

CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Number 109, October 2017

First sighting in a century



Photo: Tim Hutchinson

Silver washed fritillary – *Argynnis Paphia*

The silver washed fritillary is the largest fritillary butterfly we have in the UK. It has an orangey red upper wing colour with black markings and the underwing has a silver washed colour to it, hence its name. The flight period

is from mid-June until early September. It is quite common from the Mersey south to the south coast, but in the north it is rare with only one colony in the south lakes around the Whitbarrow Scars area. It used to breed in several colonies around Yorkshire but became extinct about 100 years ago. Some silver washed fritillaries do wander north from the southern colonies but that is rare. Every year one or two silver washed fritillaries are seen around Yorkshire but these seem to come from unofficial releases from private collections.

This was the case on Thursday 24th August when one very large fritillary was seen flying into the grounds of Ingleborough Hall and feeding on some plants on the veranda borders for about five minutes before it flew off towards the village. I managed to get several photos of it and using the photos, a butterfly book and Audrey Wallace's internet I managed to identify it as a male silver washed fritillary. After speaking to the butterfly county recorder for North Yorkshire he thought it will have come from an unofficial release as this is the first record of silver washed fritillary for North West Yorkshire since the early 1900's. If anybody saw a large orange red butterfly in their gardens around the 24th August, please could you let me know as I would like to know where it went after Ingleborough Hall?

From the end of August our summer breeding birds started to gather in flocks, getting ready to move south for the winter. Large flocks of swallows and house martins have been seen around the local area. The last swifts were seen over Ingleborough Hall on 20th August.

(Continued on page 7)

Neighbourhood Plan Announced

The Parish Council decided at its September meeting to pursue a Neighbourhood Development Plan and have issued the following statement.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Clapham is a unique village and a great place to live. All residents have an interest in maintaining and improving the village, its essential services and its environment. However, the village cannot stagnate, we need appropriate development. The Parish Council would like to ensure the people of Clapham have as much say as possible in managing that change and ensuring any development is in keeping with village's character.

One way to do this would be to have our own Neighbourhood Development Plan. An NDP can set out policies and plans for the village, like a district Development Plan Document but on a very local scale.

Such a plan would allow us to identify and protect green spaces, and it would allow us to identify the types of development that would be in keeping with the character of the village. For example, one of Clapham's unique qualities is that agriculture remains at its heart with three working farms in the village. The plan might want to look at ways we can protect the agricultural function of traditional buildings for as long as farmers have a use for them. It could also set design standards so any new properties built are in keeping with the rest of the village.

An NDP could also look at ways of bringing suitable, sustainable, economic development to the village. For example, Clapham will soon have world beating internet from B4RN, the NDP could examine how we can develop infrastructure to exploit the advantage 1Gbps internet gives us in providing good quality jobs in the village so we can help young families stay here, and encourage young families from outside to move here.

These are just ideas. Ultimately an NDP's success or failure will depend on the extent residents take ownership of it. The Parish Council will do everything it can to facilitate the process. There will be a public meeting to gauge interest and to set up a steering group. This will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 26th October, 2017 at Clapham Village Hall. All are welcome to attend. For more information please contact one of the Parish Councillors.



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CHURCH NEWS

A churchwarden's thoughts...

Music has always played an important part in my life - ever since I can remember, at the age of six, getting my shiny black piano and joining the school choir when I moved to a new school. I was brought up as a Methodist and was in the chapel choir. After attending a Methodist Teacher Training College (where singing was a compulsory subject) I became organist at my home chapel and, when I later moved to London, became organist at a chapel there. I had only gone to sample it - I had intended to visit a variety of churches - but never got any further after the warm welcome! After London came Clapham and forty five years ago I became organist here.

One of the chief things that Christians are renowned for is singing songs and making music. Congregational singing helps us **praise**, helps us to **pray** and helps us to **proclaim**. We praise God to God and we can praise God to others. As John Wesley exhorted: "Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep, but lift up your voice with strength".

Many of our traditional hymns as well as many contemporary songs are obviously prayers. Singing is a form of word ministry. Do we connect with the words we are singing? Are we singing from the same hymn sheet? As a country we are not, but as Christians we should be. Singing is good for the body and soul. Dare we say it - the songs we sing are often remembered long after the sermon has been forgotten.

In giving us the ability to sing and make music God has given us a very great gift. In calling us to utilize this gift in our church gatherings **He** has provided a way of praising **Him**, praying to **Him** and proclaiming **His** word to others. Please remember our combined church choir and organists in your prayers.

