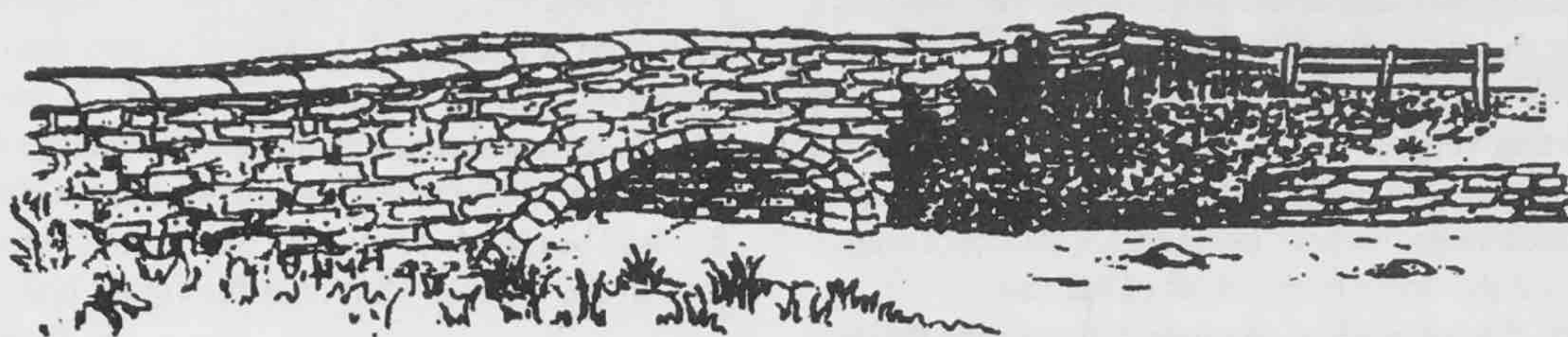


# CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Number 24, August, 2003

## CLAPHAM GARAGE

CLAUDE BARTON was the agent for the large Ingleborough Estate, which at the end of the 1914–18 war included Gearstones, beyond Ribbleshead, and Cam Houses. Lloyd George had begun to talk of nationalisation of land, so Mr. Barton, a motor enthusiast for many years, decided to open a garage at Clapham to provide an alternative income if nationalisation took place. He lived with his family in Hall Garth and had already excavated an inspection pit in the coach house in order to carry out the repairs to his own cars.

The new garage was built in the corner of a field. Estate men were employed in the construction of the 100-foot long hanger-like building. The building was black and looked as if it was painted with bitumen. Only the best wood had been used. Unfortunately the building could be seen from Ingleborough Hall, the home of the Farrer family, and they insisted that a row of trees be planted on the other side of the road, to hide it from their view.

It was in the early 1920s that the council began to spread tarmac on the road, and motorists were soon patronising Bartons Garage. It was for a time the best-equipped garage between the towns of the West Riding and Morecambe. Motoring had become



*Clapham Garage staff 1930. Left to right: Will Coward, unknown salesman, Bert Cross, J. Butler and Ted Wraith*

popular as owning a car was within reach of people of moderate means. Among early cars sold at the garage was the Essex, a fairly cheap import from America which cost £260, and which later became famous as the type of car used by Al Capone and his men. Mr. Barton ran a taxi service, using an open Vulcan car. The charge to Clapham Station was half a crown – the price remained the same for fifteen years.

The mechanics at the garage maintained the 1918 Austin saloon owned by the Farrer family, in which Ted Harrison, the chauffeur, regularly took the family to London. The garage had two hand-operated petrol pumps, and in the 1930s there were days when the petrol sales totalled 1000 gallons. Cans of aviation spirit and benzole were kept just inside the main door. This type of fuel was needed for some sports cars, which called.

Model T Fords were popular and the garage had a very impressive supply of spares. Claude Barton owned an Armstrong Whitworth – a large open car, and a 1917 Vauxhall, which was later used as a towing vehicle. An Austin 12 taken in part exchange in 1930 was used for estate work, but something more



*The garage on fire in May, 1967*

*continued overleaf*



substantial was needed for transporting materials. A Garforth ex-laundry van was acquired and was used to transport coal and coke from Clapham Station to big houses in the district. The covered van had holes cut in the sides through which coal was shovelled. Bert Cross, who began work at the garage in 1925, used this vehicle to take shooting parties up to the grouse moors in August. It was cleaned out and seats and back steps fitted for the guests. Celluloid curtains covered the holes in the sides of the van.

