has been in the village since 1920 providing vital local employment. It has been owned by HL Gorner since 1986.

All the Mercedes staff have been guaranteed employment elsewhere, although it is not yet clear where they will transfer to, and it is hoped any redundancies can be avoided. However, the closure will obviously reduce the number of jobs available in Clapham.

Dealer principal Kevin Monk said: "There's a chance that another dealer might want it, but we don't know that.

"There's a lot of things that could happen in the

motor trade, but at this moment in time the garage will be closing down at the end of June. It is a shame for Clapham."

Clapham is not expected to form any part of their long-term plans, said Susan Gorner, human resources director for HL Gorner.

She said: "We have spent a long time looking into various options including other franchises and basically the figures don't stack up and we have had to take a commercial decision, albeit a very, very sad one.

"We are a family business and we realise what the implications are or could be for the staff and it doesn't sit very well with us, but at the end of the day it is a business and we have to make a profit."

Clapham estate landowner Dr. John Farrer said the impending closure was part of the fragmentation of the countryside. "It wll affect the village because people who come to leave their cars for the day probably contribute to the local economy and it will be a great gap in the employment of the village. "However, some-body might want to buy it as a concern and it would be great if someone could take it over in some way."

The garage was originally built by the agent for the Ingleborough estate, Claude Barton, as a wooden structure. Mr. Barton felt he faced an uncertain future after the First World War and he needed another source of income.

In the 1940s Mr. Barton sold the garage to the Lamb family and from them it passed to ES Hartley, who sold to Gorners.



The above article is produced by kind permission of Julia Murfin – Craven Herald

# SUMMARY REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (11th March, 2003)

#### **GENERAL:**

In January, several Parish Councillors attended a site meeting with NYCC and the Police to discuss problems associated with the annual influx of so-called 'travellers', who set up camp on and around the disused section of the old A65 road. Plans for a 'Traffic Regulation Order' to prohibit overnight parking in this area have been dropped for the time being, on advice from the Police. Instead, NYCC propose to place boulders on the verges to prevent the parking of vehicles there; to build a wall to close off the gap by the gate; and to provide new locks for the gate itself. Of course, these proposals will only be effective if local farmers co-operate by keeping the gate locked during the 'traveller season'. After the meeting the clerk contacted NYCC to arrange an early site meeting to discuss these proposals in detail and to arrange for the necessary works to be carried out in good time.

It was pointed out that the wire fence protecting trees planted on the wide verge in this area had been damaged during a previous 'traveller season;' and that the gate at the Newby end of the disused road also needed to be made secure. These matters will be raised with NYCC.

The platform extension for the waiting shelter at Clapham railway station has now been completed. The shelter itself is expected to be installed before the end of March.

A composite grant application, involving twelve local parishes (including Clapham cum Newby), has been submitted to the Countryside Agency for setting up the Settle Area Taxi Voucher project. If the application is successful, it may be possible to offer free or heavily-discounted vouchers to those local people who for various reasons find it difficult to travel. The vouchers would be used to pay normal fares in taxis operated by local firms participating in the scheme. The result of the application, which will decide whether or

not the project goes ahead (and on what basis), is not yet known.

A donation of £100 was approved for the Clapham Community Playgroup, in response to a fund-raising appeal.

Eileen Plumridge was re-appointed as a trustee for the Settle and District Aid in Sickness Fund, following completion of her initial four-year term.

North Yorkshire Police reported that there had been an increase in the number of burglaries within the local policing area as a whole. In Clapham parish itself, a caravan had been reported stolen from the repair workshops in Newby; and a cycle had also been stolen in the village. The police continue to be heavily involved in dealing with accidents and speeding on the A65. The new radar speed gun is now in full operational use and is proving to be very effective.

One of the local traders' amenity signs has fallen down recently. The sign, which was located in a field below Laithbutts alongside the A65, had been replaced just over a year ago. The clerk had already been in touch with the supplier in order to get the sign re-instated.

#### **CLAPHAM:**

NYCC have now carried out drainage works at the village end of Station Road to overcome problems of flooding in the cellars of nearby properties. Problems with ineffective surface water drainage continue to occur elsewhere on Station Road. NYCC have already been reminded that this needs their attention.