Liz Mason

Churchwarden and Organist - Clapham

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

Thursday 26th - Neighbourhood Development Plan Public Meeting 7.30pm - Clapham Village Hall

Friday 27th - Coffee Morning 10am - 12 noon Clapham Village Hall in aid of Children in Need

Friday 27th - Village Hall Quiz night, 7pm - tickets needed

Sunday 29th - 7pm 'Church in the Pub' the New Inn, Clapham

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 20th - Newsletter deadline - including Christmas greetings

Saturday 25th - Coffee Morning 10 am – 12:30pm Clapham Village Hall in aid of St James's Church

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd - Clapham School Christmas Fair

CHURCH SERVICES

St James' Church, Clapham

October

Every Sunday - Holy Communion at 11am

Harvest Festival Sunday 1st October

Except Sunday 29th October - when a united service will be held at Austwick church at 10.30am

November

Every Sunday - Holy Communion at 11am

Clapham House Communion - commences at 10.45am

26th October; 30th November and 21st December

St Matthew's Church, Keasden

1st October - Holy Communion & baptism at 11am

8th October - Holy Communion at 2pm

15th October - no service

22nd October - Evensong at 2pm

29th October - United service at Austwick at 10.30am

5th November - Holy Communion at 11am

12th November - Holy Communion at 2pm

19th November - No service

26th November - Evensong at 2pm

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Sundays:

Sunday School 10.15am

Family Service 11.00am

Evening Service 6.30pm

Weekdays:

Bible Study Tuesday at 7.30pm

1st Thursday Senior Citizens at 2pm

3rd Thursday Fellowship at 2pm

4th Thursday Coffee Evening at 7.30pm

Children's activities:

Mums & Tots Friday 9.30-11am

Fortnightly on Friday

Kmotion (primary school aged children) at 6.30pm

Encounter (10 years and up) at 7.30pm

Methodist Chapel, Newby

Service - 1st Sunday in month at 2pm, all other Sundays at 11am

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

During the period of Anglican Interregnum (time without a Vicar), please contact:

Clapham

Church Warden Liz Mason - 015242 51319

Church Warden Colin Brindle - 015242 51426

PCC Secretary Sue Mann - 015242 51408

Keasden

Church Warden Graham Taylor - 015242 51636

PCC Secretary Angela Peach - 015242 51108

A blast from the past



I recently came across some old negatives featuring the teams in a not-so-friendly football match between Clapham and Newby. It was played on Coultherd's field one May. I do not quite remember the outcome but there were several incidents which I recall including one where the Newby centre forward almost became the first local astronaut following a ferocious tackle for the Clapham defence.

SO – quiz time! What year did the match take place? Can you name both sides (some are still around!)? And – for the experts - can you name the missing player from the Newby team?

Answers in a plain brown envelope to Gildersbank!

David Crutchley

Photographic group

Settle Photographic Group's Annual Exhibition was displayed in Clapham Village Hall over the August Bank Holiday weekend. As usual the images had been on display in many of the shops in Settle before being gathered together for what proved to be an 'excellent' exhibition as one of the many visitors commented.

The exhibition was opened on the Friday evening by Frank Higginson, a founder member and past chairman of the group. Frank, who has moved away from the area, commented on the high standard of the images and emphasised how much he missed being part of Settle Photographic Group because of the way members' talents are encouraged.

This year, as always, there was a wide range of subjects from a diving tern to a busy sandy beach, to landscapes and seascapes, steam trains, flowers, animals and more birds. As ever, because there is no specific theme, it is a truly eclectic variety.

The exhibition was well supported by both locals and tourists alike, over 400 people dropped in over the three days, some from as far as Canada and Holland. All visitors had the chance to choose their favourite picture and their choices were just as varied as the photographs. Everyone passed many very appreciative comments and several said that they try to visit every year.

In addition to the printed pictures, there were many digital images to enjoy.

Tea was provided by Clapham ladies in aid of Derian House, Chorley; Craven Cats Rescue and SOI Dog Foundation.

Gill Pinkerton

Thank You

Mrs Vesta Walton would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and kindness whilst she was in hospital.

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Village Diary

The village has an online diary that we can all use. Set-up as part of the new village website, it can be accessed through the internet and can feed, from there, through to other websites such as the Village Shop's one.

The idea is that groups or individuals can post details of events of interest onto it so that all can see them. Some groups already have a coordinator to do this – eg, Sue Mann handles St James Church events, Ken Pearce those from the CDA and I post newsletter related and general events (plus, for those interested, warnings of any possible steam sightings down at the Station!). If your group would also like to set up a diary coordinator then get in touch. If you're not in a group and would like something posted then please let me know.

To access the diary you'll need to have either an online diary app, such as the Google Calendar App, or else use it through a website, such as Google Calendar. To find the calendar just search for "Clapham North Yorkshire". The more technically minded can even embed the calendar into their own websites!

Thanks to Edward Sexton who has set this up and produced a short "How To" guide for new users.