Mr. Barton worked on estate duties during the day, arriving at the garage at 4.30 p.m. for a cup of tea, and remaining there until about 7 p.m. before

returning to Hall Garth for dinner at 8 p.m. In the late 1940s he sold the garage to J.R. Lamb, who later sold it to E. S. Hartley.

The original garage caught fire and burned down at the end of May 1967. I watched it with many other villagers from the New Inn Car Park. It was a sad end for the garage, which had seen so many changes in its near 50 year motoring history, but we were sure it would be rebuilt. Now, with the loss of over a dozen jobs in the village, what does the future hold?

*E. Plumridge.*

With many thanks to Bill Mitchell, former editor of Dalesman, for all the information.

## SUMMARY REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (15th July, 2003)

### GENERAL:

The new waiting shelter for Clapham railway station has now been installed.

For several weeks this year, a group of 'travellers' used the disused section of the old main road as a camping place. They had been able to do so because the new (locked) gate at the village end had been taken from its hinges. The bolts securing the hinges have since been welded on, but not before a great deal of household and other rubbish had been dumped in the area, which the County and District Councils have been asked several times to clear away. NYCC appear to be re-considering the possibility of applying for a Traffic Regulation Order to make it easier to move on anyone who may gain unauthorised access to this area.

Work to improve the Clapham to Austwick field-path has now been completed, making it easier to use by less agile people.

The Parish Council approved funding for a Parish

Transport Survey, one of the aims being to assess local demand for the proposed Settle Area Taxi Voucher scheme. Funding for the scheme itself, which will involve a number of local parishes, is being applied for by the Craven Rural Transport Partnership. If successful, it may be possible to offer either free or discounted taxi vouchers to eligible local people.

### CLAPHAM:

NYCC say they have prepared a further scheme to improve drainage on Station Road, Clapham. They plan to complete the scheme before next winter, the aim being to stop water spilling across the road and either pooling on the highway or freezing over. Environmental Health Officers have also been carrying out some dye-testing in this area following reports of an unpleasant smell.

All those seats, memorials and notice boards for which the Parish Council has responsibility have now



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been inspected and found to be in generally good repair, although some works are needed to prevent deterioration or to repair minor defects. A schedule of works required will be drawn up, together with cost estimates. The seat on the Austwick field path may need to be re-sited in the same general area to improve its utility.

Some work needs to be done to clear weeds from the ginnel between the Village Hall and Riverside; and to cut back trees and bushes which now obstruct a footpath on the side of Clapham Beck.

It was suggested that vegetation should be cut back even in those parts of Clapham churchyard which are not currently maintained by the grass-cutting contractors; and that the whole churchyard should be maintained to the same general standard. This suggestion will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Parish Council is considering the possibility of planting roadside trees on the approach to Clapham village, subject to the land-owner's consent.

### KEASDEN:

Another letter has been sent to NYCC pressing them to increase the priority for winter-gritting the road below Keasden cross-roads. It has again been suggested that the priority-gritting vehicle should be re-routed to travel over Lawsings Brow instead of via Watson House, joining the Keasden Road near Clapham station and continuing up to the cross-roads, where it would re-join the present route.

Craven District Council have written to say that the presence of a caravan at Keasden, in a field near the access track to Lower Moss Cottages, 'is of a temporary nature'. The Enforcement Officer says he will be 'monitoring the situation'.

### NEWBY:

Two of the three street lights in Newby have had to be replaced, following a series of failures.

NYCC have been asked to replace the existing bus shelter at Newby, and to provide a second shelter there in a safe position on the opposite side of the A65. Bus-stop signs are also required.

NYCC have now completed a scheme to improve drainage work on the Newby Cote to Newby road.

English Nature say they are still waiting for the response of the Newby Landowners Association to their proposals for managing Newby Moor.

### PLANNING:

#### Planning approvals granted:

- amended plans for extension of house into attached barn and conversion of outbuilding to granny annexe, both at The 'Heigh', Mewith
- erection of agricultural building at Tewit Hall Farm, Newby Moor.

#### Planning applications withdrawn:

- removal of parts of hedgerow on the Clapham to Bentham road, for water pipeline work.

