



Number 125, June 2020

VE Day celebrations under lockdown

On Friday May 8th, we took a walk from Clapham Station into the village to see the response to the call to decorate the community to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day.

Residents of Clapham Station had risen to the challenge with a display of flags and bunting and it was a lovely sunny day for a walk into the village to see what had been done there. The only person we met on the way was a volunteer painting the Cemetery gates and we used the underpass to cross an A65 which was devoid of vehicles, instead of the usually constant flow of Bank Holiday traffic.

We walked into the village via The Green, past the colourful display of flowers in front gardens and verges and met no-one. We continued past the silent school and equally silent New Inn. The Cross was the first sign of decoration that we saw, strewn with knitted and crocheted poppies. There was no-one in sight along the beck sides or outside or inside the cafés. Approaching the Brokken Bridge, the first sign of life was a family who were preparing a red, white and blue picnic in their garden.



Along Church Avenue there appeared to be a solitary pair of visitors with walking poles and rucksacks heading towards the tunnels. The Union Flag was flying from the church to mark the day.

From the entrance to the Nature Trail, all along Riverside various houses were colourfully decorated, but the absence of people and movement was striking. Poppies were the most common theme, adding slashes of red along the road. One person was spotted towards Clapdale Lane but even they disappeared quickly. We began to get the feeling that perhaps curtains were twitching and people were trying to decide if we were locals or visitors!

We made a short detour to look at Long Barn's bunting in a deserted Cross Haw Lane, then we left an eerily silent and deserted Clapham and walked along the path to Austwick. There, we met two Clapham residents, which was two more than we had met in the village. A bank holiday to remember - probably the most unusual VE day commemoration ever.

George Greenbank

Staying green

In this time of global turmoil and worry, climate change is probably not the first thing on your mind. However, even when COVID-19 has been defeated there will still be animals to save, oceans to clean, forests to protect and a major climate crisis to deal with. While what's happening with coronavirus is desperately sad, COVID-19 is also having some surprising effects on nature; clear skies in Beijing, where the city is usually choked in smog, have been seen for the first time in ages due to factories closing. In Venice motorboat traffic has ground to a halt, meaning the water is beautifully clear,

swans can be seen, and even dolphins have been spotted in the port of Cagliari. This is a glimpse of what earth could look like if we took better care of it.

Of course, nobody wants to pretend this pandemic is a good thing, it is certainly not the way anyone would choose to reduce pollution or help the environment. But will people be more thoughtful about the environment afterwards? Will they think twice about travelling on the canals of Venice and driving the wildlife away? Will China take steps to stop pollution reclaiming the blue skies?

Continued on page 5

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In memory of Geoff Blair, 1947 - 2020

I met Geoff in June 1976 – purely by accident, at Belle Vue in the suburbs of Manchester. Belle Vue was an early version of Disneyland, with a fun fair, boating lake, speedway track, exhibition halls, circus, wrestling, a zoo, and entertainment venues. It was a Friday night and he asked me to dance (hard to believe, I know!). He always told people he met me at the Zoo – in the monkey house to be exact, which was a complete fabrication.

A week after we met, he broke his leg and ankle at a rugby club lads night out (long story) but during this early time he told me of his caving exploits and asked if I “fancied a go” when he got the plaster off. Naively, I said yes.

The plaster came off and Geoff introduced me to his caving, rugby playing, walking, outdoorsy life, which I took to like a duck to water. He was delighted.

We have had a fabulous life together. His mischievous sense of humour and unique personal dictionary kept me entertained with lots of fun and adventure thrown in. We did have a few scary moments, but that just added to the experience.

We have tried a lot of sports – and life consisted of Rugby Club antics, caving, climbing, water skiing, walking, canoeing, parachute jumping, white water rafting in the Grand Canyon and some inflatable boat trips in Scotland (always with an epic story to tell!), and latterly 4x4 off-roading trips. Life was certainly not boring.

Naturally, we had our ups and downs. Losing our business and on the brink of losing everything in 1993 was a tough time, but we fought back and came through. He was definitely the glass-half-full type.

We always wanted to retire to our beloved Yorkshire Dales and in 2012 we moved to Clapham. Geoff loved it and our lovely little spot.

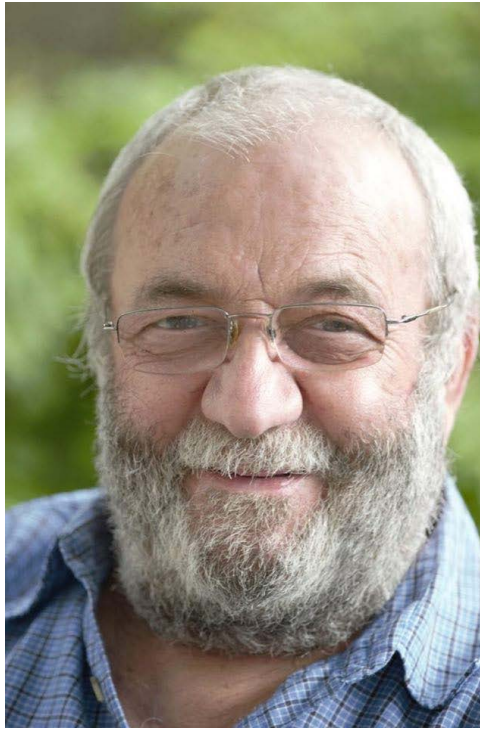
He always had a “project” on the go. Designing and making some obscure equipment. I cursed him to hell and high water for all the equipment (junk as I call it) cluttering my garden, but I would give the earth to see him now pottering in his sheds messing about.