Andy Scott

Bulk Oil Buying Scheme

A reminder to households participating in the oil buying scheme that, if you haven't done so already, there is still a chance to make your £1 contribution to cover the scheme running costs. Your contribution can be made at Clapham Village Shop. Many thanks to all who have already paid.

Clapham Sustainability Group

Christmas is coming ...

This Christmas at Clapham village store we will have a new range of delicious Christmas foods and confectionery and a wonderful display of Christmas decorations and gifts, all at competitive prices.



From the end of October we shall be hosting our 'tasting events' which will take place throughout the weeks leading up to Christmas. Look out for the dates on the outside blackboard or visit our Facebook, twitter and website pages for details.

Don't forget you can buy all your cards and wrapping paper from us and, if you're stuck for ideas for the person who has everything, why not put together a carefully selected hamper of your choice.

Please come along and support your community shop. Those of you who shop regularly with us won't be surprised by what a great range of things we stock at competitive prices. If you haven't been in recently come along and find out what we have. There will be a warm welcome!



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Village Hall News

As we approach our annual general meeting, September 27th, I felt it was time the community were informed of a little of what is happening. Sadly, the play group has folded: we understand that this is largely due to falling numbers and that none of the remaining group wished to take on the organising.

Tennis Court

We have a volunteer offering to assist in maintaining the Tennis Court in Mr. Bernard Ashurst. He has a mobile home near Clapham Station and is in the village most weekends. It is hoped that by next summer the court will be spruced up and the surface cleaned of weeds and moss. Any help with this would be appreciated: please contact me in first instance.

The Village Hall Committee

is a bit thin of attendees at the moment so, again, if anyone feels that they would like to assist us we would love to hear from you. Please remember the hall belongs to the whole community, but it is only viable with "your" support. One immediate need coming up soon will be the putting up of the Christmas decorations: we have one volunteer but it is a two-person job.

The next event taking place

will be the "Village Hall Quiz" on October 27th. This is usually a sell out so please get your tickets as soon as you can. As usual the question-master will be the 'famous Stuart Marshall', and the catering will be by our village hall volunteers.

Major Works

We are in the process of gathering quotations for major works at the hall: we have been told that part of the roof is well past its best, and also the heating system. The boiler is now over 20 years old and is playing up, the double glazed sealed units are no longer sealed and the main hall is in need of a lick of paint. David is putting together all the quotations with the hope of a big fundraising push. Please support us in any way possible.

*Contact David Kingsley 015242 51240
or Loraine Wildman on 015242 51219*



Clapham Village Hall Quiz

A Stuart Marshall Production in Association
with the Village Hall Committee and the
village.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27th

At the Hall



Starting at 7pm for 7.30pm

Bar Provided

**Only £7.50 including
Supper**

Vegetarian option: please indicate when buying tickets.



**All proceeds in aid of
Village Hall**

Tickets Available from, "The Village Store" Lorraine
Wildman or on line from David Kingsley. Tel 015242
51240 jackieanddavid@yahoo.com



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Renew

Children in Need COFFEE MORNING

Aimee and Erin
(the grandchildren of Liz and Eric Mason)
invite you to
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FRIDAY 27th October**

10am - 12 noon

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Parish Council News

The council has met twice since the last report of their activities in the newsletter. The notes from all of their meetings are published on the village website and displayed on the village notice board, and those from the most recent meeting follow.

Meeting of 26th September 2017

There was one member of the public in attendance who brought to the Council's attention the disappearance of a stone shelter on the summit of Little Ingleborough.

A representative from North Yorkshire Police gave a report outlining incidents in the parish which had been dealt with by the police in the preceding month. These included a domestic dispute, an overturned vehicle, a vehicle being driven in a dangerous manner in Clapham and a theft of scaffolding.

The Council noted that since the last meeting incidents of fly-tipping on Old Road, Clapham and the inappropriate siting of an estate agents board had been satisfactorily dealt with. It was further noted that repairs had been carried out to the street lighting in Newby. Also the Council directed that contact be made with the appropriate authorities in connection with dog-fouling signs for Clapham, flooding and potholing on Lawsings Brow and a land-slip on Reebys Lane.

Updates were received in connection with the vacant position of Parish Caretaker, the Hyperfast Broadband project and the issue of Neighbourhood Planning. Among the financial matters considered at the meeting was the budget for the forthcoming year.

The following planning matters were considered.