#### Outstanding planning applications:

- United Utilities: erection of a control building, process unit, access and wall in field south of A65 at Newby.
- United Utilities: erection of pumping station, kiosk and access improvements at Clapham waste water treatment works.
- Premises at Newby used by a caravan repair business: The site operators have apparently contacted the Planning Office with a proposal to increase the height of the wall around the yard to the west of the building, so that caravans in that area would be less visible from the surrounding area. A formal planning application for this may be submitted in due course. However, the Parish Council stands by its previous decision to oppose the proposal, which is considered to be unsatisfactory in itself and anyway relates to only one of a number of issues concerning the use of this site. Councillors expect the operators to comply with all the planning conditions imposed on their operations there, and have informed the Planning Officer accordingly.

### Thank you

An evening at the Village Hall in June raised money for the Ethiopian Famine Appeal and Trade and Social Justice Movement.

Band 'Smokin the Swarm' raised the roof with their typical rousing style and, adding to the evening's entertainment, were some fantastic instrumentalists.

A big thank you to all those who came to support us and here's to the next.

*Claire Allen*

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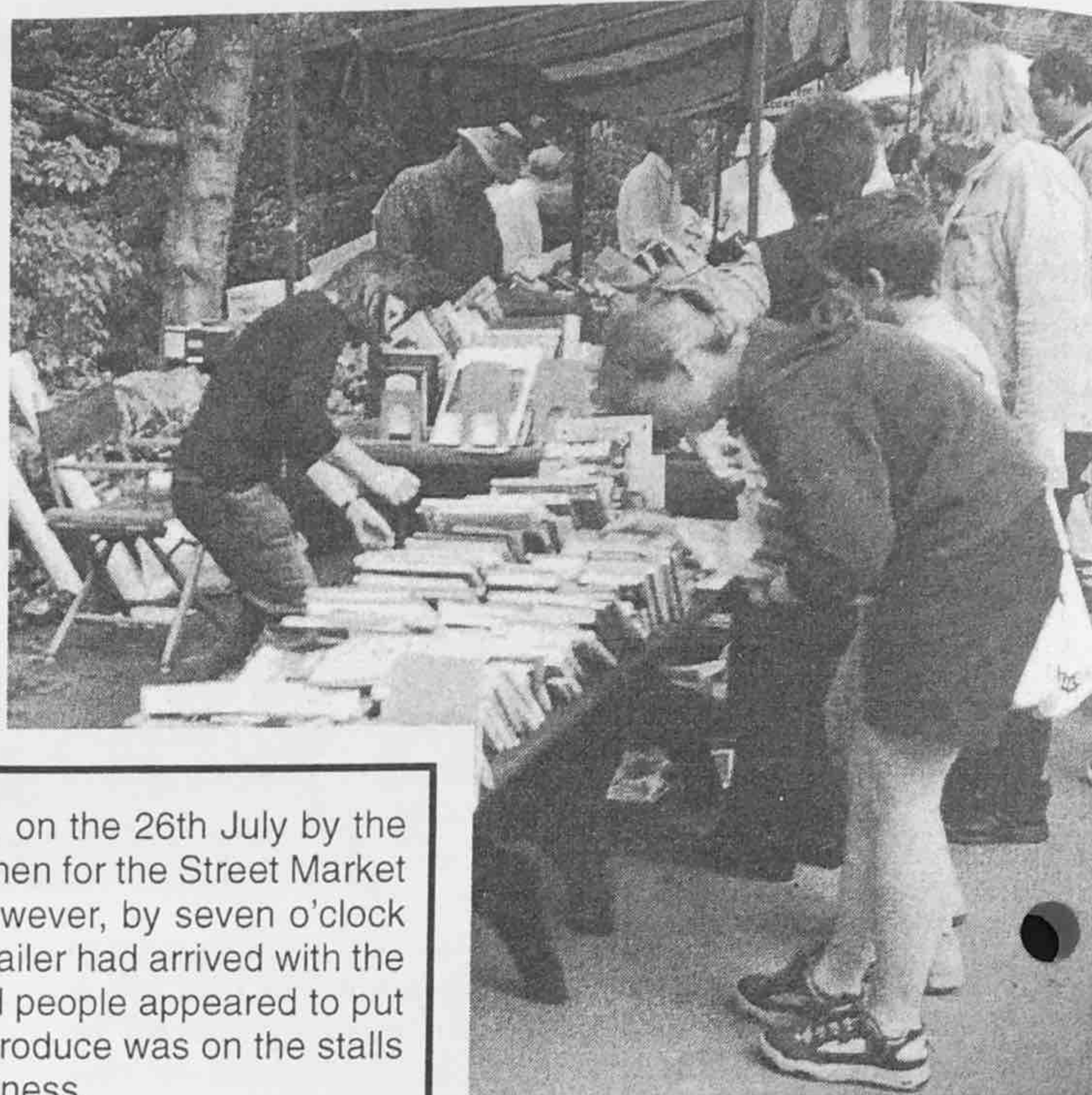
WANTED BY A YOUNG COMPANY DIRECTOR who sustained a spinal injury in a diving accident. This is a part-time position working 2 days a week with a salary of up to £130 p.w. with free accommodation, food and bank holiday overtime. With the benefit of your own room in a large house situated in Clapham.