NYCC have been asked again to repair a pot-hole in the road near Crina Bottom Farm. Another pothole, opposite Sunnybank Cottages, also needs to be repaired. This will be reported to NYCC.

Flood-lighting at the New Inn has been adjusted, following complaints that it may have been dazzling drivers turning into Station Road. The verge above the



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Eggshell Lane/Ingleton Road junction has now been tidied up and re-seeded.

The National Park Authority has now relocated the recycling bins within the car park, but a concrete base is needed to make the bins easier to move for emptying. A new coach parking area, away from nearby houses, will be marked out shortly. The present coach stands will be marked for car parking. To improve access for disabled visitors, the ticket machine in the car park is to be re-aligned on its present site, and an additional flagged pathway is to be laid.

Weather permitting, work to improve the Clapham to Austwick field-path will begin within the next two weeks, starting at the Clapham end.

A caravan near Clapham Station, which was parked for some time on the disused railway sidings, has now been removed, after a short stay at a different location nearby.

Fencing of the Clapham children's playground has been completed.

NYCC have been asked to remove or replace the speed limit repeater sign at Gildersbank.

The road surface on Eggshell Lane is now in very poor condition. NYCC will be asked to include it in their repair schedule.

NYCC have given notice that between the New Inn and the A65 junction south-east of Clapham, several trees need to be cut back to permit use of a double-decker bus on a proposed seasonal service running between West Yorkshire and the Lake District.

#### **KEASDEN:**

NYCC have again been asked to rectify defects on the Keasden Road. Particular attention is required to the road surface by the notice board and to a poorly-drained flat area between the cross-roads and Clapham Station. It was pointed out at the meeting that the stretch of road between Wenning Hipping and the railway bridge is also in poor condition. This will be reported to NYCC.

A caravan at Keasden, on the roadside near the old chapel, is being dealt with by the Environmental Health

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Officer. He has been told by the owners that it will be broken up on site and removed before the end of March.

#### **NEWBY:**

The clerk has contacted Yorkshire Water to arrange a site meeting to assess the damage to verges and to the village green resulting from water supply works in the village; and to consider what needs to be done to restore the damaged areas to their original condition.

Most of the work to improve the Newby to Cold Cotes path has now been completed. Further work remains to be done once adjacent land is dry enough to allow access.

NYCC now say that drainage work on the Newby Cote to Newby road cannot be carried out before their temporary road closure permit expires on April 6. The permit is being renewed so that the work can be done later.

In January, representatives of English Nature attended the Newby Landowners Association AGM and put forward their proposals for managing Newby Moor SSSI. They are now waiting for responses from the Landowners Association and from those individuals who actively use grazing rights on the moor

Road signs for the 20mph speed limit zone in Newby have now been installed.

The dwarf wall surrounding the slate guide post on Newby Moor has now been repaired by NYCC; but the damaged road sign beside it still needs attention.

Hand poles have now been installed on the stile on the footpath from Tenter Hill to the A65.

A collapsed footpath sign on Newby Moor has now been firmly re-instated.

#### **PLANNING:**

#### Planning approvals granted since the last meeting:

• Demolition of garage/store and erection of new double garage at Clapham Woods Farm.

#### Planning applications withdrawn:

 Erection of lean-to agricultural building at Home Farm, Clapham.

# Planning applications received since the last meeting (still pending):

- Revised proposal for erection of an agricultural building to store silage, Home Farm, Clapham.
- Extension to kitchen and dining room Fellbrook,
   Station Road, Clapham.
- Temporary (5 years) use of a yurt as bed/sitting room at Wenning Hipping, Keasden.
- Extension of domestic curtilage/creation of sunken patio at Wenning Hipping, Keasden.

#### Planning appeal - Newby:

Some of the planning conditions attached to the use of premises in Newby as a caravan storage and repair facility have been revoked or amended on appeal. The repair company will now be permitted to work inside the building 'with its main door open if required'; and

to 'keep a relatively small waste skip in the south-west corner of the site.' The company will also be permitted to work on Bank Holidays, the Planning Inspector having come to the conclusion 'that caravan repair, or related activity, during the permitted Sunday working hours' would not 'cause any significant disturbance for neighbours if carried out on Bank Holidays.' However, the company's request that it should be allowed unrestricted use of the site for the parking and storage of caravans was turned down by the Inspector, who reaffirmed that 'despite the operational difficulties experienced by the company, it is necessary to confine caravan parking and storage to the approved area.'