Applications:

- (i) 2017/18171/FUL: Conversion of traditional barn to dwelling with ancillary office and new garage building at Fountain House Farm, The Green. (Amendment also submitted). It was noted that Cllr Sheridan had attended and spoken at the Craven District Council planning meeting of 25th September 2017 when this application had been approved.
- (ii) 2017/18303/VAR: Application to vary condition 3 of original planning consent reference 18/2014/14488 to amend caravan type. The Council supported this application.
- (iii) 2017/18286/2017: Conversion of barn to dwelling-house including formation of new vehicle access from Station Road at Calterber Barn, Crina Bottom. It was decided that this application should be opposed.
- (iv) 2017/18398/LBC: Revised proposals for a new sunroom/conservatory extension (previously approved application 18/206/17527) at Crooklands, Old Road West, Ingleton. This application was supported.
- (v) 2017/18386/FUL: Barn conversion with attached garage and new entrance at Ingbergh Barn, Benthams Road. A majority decision was made to oppose this application.
- (vi) 2017/18486/FUL: Full planning application for (1) proposed new detached garage (2) proposed new parking and turning area (3) proposed re-siting of an existing stable block (4) proposed new turn out area for horses (5) partially retrospective to retain an existing fence and double gates at The Heigh, Mewith, Benthams. This application was held over pending further consideration

Decisions:

- (i) 18/2017/18132: Agricultural access to existing field-land South of Clapham bounded by Station Road and the A65. Application granted subject to conditions which include replacement tree planting.
- (ii) 18/2017/17834: Erection of three dwellings, associated access and landscaping at the former Dalesview Garage, Old Road. Application granted subject to conditions.
- (iii) 2017/18538/NMA: Application for non-material amendment to previous application at Sunart, Cross Haw Lane. Application withdrawn.

For more information on the work of the parish council click on the 'Clapham cum Newby Parish Council' link at www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk

The parish council meets on the 4th Tuesday each month except in August and December. Meetings take place in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Nigel Harrison can be contacted by email: njhar1957@gmail.com or telephone 015242 51165.

First sighting in a century continued

(Continued from page 1)

Up to twenty chiffchaffs have been seen around the area recently: they tend to hang around with the mixed tit flocks that move through the trees and

shrubs and they are also seen much later into autumn than the willow warblers which will have left by mid-September. Two adult and three juvenile spotted flycatchers were seen on the old railway line near Clapham station on 20th August, they could possibly be local breeders. Two juveniles were still present a week later and one adult was seen on the old railway line on 16th September.

One male redstart was found on the old railway line near Nutta Farm on 9th September. Only two whinchats have been seen this autumn so far, one was seen at Crook Beck on 3rd September and one was on Newby Moor on 9th September.

Janet Raine wrote to me a few weeks back telling me she had seen a Sparrowhawk in her garden. She told me she had seen them in flight several times but this is the first time she had seen one on the ground.

*Tim Hutchinson,
Smithy Cottage*

(Continuing the butterfly theme, Angie and I have seen large numbers of red admirals in the garden this year, with a peak of over 30 on one day in mid-September, along with good numbers of peacocks, several small tortoiseshells, a couple of commas and a solitary painted lady. Have others noticed unusually large numbers? Ed - Andy)

Gaping Gill and the winch meets

For some time I've been asked to write something on caving for our Newsletter. The "jewel in the crown" of Clapham's speleological scene is the magnificent Gaping Gill cave system, yet many villagers have never taken the opportunity to descend Britain's most famous pothole, into the largest karst cave chamber in the country, on the two weeks of the year when the winch is set up (allowing easy access for non-cavers). Newer residents may not really understand what Gaping Gill is all about. So, I thought a short article on "GG" (as most cavers fondly refer to it) might be of interest.



"Which bit goes where?!" Building the gantry over Gaping Gill main shaft.

Winch meets at Gaping Gill have a very long history and tradition. The earliest efforts to explore the shaft date back to shortly after the discovery of Ingleborough Cave (in 1837) by James Farrer and friends. In a remarkable effort John Birkbeck (from Settle) made the first two serious attempts in around 1842. These were meticulously planned, with an extensive trench being dug to divert much of Fell Beck's waters. Without the luxury of a winch he was simply lowered into the abyss by rope, reaching a ledge 57m down on his second attempt. ("Birkbeck's Ledge" is easily seen today if you glance over to the right from the modern bosun's chair.)

There were other efforts to descend GG over the decades which followed. Bentham's Alfred Clibborn made it to Birkbeck's Ledge in 1882, but the technical problems of continuing just by rope prevented further progress. A highly significant event took place in the final decade of the 19th Century; the Yorkshire Ramblers Club (YRC) was formed. This organisation is closely associated with Clapham of course; they still have premises at Lowstern, just off the road to Bentham. Led by Edward Calvert, their members made rope ladders but unfortunately their attempt was delayed. In 1895 Edouard Martel came from France and the rest, as they say, is history.