Geoff had many health issues throughout his life. He dealt with them with resolve and resilience. Carry on regardless was his motto, and he did. However, Covid-19 was to be his nemesis. He didn’t have the resilience to fight that!

In February, we had a lovely holiday in the Dolomites, Northern Italy, with our family. It was to be our last adventure together, and sixteen days after returning home on 29th February, he was admitted to hospital and died on 25th March after testing positive.

As I have said before, he irritated the life out of me, but I shall miss him deeply.

Maureen Blair



‘Newby News’ or how to make a great deal out of very little!

Back at the beginning of lockdown Marilyn and I had a chat about how we could keep in touch with as many friends and family members as possible and let them know that we were thinking of them and find out how they were getting on. As we don’t ‘do’ Facebook (I stopped when I started to get posts for a Lebanese ‘therapist’ called Sue Mann – answers on a postcard please!) we thought we’d try the old fashioned round robin letter but by email – to show that we are just about in the 21st century.

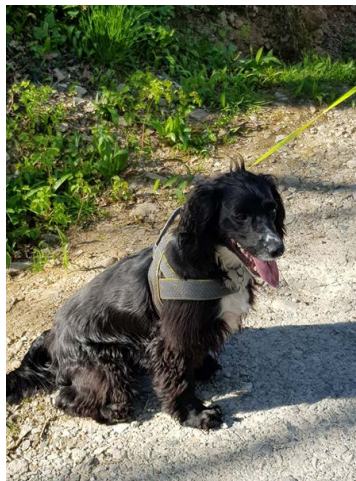
There have been 8 of these now. They go to local friends, family around the UK and friends in other parts of the world – about 100 now. We collect ‘vital’ information during the week ready for ‘publication’ on Friday.

Various themes have been followed – a description of our activities (how to have great plans and succeed in completing a fraction of them), some pictures of the countryside in

all its glory, some funnies and two vital elements much commented upon – Marilyn’s hair (of which there is a lot) and the activities of Bess, our dog. Bess first made an appearance in the early days when we were doing a lot of gardening and literally ‘unearthed’ various socks and items of underwear which she had carefully buried for some reason only known to herself. Such was the interest in Bess’s activities that she started to have emails from other dogs and cats, some of whom had received the letter via a third party. Therefore, after a week as Guest Editor, Bess has now taken over as Editor in Chief and corresponds with a number of dogs, several cats and two hens through her section of the newsletter.

As one of my correspondents said, it’s a load of nonsense really but it keeps us busy. Many thanks to all who have sent us ideas and moral support.

Sue Mann





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Margaret Coultherd 1921-2020



Margaret was born in Burton-in-Lonsdale, moving to Austwick at a young age. She won a County Minor scholarship to Settle Girls High School, which she enjoyed, and duly passed her school certificate.

Margaret first became a librarian at Settle's new library, but then enquired about teaching, whereupon she was sent to teach at Horton.

She met her husband Ned when local youngsters travelled to Tosside Institute for a dance. They married at Austwick in 1943 and lived in Fountain House, Clapham where Ned ran the farm and milk round.

They had two children, Ernest in 1946 and Thomas in 1950, and she also loved her two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Margaret and Ned enjoyed holidays far and wide, even going on the QE2 twice. She loved her knitting, baking, gardening and whist. She ran a local whist drive on a Friday evening in the Village Hall with all proceeds given to charity.

The money raised in memory of Margaret was £411.10 and has been donated to the Village Hall. She was a kind, caring person who loved her family and contributed a lot to life in Clapham. She will be missed.

The Coultherd family

Staying green

Continued from page 1

Will these images stay in our mind and make us more reluctant to jump into our cars when we could easily walk or cycle? We can only hope.

But in the meantime I've been thinking about what I can do, especially being stuck at home and not able to remind my friends at school to take the metal spoons in the cafeteria and throw their paper waste in the recycling! I've decided to do my best to go back to the basics of "reduce, re-use and recycle". Reducing plastic and waste that I put in the bin, re-using and upcycling old art materials, toys and clothes and recycling everything possible. After this crisis is all over and we're allowed to meet again, it would be amazing to form a Clapham Green Group and aim to get Clapham to be Zero Waste!

*Rhea Richardson,
Age 13*

Beckside Yarns



Many will have noticed that Beckside Yarns and Needlecrafts – the Gallery of Fabulous Yarns – is closed. What a loss to the village. Sandra Oakeshott, the shop's dedicated, knowledgeable and helpful owner, has recovered from a period of ill health. She is working from home via her Facebook page and might briefly re-open the shop on Church Avenue to reduce the stock, but this is dependent on Government advice and the sheer practicalities.



I first met Sandra and her sister at their yarn shop in Settle. If you aren't a manic knitter, it will be difficult to share the delight of knitters and crafters in the district when the Settle shop established itself in Clapham – village of many surprises. Use

of the word gallery in the shop name's sub-heading was, for me, key to every visit. The gallery walls were formed of floor-to-ceiling shelving divided into compartments for types, shades and weights of yarn. The sheer exhibition of colour, the display of home-knitted and crocheted garments, the array of pattern books, knitting needles, buttons and gadgets enticed me like the thought of an acre of chocolate. Then there was another wonderland above via a staircase adorned with more to make you gasp at beauty, design and ingenuity. Tucked away on the first floor was Sandra's tiny office where she not only invented and tested knitting patterns and completed commissions, but communicated with the world of knitting and crafts.