The Parish Council agreed that the Planning Inspector's decisions were reasonable. However, there are still some concerns in the village about compliance with the planning conditions, especially with regard to work being carried on outside the permitted hours. It was agreed to monitor this aspect and then to decide whether any further action is required.

There are also concerns that the verges adjacent to these premises have in effect been annexed to the site and are being used for the parking of vehicles. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the site operator about this.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

This will be held on Tuesday May 13 – immediately following the annual Parish Assembly, which will start at 7.30pm on the same evening. Both these meetings will be held in the Village Hall.

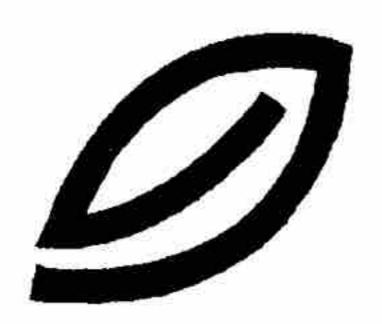
Another meeting of the Parish Council was arranged for Tuesday July 15, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

## **Chernobyl Party**

We are hoping to host a group of children from Belarus in August for the 'Clapham Day'. This will be the fifth year that Clapham has entertained Belarussian children. There will be more information later as the group is planning at present.

Janet Raine

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# CLAPHAM WEATHER

February 2003

"February fill dyke" is often said but the official attitude is for its not being as bad as that. This February the rainfall was only 44mm (1.73 ins) but others have been very different. 1995 was 6.3 ins; 1997 was 8.84 ins; 1975 was only 1.86 ins and 1981 only 1.08 ins, but 1983 was 9.7 ins and 1985 only 0.6 ins with 1986 only 0.1 ins, whereas 1990 was 8.39; altogether a very varied month.

The overall warmth (or global warming) does show up over the years. From just on 1100 units for 12 months in the 60s and 70s to 1300 to 1400 for the recent four years.

There are no heat units at all for January and February and only occasionally in March until now, even though only a few.

# Clapham Women's Institute

The Women's Institute meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

#### Forthcoming programme:

April 9th: Wray Scarecrows

Speaker: Mr. D. Hartnup

May 14th: Shepherding

Speaker: Ms. S. Woodcock

June 11th: A love affair with a store

Speaker: Mrs. S. Wardleworth

## Reduced charges!

On 2nd October, 1944 a message given in at the Estate Office requesting that the electricity charge (from the Lake Turbine) could be reduced "as they are not using the Billiard Room owing to so many of the younger members having been called up". This rent was £6 per year!

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# CLAPHAM SCHOOL PTA

Spring cleaning? – Clapham School PTA wants all your old clothing for a repeat of the 'Bag 2 School' fundraiser. Bag2School is a business that specialises in exporting second-hand clothes to emerging nations. The majority of the clothing collected is shipped to Eastern Europe, where they are sorted and sold to the general public via retailers. The school gets £1–£2 per bag, depending on weight.

We are looking for Ladies', Men's and Children's clothing, bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts and handbags.

Blue plastic bags will be sent home with school children / distributed around the community for filling on 10th April (if you don't get one, don't worry as standard black plastic dustbin bags can be used too). You then have the Easter holiday to clear out your cupboards returning the filled bags to school on Friday, 2nd May 3.15 to 4.00 p.m.

The day and time is important, as school does not have the space to store lots of bags before collection. If you cannot manage this time, please ask another parent who collects their child from school to drop it off for you or call Libby Morrison (51011) or Barbara Harrison (51165) to make separate arrangements for collection.

Thank you in advance for your help with this PTA fundraiser. All money raised goes towards activities, equipment, trips etc. to benefit all the children of the school

# Jazz at the Village Hall

Jazz enthusiasts raised £400 for Clapham Childrens Playground. The event featuring Sue Parrish & Duo was held in the Village Hall and was a sell-out success, the money raised will go towards the purchase of new equipment for the playground. The organisers wish to thank all the people who helped to make the event such a success.