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Awakened about 4.00 a.m. on the 26th July by the sound of heavy rain, the omen for the Street Market did not look very good. However, by seven o'clock the rain had stopped, the trailer had arrived with the steel work for the stalls and people appeared to put them up. By nine o'clock, produce was on the stalls and we were ready for business.

Visitors started to arrive and the market got under way. Although there were some very black clouds around, it managed to stay dry all day. Church Avenue was filled with stalls from the Parish Church and for other charities in the area.

The stalls sponsored by the church were busy all day, including the refreshments in a garden on Riverside. Alice Kettel our 14th century benefactor paid a visit accompanied by her young 'cats' and collected £43. Two other innovations this year were a balloon race when 100 balloons were set off and a ferret race which produced £18.50.

In total the church stalls raised £4462 for church funds.

*Owen Walton*







## Street Market Provisional Income

Ferret Racing	18.59
Linen	151.25
Jam	369.51
Rents	211.00
Balloons	108.00
Cakes	477.75
Bric-a-Brac	438.38
Plants	551.10
Posh Pots	294.98
Raffle	308.72
Books	771.86
Refreshments	411.86
Tombola	281.00
Witch	43.38
Cards	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4462.38</b>





# AGE CONCERN GROUP COMMEMORATES SEAT TO FOUNDER MEMBER

Members of the Age Concern Coffee Morning were delighted to be able to commemorate a seat to their founder member, Maurice Brown. In 1996 Maurice asked Sue Mann, at that point Chief Officer of Age Concern North Craven, whether it was possible to run some sort of activity for older people in the Clapham area. A survey was done and interest was expressed in getting together on a social basis and the group now meets on the first Wednesday in the month for coffee in the Village Hall and has a trip out in the Age Concern minibus on the second Thursday in the month to a range of destinations. Apart from having a chance to catch up with one another there is usually a speaker and topics over the last year have included memories of a visit to Russia, an 'affair with the oboe'. Coming up will be a practical session on how to wrap an awkward parcel and information on recent developments in the NHS – all tastes catered for in other words.

When Maurice died he left a legacy to the group and the seat was one of the things they decided to do with it. It seemed only fitting that it should be placed in the park as that was another area of village life over which Maurice had so much influence. Therefore, on Wednesday, July 2nd joined by Dorothy Baines and Lilian Price, both cousins of Maurice, Edith Morphet, another founder member of the group and Teddy and Evelyn Dawson we all gathered in the park to give the seat its official blessing and to say our thanks once again to Maurice for getting us all going!



Our next meeting will be on 6th August at Wyvern, Newby, the home of Sue Mann, and members will be asked to bring along photos of any memorable holidays they have had recently.

On September 3rd, in the supper room Barbara Nowell will be talking to us on wrapping up awkward-shaped parcels. Come and get ready for Christmas!

Anyone interested in finding out more about the group, please contact Sue Mann, 015242 51792

## Help needed

There are two ladies in Bentham with strong connections with the Clapham area who would like to come to our monthly coffee mornings. If you have some time on the first Wednesday in the month and would be willing to go on a rota to collect them at about 9.45 a.m. and/or take them home again at about 1.15 p.m. please contact Sue Mann, 015242 51792.

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As well as the seat commemorating Maurice, we have two more seats in memory of Dave Anderson in the graveyard, and Max Kingsley near the cave. Both made locally by Wyn Roberts of The Green.

### Dave Anderson

As was reported in a previous newsletter a bench has been placed in the graveyard in memory of Dave Anderson. Who? I can hear many of you asking. So, here is a brief resume about Dave and why we should remember him.