Martel was clearly an experienced caver, with many first descents of deep European potholes under his belt. He is referred to as the "father of speleology" and several French show caves proudly display busts of his head and shoulders. Birkbeck's Trench was cleared out and extended

to dry up the shaft as much as possible and, on 1st August 1895, Martel became the first human to reach the floor of the great shaft, by rope ladder. He made incredibly detailed drawings and notes before what turned into an epic re-ascent, hampered by a frequently jammed lifeline and a failure of the rudimentary telephone used to relay instructions to the life-lining party. The onset of heavy rain caused a flood shortly after he surfaced and he was lucky to have made it out alive. (As an aside, it's not unknown for me to tease French visitors to Ingleborough Cave by pointing out they've never been forgiven for nabbing our best pothole!)

Martel's achievement prompted the YRC to give priority to their own Gaping Gill plans. The first attempt took place some six weeks afterwards (also using rope ladders) but various problems thwarted a complete descent. They came up with a new approach, sitting in a bosun's chair lowered by rope from a simple hand operated windlass. This would be hung from a wooden jib in a small side tunnel next to the main shaft, allowing a direct descent of the alternative "Lateral Shaft". On 9th May 1896, descending via what is still known as "Jib Tunnel", they made it to the bottom on what was effectively the first true Gaping Gill winch meet. That was 121 years ago, still within the reign of Queen Victoria. The Ramblers would never have imagined the sophistication of modern winches deployed by members of the Bradford Pothole Club (BPC) and Craven Pothole Club (CPC). Yet their efforts kick started exploration of the fascinating cave system radiating out from the Main Chamber, which of course still goes on today.



A bird's eye view of work at the apex of the gantry, with the 100m deep void to the right. (Yes, he is safely clipped on!)

Within a few years further descents in a similar fashion were being made, not solely by the YRC. The frequency of winching events increased, with more and more passages being discovered. The onset of war in 1914 caused a break in activities but visits to Gaping Gill with winches became common in the inter-war years. The first CPC winch meet took place in 1932, having enjoyed a great deal of help from YRC members.

Another hiatus occurred in the first half of the 1940s (courtesy of Adolf Hitler et al) and, on the first post war winch meet in 1947, a human body was discovered together with one nearby in Clapham Bottoms. These were probably German military personnel but were never identified. By this stage winches were power-driven. The first BPC winch meet was held in 1950, after collaboration with the CPC (a kindred club). In the following years winches continued to play a pivotal role in exploration, including the great events which led to the joining of Gaping Gill with Ingleborough Cave in 1983, arguably the most sought-after connection in British caving.



Visitors on the right are briefed before their descents, whilst the "gantry man" (at left) watches the moving cables.

Winch design continued to evolve, eventually leading to the slick operations which are today's norm. Modern hydraulically-driven systems at Gaping Gill are incredibly safe, with skilled engineers involved in their design and detailed inspections being performed by insurance engineers. A lot of the cavers who set up and run the winch meets have many years of experience and individuals tend to specialise in their own preferred aspects. This division of labour means it is now possible to complete the cycle of descent and ascent in around 3 minutes. None of this could have happened, of course, without the vital help and support of several generations of the Farrer family.

My own specialism is erecting the gantry which visitors use to get to the bosun's chair. Many people think that

merely walking onto it is quite brave but consider what it's like for those setting it up. Before starting there's nothing there, so you're swinging about on ropes over an immense black void emitting the awesome roar of Fell Beck deep below, with people passing scaffold tubes across to be spannered into place. Not all cavers have the head for heights which this requires but the job is usually completed in a day and it's very satisfying to stand at last on a rigid structure and think of all the visitors who will enjoy the privilege of following in the footsteps of Birkbeck, Martel and other great explorers.

It's fair to say that the annual GG winch meet is the highlight of the year for the two clubs involved. It provides a focus for all sorts of outdoor enthusiasts and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends. The cost to visitors is kept low because of all the volunteer labour. I'm sure any Clapham area residents who have never descended into Gaping Gill would be made most welcome by the cavers involved; it's a unique experience and invariably people arrive back at the surface with a huge grin. All information is available in advance on the websites of the BPC and CPC, for late May and August respectively. (Please note that bank holiday weekends can be very busy.)

For anyone wanting detail about the history of winching at GG, I can highly recommend Howard Beck's excellent book "Gaping Gill, 150 years of Exploration" (1984, Robert Hale, ISBN 0 7090 1552 6).



Within hours of a fully operational winch meet, the shaft top is restored to something like this on the de-tackling day.



August 2017 GG meet in full swing. The winch is in the right-hand tent.

Finally, I'd like to dispel various myths about the depth of Gaping Gill. Many different figures are quoted, varying between "300ft and 360ft" and "100m to 110m". Following an animated discussion in the New Inn several years ago, I decided to go and sort it out myself once and for all. Using two 50m non-stretch surveying tapes clipped together and an abseil rope, the depth to the Chamber floor was found to be exactly 98.10m, or 322ft in old money. (Geophysical studies suggest that the true floor, beneath all the rubble, is tens of metres deeper still.) So, there you go!