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## CHURCH NEWS

At last, scaffolding has appeared on the east wall and tower of the church. Work has begun on the walls here, because English Nature states the bats who enter the roof space from these points cannot be disturbed after April. The more important work of replacing the gutters on the north and south sides will then follow.

Easter. Throughout Holy Week there are services of Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at Clapham, Maundy Thursday at Austwick followed by the Easter Vigil lasting till 8.00 a.m. on Good Friday. The Good Friday service will begin at 10.00 a.m. at Clapham

On Easter Day April 20th Holy Communion is at 8.00 a.m. followed by the now traditional breakfast. There is no other service at Clapham that day but Holy Communion services are at Austwick 9.30 a.m., Eldroth 2.00 p.m. and Keasden 6.45 p.m. Please tell Liz Mason 51319 or Vesta Walton 51685 if you will be coming to breakfast. Everyone is very welcome.

A seat will soon be placed in the cemetery in Station Road, to commemorate the life of David Anderson who died taking part in a rescue at Rowten Pot, Kingsdale in March 1986. The gift is made by his friends and colleagues at Clapham Rescue Organisation.

A new shed has been purchased for the cemetery and will be erected as soon as the site is cleared and a good base established.

### **Whist Drives**

Whist Drives will be held in the Village Hall on April 11th, 18th and 25th and May 9th and 16th.

The whist on May 23rd will be held in the Primary School. It will be a rainbow whist drive on April 18th and semi-partner whist on May 16th. All start at 7.30 p.m., admission £1, including refreshments.

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#### CLAPHAM STATION

The railway line affecting Clapham, but found one and a-half miles from the village, was constructed by the "little" North-Western Railway in the 1840s, a time of "railway mania". The term "little" was used to distinguish it from the London and North-Western, formed at about the same time by an amalgamation of several railways.

The Act of Parliament authorising the construction of the railway affecting Clapham received the Royal Assent on 30th June, 1846. The station was open for traffic in 1849 but it was not until 1861 that the branch line came into use.

Clapham Junction was important in relation to the town and port of Lancaster (on the one hand) and the Lancaster-Carlisle railway (via a branch line to Lowgill).

Clapham Station, was once an important offloading place for coal and bulk supplies not only for the village but for the Keasden community, members



An interesting Edwardian view of Clapham station showing the ornate mock Tudor buildings