Dave lived in Clapham from 1982 until his death in 1986. He was an electrician and ran his own business. He had moved to the area because he was a keen and active caver and quickly became a member of the Cave Rescue Organisation (C.R.O.).

On the evening of 22nd March, 1986 the C.R.O. were having their A.G.M. in the New Inn, when shortly after 11.00 p.m. there was a call out. Two cavers were missing in Rowten Pot, Kingsdale. The missing cavers had descended Rowten Pot and were intending, using diving bottles, to dive the sumps (completely submerged cave passage) through into Kingsdale Master Cave. Unfortunately the rain had started the previous evening, had rained all night, then continued for all that Saturday and it was still raining when the call-out occurred. The water levels, in the area, were extremely high, I have only once in twenty five years of caving seen them higher than they were that night.

The C.R.O. arrived at the incident, and Dave, who was an Underground Controller, was the only person present who had previously used a new, high level bolt route in Rowten Pot. Due to the exceptionally high water, access to Rowten would normally have been impossible. The new bolt route allowed cavers to remain clear of the huge amount of water which was now thundering down the open shaft. After consultation it was decided that Dave would, with four other experienced cavers enter the cave and rig the high level route. This should allow them to check most of the cave system for the two missing persons. It was still raining, conditions in Rowten Pot were extremely dangerous, water was pouring in everywhere, the sound that it was creating in the confines of the cave were deafening,

making communication near impossible. Above the flood water, where the team were moving from bolt to bolt fixing safety ropes, the conditions would have been similar to standing on the bow of a ship in gale force wind and driving rain. After several hours Dave and his team had managed to reach a narrow ledge next to a rift passage. There was a huge volume of water falling into this which almost filled the rift passage. One of the team crossed this obstacle and fixed a traverse line (safety rope), because of the noise, communication with Dave was impossible but he was seen to start along the traverse line. Then he was gone. The traverse line was taut and Dave's light could be seen within the mass of water. Despite attempts to pull Dave clear the weight and force of the water made it impossible. In the early hours of Sunday, 23rd March, 1986, Dave Anderson died.

Dave's body was recovered many hours later, after the rain had stopped and when the water levels had dropped considerably. The two missing cavers were found, cold and wet, but alive, sitting it out on ledges above the sumps. Dave took a calculated risk, as an experienced caver, to help others and unfortunately he paid the ultimate price. No one was to blame for this, as we all make our individual decisions in life, sometimes it works out and unfortunately sometimes it doesn't. He was posthumously awarded the Mountain Rescue Committee's highest honour, the Distinguished Service Medal.

Dave was a kind and generous young man who worked hard, played hard and was a member of this community. The bench has been purchased with money from a memorial fund and was placed in the graveyard by his four closest friends. As long as we are alive his sacrifice will not be forgotten. Just remember Dave as Nick Cave's song states "Death Is Not The End" and we will all eventually meet again at the Craven Heifer in the sky, still run by Jack and Joan,

*Written by a close friend.*



### Max Kingsley

This bench has been placed outside the entrance of Ingleborough Cave. Max Kingsley, my Dad, and I walked the nature trail many times during the past five years and my mother Erika and I felt that it would be lovely to have a useful tribute to him. I composed a short poem in the, 'style of Max' which has been fastened to the bench. We hope that it will be well used.

*David Kingsley*

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Starts July 21st at Clapham Primary School  
Mondays 7-9 p.m. for 5 weeks

### Learn to use Powerpoint

Powerpoint is a computer programme used to produce professional looking talks and presentations. This practical course will teach you everything you need to know to ensure your next talk impresses. Some computing experience necessary.

Starts July 22nd at Clapham Primary School  
Tuesdays 7-9 pm for 5 weeks

### ECDL

A great opportunity to get this highly regarded computing qualification for free. You will cover File Management, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Databases, Internet, Email and Powerpoint. It's what employers are looking for. Some computing experience necessary.

Starts 10th September at Clapham Primary School.  
Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. for 30 weeks (breaks for Easter, Christmas etc.). Course FREE but you will have to pay for logbooks - £26

Who do I ring if I have any questions? Phone Elaine at Settle Community Education on 01729 823312.  
How do I reserve a place? If you want to attend any of these courses, you must reserve a place in advance. To do this, Phone Elaine at Settle Community Education on 01729 823312.