Aged four Sandra's grandfather taught her to knit. My four brothers and I learned to knit as children, too, as did my late husband Gus. He returned to knitting while recovering from cancer. My technical advice was sufficient to stem the flow of muffled expletives from the neighbouring chair, but Sandra, appreciating the achievements of male knitters in our island history, offered treasured advice and more encouragement.

Ann Stewart

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Parish Council news

The Parish Council held a meeting on the evening of 28th April 2020 with all Parish Councillors present. Also in attendance were Councillors Ireton and Lis and eight members of the public.

This was the first meeting since February, 2020 as the March meeting was cancelled because of the Covid-19 outbreak. The meeting was held remotely via the Zoom platform in accordance with recent regulations permitting that course to be taken and that it took place at all was in large part thanks to Simon Peach who kindly “hosted” the online event.

The Annual Parish meeting due in March and re-scheduled for April was also cancelled on both occasions. Whether this will now be held in the current year is a matter for future decision.

The Council received a written report from the Police which set out details of a number of recent minor incidents. The report further indicated that there had been a number of intrusions and thefts at local farms in the recent period.

In relation to highways matters, the clerk was asked to report potholes on Keasden Road and on Hen Busk Lane, Newby. It was noted that North Yorkshire Police had given advice in relation to parking issues in Clapham at busy periods and the clerk is to look into purchasing cones to be placed in problematic spots.

Much of the Council’s ongoing business, for example its intended purchase of further defibrillators and neighbourhood planning, is on hold because of the Covid-19 outbreak. Similarly, any attempt to organise events to commemorate VE day was put to one side.

The Council did however note that two Councillors, along with several parishioners, are involved in the “Clapham Cobra” group which has been providing various types of assistance and social contact in the parish during the lockdown.

There were a number of planning matters before the Council.

In relation to new applications, the Council had no comment to make with regard to proposed developments at Birk Knott, Keasden, and Halsteads Barn, Mewith. It noted that permission for developments at Keasden Head, Ingleborough Hall and Croft House, Clapham had been granted by the relevant planning authorities.

The council was also informed by the Ingleborough Estate, as a courtesy, of a proposed development at the Saw Mill, Clapham. Its view in relation to that matter will be finalised during the formal consultation by the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

A letter to the National Park in support of the “Dark Skies” initiative was authorised by Councillors.

The Parish Council held its second online meeting on the evening of 26th May 2020. There was a good turn out with all Parish Councillors being present and Councillor David Ireton and ten members of the public in attendance.

The meeting heard about seven police incidents that had occurred during the preceding month which included two dog bites in the Newby area, two road traffic collisions and an instance of fly-tipping.

With regard to highways matters, the clerk was asked to report blocked drains on Station Road - West of the A65 to North Yorkshire County Council and to look into the matter of flooding on Lawsings Brow with a view to reporting it to the responsible authority. It was noted that potholes on Keasden Road and Henbusk Lane had been repaired and the clerk was asked to arrange purchase of cones to deter parking on Riverside where the road is too narrow to accommodate it. Lastly, it was noted that a traditional signpost had been put in place at Newby Cote. In this regard the Parish Council expressed its gratitude to Stephen Foster who had generously given his assistance free of charge.

During discussion of required repairs to the stepping stones across the River Wenning on the path between Crina Bottom Farm and Lawsings Brow, it was identified that there is remaining fencing on common land in the area and the clerk was asked to write to the Ingleborough Estate to seek its removal.

Councillor Elphinstone was able to indicate that she will be considering some amendment of the emergency plan and will be obtaining quotes for the installation of one of the proposed new defibrillators in the parish.

Councillor Dawson had received quotes for the installation of a handrail alongside the main path in the churchyard in Clapham and was asked to go ahead and arrange for the work to be carried out after consulting the Parochial Church Council with regard to contributions towards funding and other matters.

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council had not taken place and the Parish Council decided they will now be held in March and May 2021 respectively.

Planning formed a substantial part of the evening's business. The Parish Council supported applications for development at Long Barn, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham, at Bowsber Farm (this being a retrospective application) and at Brunton Park, Keasden. Plans for the Old Saw Mill, Clapham were discussed at length. Concerns were raised, in particular over the effect this might have on traffic and parking in Clapham. The Parish Council supported the application having received an assurance that parking at the site is envisaged as being confined to staff and the disabled.

Parish Council meetings will generally be on the fourth Tuesday of each month. There will be no meetings in August and November. The December meeting will be on the second Tuesday of that month. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd June at 7.30pm, mode of proceeding/venue to be determined.

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

For more about the parish council visit the parish council page at www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk



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Photo: Andrew Fletcher

Congratulations



On 11th April 2020, Richard and Justina Sexton celebrated their Golden Wedding. Plans for a party were unfortunately put on hold due to the Covid-19 lockdown but the couple put on a fabulous window display at home for the village to enjoy.

Richard and Justina were married on 11th April 1970 at All Saints Catholic Church in Oxted, Surrey. At that time Justina was a district nurse/midwife and Richard was working at a tannery in Yeovil selling wool and sheepskin.

They are hoping to have a belated celebration later on in the year with family and friends to mark 50 happy years together! They would also like to thank everyone who sent good wishes to them on the occasion.