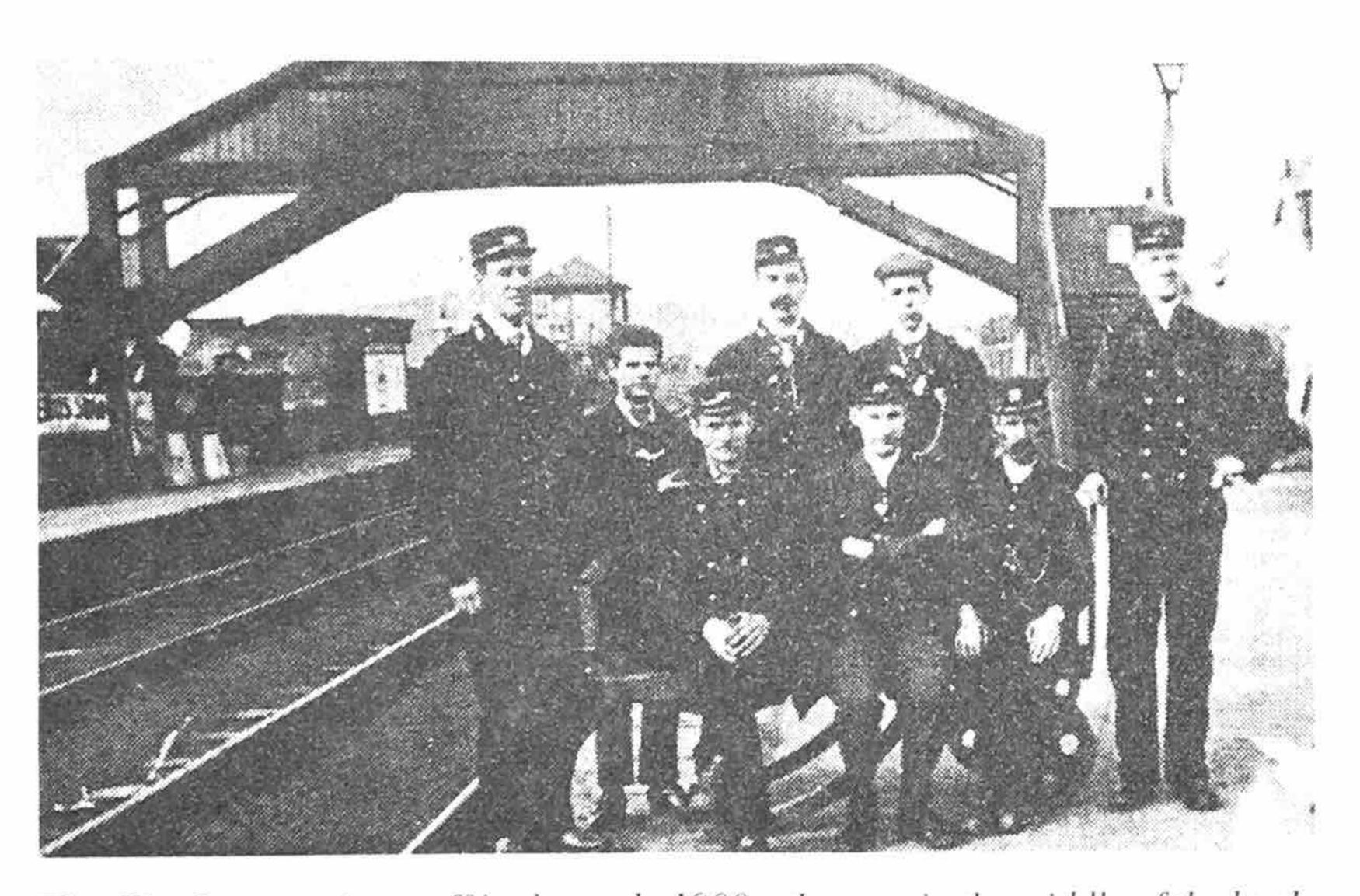
of which used the line to attend Lancaster auction mart (some of them with baskets of eggs and butter).

One of the merchants at the coal depot accounted for virtually every cob of coal. He kept an array of cobs of various sizes with which to ensure that the customers got precisely what they asked for. In many cases, farmers came for a cart load of coal – about five hundredweight.

The Flying Horse Shoe Hotel across the way from the station was named after the crest of the Farrer family and was for many years run by the Coates family.

Passenger trains were withdrawn from the Clapham–Lowgill branch in 1954, robbing the station of its junction status.

W.R. Mitchell



The Clapham station staff in the early 1900s, the man in the middle of the back row with the moustache is Gaspard Cross who was the Clapham postman, married to Rose, they had six children including Geoff who died a year ago aged 93.

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#### Base

2 large Bramley apples – peeled, cored and sliced 50g sultanas

Juice of one lemon

Sugar or honey to sweeten

Pinch of cinnamon or mixed spice

#### **Topping**

75g sugar (or honey)

50g margarine

100g ground almonds

250g tofu

Grated rind of one lemon

- 1. Gently cook the apples, sultanas, lemon juice and sweetening until just soft.
- 2. Add the spice.
- 3. Mix the topping ingredients in a processor.
- 4. Put the apples in an oiled baking dish and spread the tofu mixture on top.
- 5. Bake in a pre-heated oven Gas 5, 190°C for 20-30 minutes.
- 6. Delicious served with vanilla ice cream.

# Clapham Park Association

We need imput! Now that the fencing of the childrens playground has been completed, the next project is drainage of the boggy areas and bark to be laid under the existing equipment – and this is in hand.

We now need some imput from you. We need more interested, willing people to form a complete committee to help with fund-raising and general maintenance of the park. We would also welcome ideas and help with further projects concerning new play equipment. Can you help us?