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## Belorussian children

### No Shrek in 2003 for Belorussians

One of my favourite videos is Shrek, preferably with chocolate and red wine. Last year, it was all so spellbinding for the Belorussian children (and others too) who were exhausted after swimming and full of a lunch of good Clapham food.

This year it will not be shown as the numbers at Clapdale Way will be nearly 40 and the Village Hall has had to be booked for board games after lunch. We are hoping for a good day so that the Clapdale Way and Back Lane grass can be used too.

Once again, visits to the pool, yurt, CRO and a village walk will take up much of the day. It has become ever more popular over five years. However, increased popularity means extra baking and we would appreciate as many cakes and biscuits as you can make.

Cancers, especially thyroid cancers, are common among the Belorussian children and we believe good Yorkshire air and food give immune systems a boost. Please help us if you can by bringing your food to 2 Clapdale Way on Wednesday, 13th August or phoning 51608.

Many thanks - Janet Raine CCP (UK)

### Workers' Educational Association

The Autumn term begins on Tuesday, 9th September at 7.00 p.m. in Clapham School. Mrs. Joan Stevens of Settle will take a course on *The Twenties and Thirties Through Literature*. She describes the writing of the time as frivolous and factual, humorous, passionate and prophetic. Find out more by joining us on 9th September at 7.00 p.m. For further details please phone 015242 51323 or 51324.

### Date for your diary

Clapham School PTA  
are arranging a

### QUIZ NIGHT

on Saturday, 17th October  
at 7.30 p.m.

**admission will include supper  
and there will be a bar.**

Tables will be set out for teams of four, so plenty of time for you to sort out your teams.

More details in the October newsletter

Clapham Primary School raised £325 on their stall at the Street Market - Thanks to all who helped in raising this welcome money



## Clapham Park Association

The Association now has four new members to whom we are most grateful for their support. A large piece of junior equipment has been purchased second-hand and hopefully this will be installed later this year.

Grants are at present being sought to fund play equipment for the toddlers. We are also hoping to obtain our own strimmer for general maintenance.

Our main problem is coping with the extortionate insurance cost, this year for example:

Public liability	£465.00
Employers liability	300.00
Material damage	425.00
Fund-raising events	150.00
Motor mower	52.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1092.50</b>

Compared with last year which totalled £472.50

Our stall at the Street Market this year raised £97 for which we offer our thanks to all concerned.

## Clapham Community Playgroup

Many thanks for all the help and support towards the Duck Race at the Street Market, all the proceeds of which went to the Clapham Community Playgroup. We made a total of £600 profit which will come in very handy for updating our toys.

We are looking for a new playgroup leader for Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.35 am to 11.30 am, if anyone is interested please get in touch with Jo Williams, 51186. With not, as yet, having a playgroup leader it will mean that when we begin again on Thursday, 4th September the playgroup will be run as a Mother & Toddler group, so all children will have to be accompanied by parent/childminder etc.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 8th September at the New Inn, please come and add your support to this local amenity.

*Sarah Symonds, Secretary*

## Post Office News

### Direct Payment

Now the payment of Child Benefit has been changed to the new system, the Government has begun to get in touch with those of you who receive a Retirement Pension. A letter and a form will arrive together in the post. If you complete the form and send it back, your pension will be paid into the bank account you nominate and you may not be able to draw cash at the Post Office. (See below).

If you do not hold an account with one of our partner banks and wish to draw cash locally, or if you prefer to keep your pension separate, a Post Office Card Account may suit.

To open a Post Office Card Account do not complete and return the form. All you need to do is telephone the information line – the number appears on the letter – and tell them you would like to open an account.

Call in and see us if you need any help.

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Alliance & Leicester  
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Smile.

All these banks offer deposits, cheque deposits and cheque encashments free of charge at the Post Office. In July, Lloyds TSB joined Alliance & Leicester and Barclays in offering debit card withdrawals, also free of charge.

### Council Tax

Did you know you can pay your Council Tax free of charge at the Post Office? You need to call Craven District Council's Finance Unit on 01756 706288, quote your account reference number, and ask for a payment card for use at the Post Office.