Edward Sexton



Rhododendrons by Annie Farrer

Gerry Preston 1930-2020



A couple of years ago, I was looking through some photos of guests arriving at my uncle and aunt's wedding in July 1969. Included amongst them was an old woman I didn't recognise at first, then I realised it was my mother Lylie, a few months after the death of my dad!

Just over a year later, another picture of my mother at another wedding laughing and smiling and recognisable to all. The difference? It was her marriage to Gerry Preston.

Gerry had grown up in Ingleton, did National Service as an electrician in the RAF and, at the time he entered me and my sister Barbara's lives, was working at Angus's in Bentham as a weaver. However, he seemed okay for a 'townie'.

In May 1972 Barbara and I were presented with a brother – Steven.

Unfortunately good things didn't last and in 1982 our mother died of cancer, but not before being tirelessly looked after by Gerry, something for which I can never thank him enough.

Gerry will probably be known to a lot of the readers of this article for his whistling walks around the village but I challenge anyone to 'name that tune'. He was a keen fisherman when he arrived in Clapham but eventually lost hope with the slim pickings in the beck.

Following retirement he took up watercolour painting and walking stick making. In his earlier years he travelled to Europe at a time when such trips were not the norm and latterly still went away on Bibby's coach holidays.

As a stepfather myself, his example has stood me in good stead, he didn't try to take over but offered guidance if asked or if he saw uncertainty. He could be quite blunt with people occasionally, particularly if you parked outside his house.

To sum up, Gerry was a thoroughly decent man who always did what he believed to be the right thing. He will be sorely missed by us all.

Paul Roberts

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Church news

Presence in absence - absence in presence:

Ascension in Zoom time

We are living in Zoom time. Becoming accustomed to experiencing that odd sensation of connecting with people who are physically absent from us. Those moments shared with family and friends on the telephone, Facetime or Skype do bring us close. Yet there is a tension, in that these calls also exacerbate our distance from each other: because whilst you can see and hear each other, you cannot touch, or hold. Where there's no body language it's almost like there's no-body. And when you click 'END' - how hard that is to do sometimes - the sudden distance is palpable. For reasons such as these, psychologists affirm that video-conferencing is as stressful as it is helpful to us in these disconnected times.

This dichotomy of sensing a person's presence although they are not here - or feeling absence whilst in someone's presence - has long been part of human experience. In the Christian story there's Jesus leaving us to be with his Father in heaven. In Zoom Time the Ascension affirms how, although he has left us, by his Spirit he is more present to us now than ever.

Our own experiences of love and loss inform this insight. It is love which keeps us connected when physical contact is absent - a love for the other which has forged a connection stronger than time and space can sever. Christians retain a sense of just how close Jesus is to us, though he's not tangibly here, because of the love we know that he and the Father have for us, which spills back out from our hearts in those moments we devote to remembering him. Though he is absent from us physically, in loving relationship we can find Jesus in the here and now, helping us daily navigate our way through the ordinary stuff of life.

The presence of God is revealed in the everyday. 'Why are you gazing into heaven?' asked the two men dressed in white. It's here on earth you'll find Jesus now, here in this place, just where you are - where, if you wait with an open heart, the Spirit will come to you to show you God's way. In a prayer by John Johansen-Berg:

*Lord God, where shall I be and find you not?
You are in the heavens and on the earth
You are in the heights and in the depths
In all places, in all situations,
I find that you are with me. Amen*

Coronavirus and the Churches

At the time of writing (20 May) our church buildings remain closed for all purposes. As news changes daily - visit our church websites for updates on developments: bit.ly/ClaphamStJames, bit.ly/keasden-church. Church leaders are in ongoing discussions about when and how we can reopen our buildings to people for private prayer, and in further time to re-start forms of public worship. One thing is certain - when we are able to congregate again we will be holding a number of services of thanksgiving for the lives of those who have died during this time of the coronavirus, and whose families and friends could only arrange for private ceremonies. Amongst those that the people of Clapham,

Newby and Keasden have lost are Geoff Blair, Gerald Preston, Joe Ellershaw, Tommy King and Mary Jones. We hold their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers, and give thanks for all that each of these people brought to their families and our community over the years. One day we will gather together to remember and celebrate their lives.

Good news for those who don't use the internet!

The Church of England has launched a telephone service called **Daily Hope**, as an alternative to the internet. Using a freephone number, 0800 8048044, it offers a hymn, reading and prayer. With a welcome from Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury: if you prefer to use a phone, give it a try!

Come together - online!

Thursday evening prayers before eight - 7.30 for 7.45pm.
bit.ly/Thursday-Evening-Prayers

Virtual Coffee Mornings Mondays and Fridays, 10.30am - 11.30am. all welcome. bit.ly/Church-Coffee-Mornings

Skipton Food Bank support

Thank you to those who are supporting the Food Bank. Donations of food always welcome via the collection boxes at St Matthew's Church, Keasden and Crossleigh Stores, Austwick. Or financial donations to the Food Bank: St Andrew's Church, Skipton, BD23 2JE; Tel: 07933 149031; web: Skipton Food Bank COVID-19 Appeal.

*Revd John Davies,
Priest in Charge*

*john.davies@leeds.anglican.org.uk
01524 805928*

Read more from John at bit.ly/johndavies-talks

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

All services cancelled until further notice.

The Revd Stephen Caddy is producing a daily email/thought for the day.