Contact:

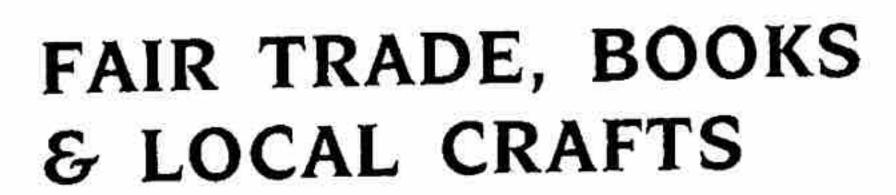
Lorraine Wildman

51219

Lisa Clark

51502

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# Settle & District MS Society

On March 6th the MS AGM speaker was Diane Hobro who is a MS nurse based at the Royal Preston Hospital. She is one of 180 MS nurses in England. She was very informative and the informal meeting heard of her work, asked many questions and vowed to get a specialist nurse at Airedale Hospital. The Preston Hospital has four MS nurses serving 1.8 million people – some of whom will have MS, be carers or have family or friends with MS.

On Easter Monday 21st April, the Spring Fair will be held in the Victoria Hall in Settle. There will be a range of MS stalls as well as some run by other locals. You and your Easter guests will be very welcome at this event.

Following a successful fund-raising year, £1,000 has been donated for research. However, most of the money raised is used for the welfare needs of local people with MS.

People in this area are generous with time and financial help and we hope that the MS Society will continue to prosper and assist

Janet Raine

Settle & District MS Society Committee

# Linda & John

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## BIRDS IN CLAPHAM

It is all happening again, and a dry start to spring saw "our" summer birds coming back while winter visitors lingered. The Brambling which have brightened up the area were still around the Flying Horseshoe in good numbers at the end of January, and there were still three on March 1st. Large flocks of Fieldfare at Melding Scale farm on February 8th, and still a few at Newby in the warm sunshine March 18th. On top of Ingleborough February 12th. Dave Crutchley saw a small flock of Golden Plover and 30 Snow Bunting. Four large flocks of Lapwing around the area February 15th would have been heading north. One Oystercatcher flew over Crina Bottom March 1st, two Curlew over Keasden March 9th, and then suddenly they were back - Lapwing, Curlew, Oystercatcher and Redshank on almost any damp rushy field in the Parish. We are lucky here to still have these in reasonable numbers given the drastic national declines Lapwing down 52% since 1987 (77% in Wales). Reasons found by research are related to agricultural intensification - especially the switch in arable areas from spring to autumn sowing, but also a decline in mixed farming, which allowed chicks to move from spring crops to nearby pasture, and on grassland increased stocking rates, a move towards sheep from cattle, improved drainage, the use of inorganic fertilisers and subsequent earlier mowing as the number of silage cuts has increased. There is no direct evidence that pesticides or predation are the cause, though effects at a local level in places cannot be discounted.