John Cordingley

(With thanks to Gerald Benn [BPC] and John Helm [CPC], for checking the details in the text above.)

Steam Update



*Un-named Class 8F no. 48151 on the homeward run of a Settle and Carlisle working is photographed approaching Ribbleshead station.
Photo: Andy Scott*

With the summer holidays (what, you missed summer?) now behind us, the likelihood of seeing steam past the station has started to dwindle.

The regular Mondays and Tuesdays Dalesman/Fellsman services over the Settle and Carlisle have now ceased, and the weekend Waverley services from York or further afield are winding down a bit. Many of these last were hauled by 60103 "Flying Scotsman" and these were very popular with photographers, with Ribbleshead particularly busy at times.

Many of the Dalesman/Fellsman services were hauled by 46115 "Scots Guardsman" but that loco has had to be withdrawn for its compulsory 10-yearly overhaul and boiler certification. Servicing a steam loco is a much bigger exercise than servicing your car – it could be quite some time before we see her again!

To replace her, work is in hand to get 35108 "British India Line" quickly into service but I'm told she failed on her first, "light", test run and further problems led to her being 3 hours late leaving base for her second, "loaded", test run. Certainly, Carnforth class 8F, no 48151, has had the job of hauling the Settle & Carlisle excursions on the last couple of occasions.

As I write this, Clapham's only 'proper' steamer this year (by 'proper', I mean with a full set of coaches, carrying passengers, attached to the front, facing forwards and doing the work!) is still a couple of weeks off when the Lune Rivers Trust special is expected to pass en route to York and back.

There are steam trips scheduled over the Settle to Carlisle line for the middle two weekends in October, but they are likely to be routed via Blackburn rather than via Clapham so you'll have to pop over to Helwith Bridge to see them. Again the locos are yet to be decided upon, but they have been advertised as one of 45690 "Leander", 46233 "Duchess of Sutherland" or 70013 "Oliver Cromwell".

Andy Scott

Clapham with Horton WI

The members of the WI meet on the second Wednesday of each month in Clapham Village Hall at 7pm. Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome. The programme for the remainder of the year is:

- Oct. 11th - AGM and supper. (Competition - an edible necklace).
- Nov. 8th - Decoration making. (Competition - a hand-made Christmas tree decoration).
- Dec. 3rd - Carol Service (2pm at Giggleswick Church)
- Dec. 12th - Jacobs Join. (Plus Secret Santa)

*Jill Walker
(01729 825358)*

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Clapham Art Group



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Nigel Harrison 51165 or njhar1957@gmail.com



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Whist

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Clapham with Horton W.I.



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of the month
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Jill Walker
01729 825358

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Then and Now

The two photos below were taken from pretty much the same viewpoint, facing in the same direction, and with similar camera lens configurations – but almost exactly 100 years apart. They show the station in Edwardian times and today – and they record the changes in the years between. In 1917 it had a staff of at least seven, including a young lad, and all are proudly posing for the cameraman in their uniforms. In 2017, it is of course unmanned, but the visitors were happy to pose in their uniforms!

If anyone else has a pair of “old” and “new” pictures they’d like to share then we’d love to publish them. And if you’ve just got the “old” then we can always attempt to create the “new” for you – just get in touch.

Andy Scott



Photo: Lens of Sutton



Photo: Andy Scott

Christmas Greetings

Our next issue will be the December one and, as usual, we’ll be publishing a page of Christmas Greetings. If you’d like yours to be included then please complete the coupon below. It will cost you £5 – which is less than the cost of ten second class stamps and, frankly, we need the income to help fund the newsletter production!

Please put your completed coupon in an envelope, along with the required fiver, write “Christmas Greetings” on the front of it and then pop it through the letter boxes of either:

- Chrissie Bell, at 3 Gildersbank, or
- Andy Scott, at Clapham Station House
- Alternatively, you can put your sealed envelope in the Newsletter collection box at the Village Shop.

Send in your Christmas Greetings by **Wednesday 20th November** for a chance to win a bottle of Prosecco!

Newsletter Team

Christmas Greetings

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name:

.....

House or Road name:

.....

Our Newsletter

The village newsletter is a community initiative which hopes to share news, announcements and other items of general interest with our residents and visitors from further afield. It is funded mainly from its advertising revenue and is reliant on a small band of volunteers to get it all together and distributed. The intention is that it’s both “for you” and “by you”, so the editors rely on submissions from its readers and the various village institutions which, together, make our great community.

We produce 6 issues a year, on alternate months, and



the next one is due out at the beginning of December. If you have anything you’d like published – from the germ of an idea to a full article – then please get in contact with the editors: an email to andy at station-hse dot co dot uk should do the trick. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month prior to publication – so for the next issue that will be 20th November.