If you wish to contact Stephen phone: 015242 61257, or email: Stephen.f.caddy@gmail.com

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

All Sunday services and weekday activities cancelled until further notice.

The Bethel is willing to help anyone - please contact Bethel Chapel secretary Jonathan on 015242 51256.

Outside the chapel there is a plastic container with books and literature for people to take away free of charge.

For updates on what is happening at the Bethel Chapel please go to their Facebook page.

Keasden rainfall report

	2019	2020
March	15" or 38.1cm	5¾" or 14.6cm
April	3¾" or 9.5cm	1" or 2.4cm

Roy Fairhurst - an obituary



Many readers will remember Roy Fairhurst, the gamekeeper on Keasden and Burn moors for 27 years. Roy died 19th May aged 93. He was one of six children born to Edward & Jemima, nee Taylor, at Stockdale Farm above Settle. He was a keen cricketer and footballer.

As Roy approached 18 in 1944, and much to the anxiety of his parents, he joined the Royal Navy. He recalled that there wasn't much sailing but he was much in demand

for the navy's cricket and football teams. If matches clashed with his duties his Commanding Officer would "sort it".

Roy trained on the Royal Arthur at Skegness, the Glendower and HMS Victory. He returned in 1946 to continue working for his brother Teddy at Flatts Farm and for his brother Cicero, a butcher. He found his vocation as a forester for the Ingleborough Estate and, in 1963, gamekeeper on the grouse moor at Keasden, a job he enjoyed to the full until retiring in 1990.

Roy's wife was the former Irene Williamson. The Williamsons ran the New Inn and Roy and Irene were married at Clapham Church in 1953. They lived first at The Beeches where daughter Anne was born before moving to "The Gamekeeper's House" at Sunnybank.

Roy played for local teams - football for Long Preston and Langcliffe and cricket for Settle and Clapham where he was roped into the annual derby against Newby. He enjoyed seeing photos of those matches in the Clapham Newsletter.

Roy loved snooker, billiards, fishing and his allotment and with Irene and Anne spent holidays around Oban. He first visited Oban as a boy in the 1930s to buy cows with his father. Roy had never seen the sea before and told his mum that there were seagulls in the beck.

Graham Cross, formerly of Clapham, reports that Roy was playing snooker during a miners' strike and a power cut threatened to end his match. Graham was despatched to find a torch and spent the rest of the evening holding it steady above the snooker table.

Tragically Irene died aged only 60 and Roy continued to live with Anne in Settle. He kept active with fishing, mole catching and whist drives. He and his spaniels helped at shoots and met the royal family.

Roy genuinely liked all the animals in his charge and as a boy kept a badger as a pet. "A bit of dirt didn't hurt" he would say. He leaves his daughter Anne and many nephews, nieces and friends.

Stephen Dawson

Climate change

Out of the blue came COVID-19, and across the world it has forced us to think about our vulnerability and our modern way of life. Many things have been very hard but many of us have also appreciated the cleaner air, bird song and the quiet. Extreme words have been used to describe the pandemic - unprecedented, exceptional, unimaginable, but this was not totally unexpected.

The world has responded quickly, some governments more effectively than others. There has been a huge disruption to normality and a collective support for the changes that have been made.

The evidence of the destructive effects of global warming has been understood for decades but there has been little action to reduce our carbon emissions; the country will learn to live with the virus but there is an urgent need to plan for a sustainable recovery.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes has warned that we have just 12 years in which we have to have made the changes necessary to limit a rise in global temperatures to 1.5° centigrade. Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species and global economic disruption and crisis.

The impacts will be far worse and longer term than those we're experiencing from the corona pandemic and will detrimentally impact on the well-being of people in Clapham-cum-Newby parish and billions of people around the world.

There is no established link between COVID 19 and climate change but the way we are altering the planet will make the spread of some diseases more likely. There has been a rise in diseases passed from animals to humans as the unprecedented destruction of wild habitat by human activity continues. "Nature is sending us a message with the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing climate crisis" (Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme).

What can we do and why this article? We can all do our bit, but we also need leadership, globally, nationally and locally. Local councils can act to tackle climate change locally and create more friendly communities with a better quality of life.

A climate Emergency Motion was passed by Craven District Council in August 2019 and by the National Association for Local Councils in October 2019. It is hoped that a Climate Emergency Motion will be put to Clapham-cum-Newby Parish Council soon. A copy can be seen at bit.ly/clapham-climate

The motion includes actions the council would take. Please talk to your Councillors and encourage them to support the motion.

For more information please contact claphamsustainabilitygroup@gmail.com

*Margaret McSherry
Clapham Sustainability Group*

End of an era

As we gently roll into summer at Bleak Bank we look forward to a warmer set of agricultural disasters. These are always pleasanter. We have survived the trauma of lambing time, which went as well as could be expected with lots of dry and warm weather. This makes such a difference to the baby lambs, not to mention the morale of the shepherd. I cannot remember waterproof clothing being worn so little, or the heated hand grips on the quad turned off so much. We have two small sheds that are on hand for emergency admissions and the second, known as Nightingale, was never needed.

Many lambs have not yet experienced rain or wet, mucky days but I am sure they will in due course. I have had my post lambing bath and would give some consideration to changing my socks and undies on my birthday, were I to get some.