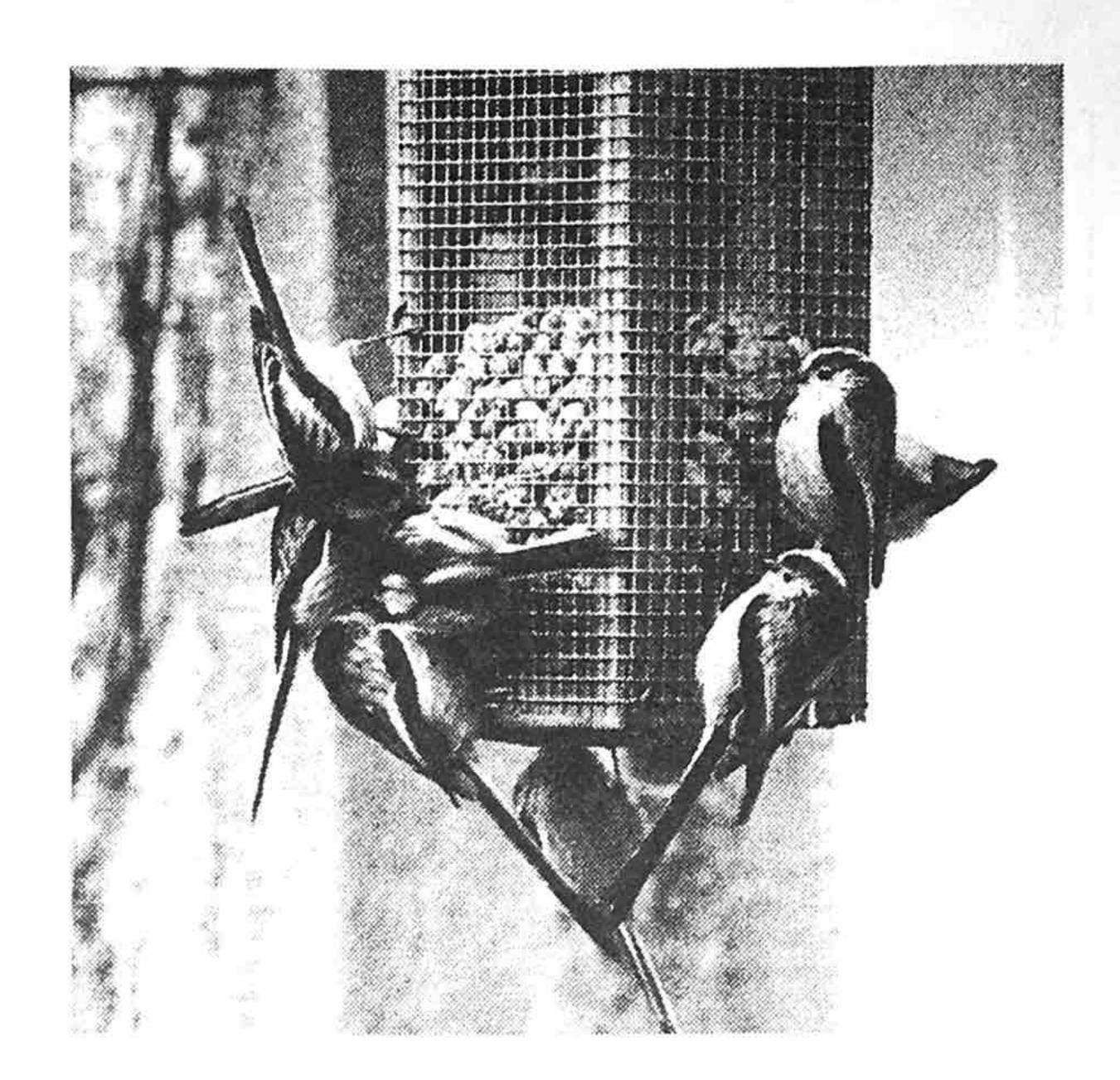
A Wheatear on the path to Austwick March 12th was a particularly early record and there was a Chiff-Chaff on Newby Moor March 22nd, in the same place as a male Stonechat was singing and displaying. Raptors

# Robert Wilson

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A large flock of long-tailed tits appeared in Park View's garden, ten can be counted on this one feeder

included a Peregrine over Lodge Bank Farm February 15th, 2 Merlin from the nature trail March 21st, and several Buzzard; recently declared to be the commonest bird of prey in Britain for the first time since the 1950s, when Myxamatosis took away their main food supply. Another bird on the way back is Raven, and 4 flew over Ingleborough Hall February 15th. There is a Green Woodpecker hanging around Trow Gill, heard calling March 14th.

Warm sunshine brought a Comma Butterfly out of winter dormancy at the Hall on the official first day of spring. Queen Bumblebees awoke and began looking for nest-sites. There they make a wax cup filled with honey, and on a ball of pollen and nectar (known as "Bee Bread") lay their eggs and brood them, living off the nearby cup of honey until this years generation of workers are born.

Records supplied by Tim Hutchinson, Smithy Cottage. Waffly bits added by David Sharrod. (Apologies for the lack of Tim's notes last issue, due to "technical difficulties" i.e. I lost them, Sorry! DS)

#### ARTICLES FOR SALE

Apollo Mountain Bike girls/ladies, 15 gears (Shimano) very good condition £50. Tel: 51492.

Five-barred gate 9ft x 5ft, complete with posts. Very good condition £25. Tel. 51566

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 May, 2003** to the Village Shop, Liz Walton, Ray Hull or David Sharrod.

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