John and Linda

## SMALL WORLD

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has now closed down, due to moving  
out of the village, and I would like to  
take this opportunity for thanking you  
for your custom. *Claire Allen*

*Watch out for notices of Party Plans  
in the future*



## Linda & John

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## NEWBY LADIES 'RACE FOR LIFE'



Sunday, 8th June was a beautiful sunny morning, which saw 18 enthusiastic women and girls from Newby and surrounding areas participate in the Race for Life event organised at Broughton Hall. This women only sponsored event, which has been running for 10 years, but was held for the first time this year in Skipton, raises money for Cancer Research UK, to help find new ways to treat, prevent and cure cancer. The group consisted of both runners

and walkers, with the runners finishing the 5km (3.1 miles) course in less than 30 minutes, and the walkers taking just under an hour. Final figures are not yet available but the Team is on course to have raised several hundred pounds in total for Cancer Research UK. Thank you to everyone who kindly sponsored us and well done to all the 'Newby Ladies'. We look forward to being joined by more of our friends and neighbours next year!

*Libby Morrison*

## CHURCH NEWS

We warmly thank the many people whose help and effort made the Street Market such a success. Apart from financial gains (over £4,400 for the church) visitors enjoyed coming to Clapham, finding good weather, meeting and making friends and generally having a good day.

### **Parceval Hall, Thursday, 18th September**

A Quiet Day at Parceval Hall near Appletreewick has been arranged and will be lead by Kenneth Jennings of Eldroth. Beginning at 10.00 a.m. with coffee followed by an excellent lunch and afternoon tea at 4.00 p.m., it offers opportunity to read, talk, indoors or in the lovely gardens, and just relax. There is an optional short service in the chapel. Cost is £15. Please contact Sally Edwards on 015242 51696 if you would like to go, and if you need transport. She would like bookings by August 9th.

**Harvest** This seems a long way ahead but before the next issue of the newsletter is Harvest Thanksgiving. The Primary School children will have their service in church and Sunday service will be as usual at 11.00 a.m. This year we are to have a Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on Saturday evening

October 4th when Mr. Anthony Smith of Bentham will talk of his experience as a country vet. More details later.

The interregnum continues. No new appointment has yet been made.

## Letter to the Editor

On the Sunday of Kirby Lonsdale Gala, my wife and I were in our car driving by Devils Bridge, when to my amazement, not to say anger, I noted that 3 cars were parked on the wide grass verge, the occupants obviously attending the said Gala, were being booked by the local constabulary, can I suggest for illegal parking?

Why is that on previous occasions and at the present time on the same grass verge I note that the 'Travellers' are parked with a flat backed lorry, several caravans, two or was it three tethered horses, a washing line strung across with items of bedding, and numerous plastic containers, the whole area detracting from the wonderful country side I feel privileged to live in, the Police being noticeable by their absence. Is there law for one and not the other I ask myself?

*Indignant - Clapham*



## CLAPHAM'S RAILWAY

"CLAPHAM-JUNCTION FOR INGLETION" say the signs on old pictures of Clapham station. Here was Yorkshire's own Clapham Junction, situated on what was planned as a main route from Leeds to Scotland. It was the link to Morecambe that was to be the branch line, as is still evident today from the sharp curve taken by trains heading towards Lancaster. The main line went straight on – but financial problems led the North Western Railway to change its plans, and eventually the continuation from Ingleton to Low Gill was constructed by the Lancaster & Carlisle Railway. Its successor, the London & North Western, and the Midland Railway, which had taken over the "Little" North Western, had constant wrangles about through traffic, and these led to the Midland to construct its own through route to Carlisle from a new junction south of Settle. Local trains on the Ingleton branch soldiered on until 1954, and the line closed completely in 1966.

But Clapham's station remains, and even though it is more than a mile from the village it continues to provide a valuable transport link. Local people have access to Skipton, Bradford and Leeds, and to Carnforth, Lancaster and Morecambe. Though unstaffed, the station has been refurbished, and North Yorkshire County Council have funded the provision of a new shelter on the Lancaster-bound platform. Unfortunately the train service is still meagre, and the Lancaster & Skipton Rail Users Group – LASRUG – is pressing for improvements to the frequency and the quality of the trains. We are at present in touch with the five groups who are bidding to operate the new Northern Rail Franchise, and we are looking to the new operator to offer a much better service. In the last two years strikes and cancellations have deterred many travellers, but reliability has now recovered. We hope more people will use the trains, and help us build up the case for improvements. The Dales Railcard gives local residents 1/3 off fares on the Leeds–Morecambe and Leeds–Carlisle lines (accompanied children travel for just £2), and is available for £10 at Settle and Skipton stations.