To those who regularly produce articles, a huge thank you: for those who’d like to have a go for the first time, then a huge welcome. Items should, ideally, be limited to about 600 words and, if at all possible, accompanied by one or more photos: but we can be very flexible so just contact the editors if you’d like something larger considered.

Andy Scott

Clapham Village Store



the heart of our village

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8am to 5.30pm

Thursday: 8am to 7pm

Saturday & Sunday: 8am to 3.30pm

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from Monday 30th October:

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Access for all

Wildflowers



An all-terrain powered wheelchair is opening up the foothills of Ingleborough, including the UK's only fully wheelchair accessible Showcave, to people who have difficulty walking.

The chair, known as a tramper, is available free of charge by pre-arrangement from the entrance to the Ingleborough Estate

Nature Trail in Clapham; the gateway to some of the Yorkshire Dales National Parks finest limestone scenery.

The tramper has been funded by grants from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund and Stories in Stone, a four-year programme of community and heritage projects developed by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership, which is led by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and is mainly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, thanks to National Lottery players.

Anyone interested in using the tramper needs to book it in advance. For further information, or to make a reservation contact Ingleborough Cave on info@ingleboroughcave.co.uk or 015242 51242.

Andrew Jarman

Over the summer the two meadow plots near the tennis courts were left to grow, and the species-rich turf and betony plug plants that we planted in June seemed to be getting established. We scythed the plots in early September and then spread more wildflower seed on the bare patches. With the help of Clapham schoolchildren we'll soon be putting in more plug plants. The plots will be cut a few more times this year, resuming in the spring, and then left uncut from May to allow the wildflowers to grow and set seed. It will be a few years before the plots really get going but we hope that by this time next year we should be seeing the start of a diverse and colourful wildflower meadow, providing valuable habitat for threatened pollinator species like bumblebees.



The plots are part of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Meadow Links project, which aims to create a series of community-managed meadows across the Dales. Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority officers are also helping us to manage the meadows.

Don Gamble

Clapham Sustainability Group

Access for all 2

School news



Ingleborough Cave has also been connected to the B4RN broadband network. A loan of £10,000 from the Yorkshire Dales National Park has enabled the Clapham Hyperfast project to connect the cave and bring

the network around the edge of the village.

The cave now has a fibre optic thread running via Clapdale, Flatts, Newby Cote, Newby, Laithbutts and Cross Haw Lane to reach the B4RN cabinet in the old Hearse House. The B4RN connection is faster and more resilient to weather meaning the Cave can enjoy a much improved broadband link to the outside world.

Work begins shortly to install the B4RN network down the centre of the village and discussions have been held with residents as far as the Village Hall. Once this stage is underway, conversations will start with residents from the Village Hall down to the Village Store. The final stage will cover the properties to the east of the beck.

If you would like information about B4RN, please contact Simon on 51108.

*Simon Peach
Clapham Hyperfast*

We have had a busy start to the term and welcome four new children into our reception class who are settling in very well. This term the children are learning about Ancient Egypt in class 2 and different homes in class 1.

We have football coach, Jordan Armstrong, working with the children once a week and Amy-Jo Clough, recording artist, joining us to run a performing arts club after school. Ben Webster will be returning to teach Astronomy after half term, which was very popular last year.

The Year 5 children will be off on an exciting residential in October to Longrigg in Sedbergh. They will be taking part in outdoor activities with other local schools. They are very much looking forward to this.

This term, we welcomed Stephen Waterhouse, illustrator, who worked with the children on story boards and art. Stephen created our stunning mural in the hall. We will also welcome a story teller from India as part of Settle Stories.

As Christmas approaches, don't forget to come to our Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December. We have room for stalls so if you would like one, please contact the school.

There's always a lot going on at Clapham School!

*Matthew Armstrong
Headteacher*

RB5 - A Pyrenean Adventure

Clapham residents, Kevin & Claire Chadwick and Geoff and Maureen Blair recently traversed the Spanish/French Pyrenean mountain range off-road. Here's the account of their fabulous trip.

It all started with YouTube - off-roading in the Pyrenees. The route is called the RB5 and the first step was to buy the RB5 Roadbook from Vibration - a French company. The route runs from Collioure on the Mediterranean coast, just north of the French/Spanish border, to St Jean Pied de Port back in France but near the Atlantic end of the range. The bulk of the route however is in the Spanish Pyrenees. The book consists of a brief description of the terrain and some advice about vehicle preparation etc., plus 1000 tulip diagrams of the route - it is all in French!

Eight months later - 02/06/2017 - we were in Collioure to start the route. The team at this point consisted of Kevin and Claire - (Discovery 2 TD5) and Geoff and Mo (Toyota Land Cruiser LWB). We were joined for part of the route by Andy and Jane (Defender 110 TD5).