The cattle have gone out to graze, which is always looked forward to by cattle and peasant farmer alike. There is cow muck flying about and toes being trampled on as they go through the crush for a bolus of copper cobalt and selenium. Our aim is to keep our livestock as healthy as possible, which costs a fortune but keeps the vet in foreign holidays, although possibly not this year. Some have gone to live with our bull, Billy Shorthorn, with a view to them calving about March next year.

We now have two bulls because Billy Shorthorn was accused by the vet of not getting the cows in calf. The technical term is “not stopping them”, so we rushed out and panic bought a substitute only to discover that Billy Shorthorn had been “stopping them” after all. I did apologise to him for doubting his abilities and he doesn’t seem to have taken offence. (The bull, not the vet.)

Young cows going out for the first time are a fine sight as they dance down the field. Uncertain of their footing, they run as if going through a minefield. I like to stand and watch them for a while but not for too long, mind, in case any neighbours are about and think I have nothing to do.

Our meadow ground is now clear of livestock and we could do with a drop of rain to set the grass off so we can make some hay and round baled silage sometime in June or July. We seem to have gone from the wettest winter to the driest spring within weeks. There are many sayings in the farming world and they are all based on something, for instance “A wet and windy May fills the barn with corn and hay” or “Red sky at night, the barn’s on fire”.

An integral part of farming sheep is the collie dog. He or she is involved nearly every day to some extent and some days they are on the go from dawn to dusk, while other days it’s a quick look around on stock patrol. It’s always appeared to me that the more they have to do - the happier they are, unlike Stuart Marshall.

Over the years I have owned and worked with many dogs and it was a sad day about two weeks ago when my faithful old friend Becky, full name Beckymania, died. She was about 14. I say “about” as I am not good with birthdays, ask anyone in our house.



RIP Becky, Died May 2020 aged about 14

Becky joined us as a very young dog for £500, which was the best £500 I have ever spent. Apart, possibly, from Judith’s engagement ring. From the moment she arrived (Becky not Judith) there was nothing we couldn’t do. Her intelligence knew no bounds, she knew what I was thinking (not easy) and soon learnt how the farm ran. She relished her work and never failed to rise to the challenge. I don’t think we ever had a cross word, not a serious one anyway. She was run over twice (not by me) which led to her having a metal plate fitted in a front leg, which cost a fortune, and after a long day she would just favour that leg.

In her retirement she potted round the yard hindering me as I was calf feeding. As soon as my back was turned her head would be in the bucket lapping the milk, or she would come with me walling and look for hiker droppings to roll in before falling asleep. My trip down the yard first thing in the morning took me past her bed and for many years my first words of the day have been “Morning Becks.” So, we had a little funeral in our doggy cemetery and I thanked her for all the hard work and companionship. Rest easy Becks, your work is done...

John Dawson

Anyone or everyone for tennis?

Thanks to the Village Hall Committee, and the UK Government, Clapham tennis court is now open!



Government guidelines now allow us to play tennis with members of our family with whom we live or with one other person. The usual considerations around social distancing should be maintained.

Unfortunately it is not possible to lend out equipment at this time (and most of it is locked away somewhere in the pub!). There are plenty of beginner/intermediate/advanced tennis lessons on YouTube so it is simple to teach yourself! We will be expecting some Wimbledon-standard players from Clapham by this time next year!

The tennis court is the property of the Village Hall. Normally there would be a nominal membership fee, but in the current circumstances the court will be free to use over the summer for local residents. A voluntary donation to the Village Hall, at some point, would be much appreciated.

Maria Farrer

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The Black Death



Eight years ago we discovered by chance a superb guest house in Weymouth and were so impressed by the warmth of the welcome, the delicious breakfasts, the view of the

bay from our room and the delights of Dorset that we have been back every year since then. Last week I wrote an email, through a veil of tears, to tell the owners who have become our friends that we shall have to cancel this year's holiday in September because we are officially classified as ancient and fragile and are therefore confined to barracks.

Each day we would go for a walk, a boat trip or a visit to a town or village. Our evenings began with an hour of people watching outside a pub on the busy quayside where the sun always seemed to be shining as the fishermen unloaded their catch. Barbara would have a glass of wine whilst I sipped the local draught Vimto and we would have an intellectual discussion about whether to eat Chinese, Italian, Indian or savour the local fish. On the wall outside the pub there is a plaque. As someone fascinated by history, I never fail to read a plaque wherever I may be but this one I found particularly haunting and I would re-read it every year. It is a small, unprepossessing, notice which informs us that The Black Death entered England at this spot in 1348. Those of you who know your history will know what the consequences were. I used to imagine the suffering of victims in medieval times and feel a deep sense of relief that such a thing was unlikely to happen again because developments in medicine and hygiene have made us safe from such terrors. How wrong I was. We should never take things for granted. I hope that Covid 19 teaches us what really matters in life and encourages us to realise the importance of showing kindness and love.

Stuart Marshall

COVID support group update

This is a brief update about what the COVID support group has achieved since its first meeting on 17th March. Clapham is fortunate in that it is a resilient, friendly community with informal networks to support those in need.

From the beginning we saw that we would have two objectives: reinforce those informal systems and provide accurate information from the authorities. Communication is key to both objectives, so we began by establishing a COVID support helpline, an email address and a Facebook page.

When we appealed for volunteers we were inundated with offers. We compiled a database from a questionnaire, detailing peoples' skills and availability. We have directed volunteers to where they have been needed but, it is fair to say, supply has far exceeded demand. To everyone who has not been called on, we would like to say: thank you so much for your patience. You have not been forgotten.