Departures from Clapham until September 27th are as follows:

**To Skipton & Leeds:**

**Weekdays:** 7-49 (8-49 on Saturdays), 11-14, 13-51, 17-35, 20-00. **Sundays:** 13-18, 15-13, 18-29, 20-47.

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**To Lancaster & Morecambe:**

Weekdays: 6-16 (7-13 on Saturdays), 9-28, 11-28, 15-28, 18-01

**Sundays:** 9-39, 12-03, 16-12, 18-12

Full timetable leaflets can be obtained from Settle station and from Settle and Bentham TICs. Please contact me if you would like more information about our group, or if we can help with any problems you may have in connection with the train service.

*John Bearpark, Chairman LASRUG  
31 Northfields Crescent, Settle, BD24 9JP  
Tel: 01729 822712*

## THE FARMING YEAR

So far it has been a good summer, with plenty of quality hay and silage being made in the parish. Here at Meldingscale we are waiting for the weather to settle down again, so that we can harvest our barley which has taken a battering during recent heavy showers. Being such a heavy crop, keeping it standing was always a worry but hopefully it will harvest OK. We have a fresh combine this year, a mere 21 years old and I am looking forward to getting it going. I have had it running in the yard and everything seems to shake and roll in the right place, time will tell.

Our organic beef sales from the farm are proving popular and the Farmers Market at Bentham is a good outlet. It is a good way of meeting potential customers and getting to know their needs. We have recently been invaded by bats in the house, which are causing much distress to Joanna. When does a protected species become a pest? Well never when you contact the environmental health people at Skipton, and with two young children in the house it is not very good when you find bats among their toys and clothes. The final straw was when one came out of the kettle when making a pot of tea one morning, an English mans home is his castle – enough said.

*David Burns - Meldingscale Organics*

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## WILDLIFE IN CLAPHAM

The most unusual bird of the summer so far was Hobby, one seen over Nutta Farm on the evening of June 25th and another (maybe the same one) over Ingleborough Hall July 8th. These fantastic summer visitors are very much 'southern' birds in Britain, chasing large aerial insects such as Dragonflies. They have been edging north recently, and a pair have been hawking around Wharfedale this year. Another result of the warming climate?

Some good insect records lately. Two colonies of Small Skipper butterflies have been found (by Tim) - one by Crook Beck and one between Eldroth Road and Clapham Station. The nearest breeding area known was Gisburn Forest. Another species slowly expanding north and west. Not far outside the parish nationally rare Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries have done well this year. A Painted Lady at the Hall on June 6th was one of many which invaded the country from sunnier climes this summer. A Hummingbird Hawkmoth on June 14th was a spectacular sight, as were several Poplar Hawkmoths around the village. A female Black Darter dragonfly was on Hardacre Moss July 27th.

Birdwise it seems to have been a good breeding season after a slow start. By June 25th there were 34 juvenile Lapwing gathered at Nutta Farm. Stonechat had four young at Hardacre Moss June 15th, a first as far as we know. Then another juvenile between Crook Beck and the Bentham Road June 25th made us realise we actually had two pairs. By July 12th the latter were feeding a second brood. Also on

Hardacre and Newby Moor there were at least six singing Reed Bunting, four Sedge Warbler, one Whinchat - and intriguingly a 'reeling' Grasshopper Warbler July 6th. Other young birds included Grey Wagtail Clapham Beck June 6th, Dipper by Broken Bridge June 24th, Grey Heron Clapham Beck and lots of Linnet family parties on Newby Moor.

*Records supplied by Tim Hutchinson, Smithy Cottage.*

The AGM of Clapham and District Newsletter Group will be held on  
Monday, September 29th at 7 p.m.  
at Clapham Village Hall  
All Welcome!

### HELP! !

We are always looking for help with the newsletter, which is intended as a free source of information to everyone in the parish (and beyond) about what is happening locally. The work really isn't onerous but it is very much a case of the more the merrier. For example our committee meets every two months, usually for less than half an hour (including coffee and gossip!) Otherwise it is help with ideas for articles, writing them or pestering others to do so, delivering the newsletters when they are printed. We do have a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, whose roles are not arduous but who all feel it is healthy for any organisation to have "fresh blood" if anyone wants to volunteer! Beyond that any ideas about how we improve the newsletter always genuinely welcome.

## Robert Wilson

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ORGANICS

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 September, 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.