The whole route took us eleven days and we averaged around 77 miles per day, with the longest day covering 118 miles (which was overly long but then we had a rendezvous with Andy and Jane to make!) and the shortest was 44 miles, but over some of the worst of the tracks we had to follow. The highest point we reached on the route was on the second day when we went over the Col de Berger at 2050 metres.

Everyone we met on the route was incredibly helpful - despite their lack of English and our awful Spanish. Therefore, our encounter with two policemen patrolling our track on off-road bikes came as a bit of a surprise. We later established by studying a large sign, that a permit system had been introduced on this section of the route, but once

the police had worked out that we were English and there were only two vehicles, they allowed us to continue.

We spent most nights camping on local campsites - most of which were very good and some even had swimming pools - but we did have to resort to an air-conditioned hotel at one point. The weather throughout was dry and hot, which was just as well as some of the sections would have been considerably harder - or even impassable - in wet conditions. There were a couple of occasions when it took us more than one attempt to find the right route, but in the main, navigation was good and took us to some tremendous places.

In conclusion: two vehicles - both nearly 20 years old - yet neither missed a beat, despite temperatures up to 38 degrees and incredibly long and steep ascents. The argument about which is better - Landover or Toyota continues! Many sections of the route are very remote and we saw very few people. A breakdown or getting stuck could have been tricky. The road book provided a great route which was easy to follow and took us through varied but always amazing terrain.

Next year? Corsica?

Claire Chadwick



Advertising in the Newsletter

The Newsletter is produced in black and white, though we aim to produce at least one colour edition per year.

Clapham & District Newsletter is distributed free to the communities of Clapham, Newby and Keasden. Copies are also available in Clapham Community Shop and in local churches. In addition, electronic versions are put on the Clapham Village website (in colour) thus increasing the audience by potentially large numbers.

To advertise your products or services in six editions (one year) the costs are:

1/8 page - £17.50

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News from the Farm

As autumn begins to draw on and the nights draw in, our farm turns its thoughts to the coming winter. Already the dairy cattle are in overnight and happy to be so. Grass quality deteriorates at this time of year so in order to maintain milk production and animal health it needs a little help. Being in at night helps the cow and the farm in several ways. It's an opportunity to introduce some silage which is the base of the winter ration: this she very much enjoys - depending on the quality. The higher fibre of the silage helps maintain milk quality as well as quantity. Another advantage is that it gets them off the land which is exceptionally wet this year: my Dad used to say, "let them paddle about on concrete". Any damage to the ground done now is with us all winter and well into the spring. They will be inside totally by mid-October.

We calve cows in every month of the year but about 40% calve in August and September. This means the calf



A rare event - 648 & her twin heifer calves, Summer 2017

shed is full, providing my mother with plenty to do. Ourselves and mother nature take charge of the calving and while we are always on hand to lend a hand it is not always necessary. We have involved the vet twice this year - each time it was for a twisted calf bed, which means the bed has to be untwisted before junior can exit, on both occasions with a healthy calf but damaged bank

balance. Incidentally, I can phone the vet night or day (and do) to be assured of a prompt response. We have had a few brews and ginger biscuits round our kitchen table with the vet at one or two am after difficult births over the years. We calve mostly at this time of year as much of the grass harvesting should be done so freeing up meadows for grazing: it also means we have a full herd for milking through the winter months.

I never worry about the weather, it will take care of itself but after a somewhat challenging summer regarding sunshine and lack of it - we have finally finished gathering

winter fodder so it is very pleasant to put away the mower and bale wrapper. They have been on and off more often than Ken and Deidre Barlow (it's an age thing). Our mower in particular, takes a while to attach to the tractor, everything has to be lined up perfectly then it has to be set up to mow properly so with the catchy weather much practice has been had. The mowing tractor radio is tuned to Radio 2, if there is no cricket. I am pleased to report that at some point this summer I scored 6 points on Pop Master.

Our lamb harvest has started and many of our gimmers (girls) have gone south for a new and exciting life. Our prices were down a touch but I think the lambs have had a



Some of the 2017 crop of Masham Gimmer lambs

wet soggy time so maybe the size and quality wasn't quite as good as sometimes. In true agricultural form I look forward with optimism to working harder and doing better next year.....

This year I have been out "crowning" tups (young men) for the Dalesbred sheep breeders. These are tups, in the hands of the breeders, which are presented for inspection to be registered. I and another chap duly inspect these tups and if they meet the necessary criteria of the breed we burn onto the horn the Dalesbred logo - known as crowning. Once crowned, tups can be presented at association sales later in the autumn. The hospitality we receive at the farms we visit is much to be admired and a credit to the families involved. If it was not for our iron discipline we would struggle to get home the same day we set off.

John Dawson

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