The next task was to identify any people in the Parish who required shielding and offer them support. Again, it was no surprise to discover that family and friends were already ensuring that most vulnerable people were well cared for. Where people did not have that support or were worried that they needed extra assistance - a "buddy" has been allocated to them to keep in contact and offer to do shopping, gardening, collect prescriptions etc.

To provide local and national information we have used the Facebook page website, items on the Clapham website, the Clapham newsletter and an email list. In conclusion, Clapham COVID support now has the systems in place to help anyone in the parish who may have to shield themselves for several months. If anyone needs assistance please contact us via the helpline, email or the Facebook page.

Clapham COVID support

01524 805969

claphamyorksvirushelp@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/coronaCcN

Then and now



Photo: J A Farrer

The lockdown has somewhat limited my options for getting out to take comparative photographs so I've cheated a bit for this issue. These two images of Ingleborough Hall may look as if they have been staged for Then and Now, but both have been borrowed from the internet.

The older photo comes from Ken Pearce's write up of the village's history and shows the Hall as it was



Photo: AHOEC

photographed by J. A. Farrer in 1922, whilst the newer one comes from Outdoor Education Centre's website and shows the building much as it is today. The older image shows some modifications which appear to have been added to the original structure and then subsequently removed, including a "lean-to" on the ground floor of the eastern bay.

Andy Scott

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Where there's a Will there's a way



This newsletter is a community initiative and is funded mainly from advertising and volunteers' fundraising. **The next full edition will be in August. Deadline: 20 July.**

Articles should be c300 words and, if possible, accompanied by a high resolution photo. We reserve the right to edit copy as we are limited by the number of pages we can print. The newsletter is distributed free to the communities of Clapham, Newby and Keasden. Copies are available in the Village Store and local churches. Electronic versions are displayed on the Village website, thus increasing the audience by potentially large numbers.

Contact: Andy by email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Advertisements and Sponsorship

Advertising rates start from £10. We are able to print in **colour** thanks to generous sponsors.

December 2018 & 2019 edition - Glencroft

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April 2019 edition - Ingleborough Estate Nature Trail

June 2019 edition - Ward Member's Grant, Craven District Council

August 2019 edition - Stories in Stone, a project of YDMT

October 2019 edition - Newby Landowners Association

February 2020 edition - Stuart and Barbara Marshall

April 2020 edition - McConnell Homes

June 2020 edition - the Roger Stott Community Grant Fund

We would love to hear from you if you, or your business, would like to advertise or sponsor colour printing in a future edition.

Contact: Judith by email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Twenty questions

An assortment of 8 English cities, 5 English rivers and 7 places within 15 miles of Clapham, with just one or two slight tweaks in the spelling! (Answers on page 23).

1. Should this river be in a southern county?
2. Instead of taking a shower, try one of the buns.
3. Sit on a wooden seat to resolve an argument.
4. A vital organ near a lake.
5. Was Lady Godiva shunned here?
6. Chuckling at a candle?
7. This meat is not straight.
8. It's nasty when the pus seeps out.
9. Bristol City v Bristol Rovers?
10. Did Shakespeare use face cream?
11. Outdoor clothes should be warmer than this.
12. A fortified wine and where you should put it.
13. Did Dickens have a house on this hillside before TV arrived?
14. Is there an animal farm on the banks?
15. Does a French moon shine on the water?
16. A famous cook is as keen as mustard on this city.
17. An animal on a metal roof in the summer sunshine?
18. A creamy tipple is all ship shape.
19. Held down the iron for quite a while.
20. The head cook is in the meadow.

Stuart Marshall

Wordsearch

Well you seem to have enjoyed the last one so here is another! As before, there are 50 answers to find – across, down or diagonally, forwards or backwards – and this time they all are names of places in the Dales (towns, villages or hamlets) each with a minimum of 5 letters. No prizes, but maximum kudos for anyone who finds the lot – let me know when you've completed it and we'll print the winner along with the answers in the next issue.

Andy Scott

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 D R I T E Y I G Y B W E N E A O M H Y E G C W
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 Z I P A T E L E Y B R I D G E N O T S I N O C
 E L F L I C K S Y J N Z D N O T T O B R A T S
 X L O O N N G R A S S I N G T O N K P G C E E
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 C C A T R S S O Q B G U C B I N A H D B L H S
 N O T T E H G K R W S X X L M P V A E K O U I
 R I H C A S T E R T O N L L A S N R U B C P D
 L K N B S D M A W I H O G K H P G D W P Y U E
 K C K G P M F I E V G G F J S H H R T G I X B
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Steam update

With nothing at all to report on the steam front, and a "significant birthday" to record, this issue's Steam Update is courtesy of Colin Price...

On 1st June 2020, it will be 170 years since our local railway line was completed as a through route from Skipton (where it joined the Leeds & Bradford Railway) to Lancaster. Built by the North Western Railway Company, it was joined up when the last bit from Bentham to Clapham was finished, single line at first but upgraded to double track by the autumn.

Clapham Station had opened 10 months earlier on 1st August 1849 when the line was opened from Skipton to Ingleton. Richard Watson was the first Station Master, on 18s a week, and a horse drawn road carriage service worked between Bentham and Clapham until the Railway was completed 10 months later. Running a rail-replacement bus in place of a train is nothing new!

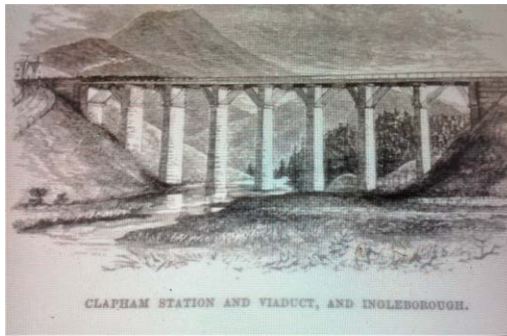
The railway company was known as the 'little' North Western so as not to confuse it with the much larger London & North Western Railway company. It struggled for money and the line was built rather on a shoestring. After a ceremony on New Year's Eve 1846 to cut the first sod, at Cleatop near Settle, construction got under way. Over the next 3 years, the locals around here wouldn't have seen anything like it with a massive influx of navvies building the railway mainly by hand! Wenning Bank became a beer shop and the Farrers and other land owners were at first concerned about how their properties, such as Nutta, Laneside and Lanshaw, would be

affected, but they soon looked for the opportunities that the railway would bring.

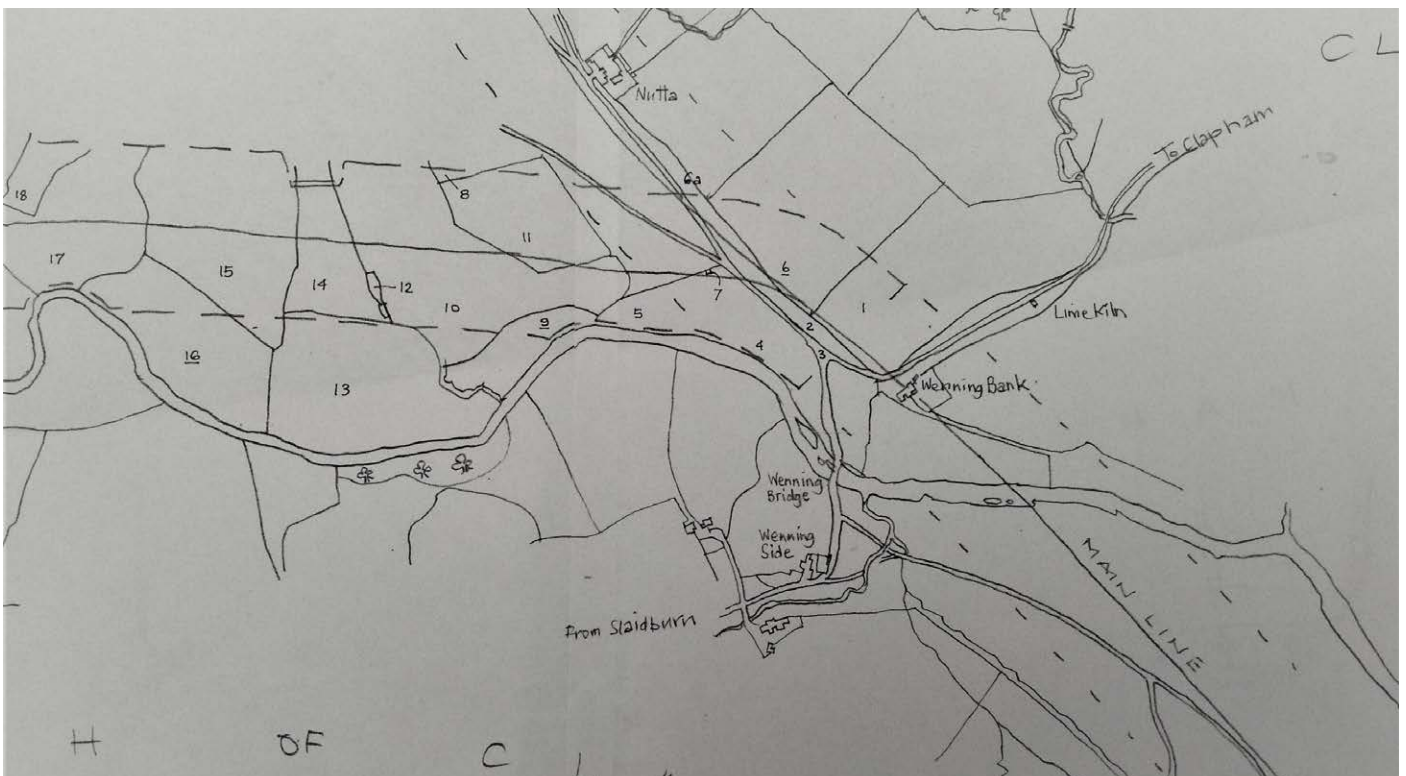
The early 1840's saw railway mania grip Victorian Britain with many new lines proposed. Then, in the late 1840's when our line was being built, some of the money ran out. Clapham got a railway simply because we were on the proposed route to Scotland from Leeds and the West Riding. The original proposal was that the route through Ingleton was the 'main line' to Scotland and that there would be a branch line to Lancaster, but due to disagreements with other railway companies towards Carlisle, the original main line wasn't completed beyond Ingleton. Thus, when the branch line opened through Lancaster in 1850, it became the new 'main line' and the line between Clapham and Ingleton was closed.

Ultimately, the London and North Western Railway company completed the link between Lowgill, near Tebay, and Ingleton and the line from Clapham through to Ingleton was reopened on 17th August 1861. However, both ends of the line were run by different railway companies, the "Little" North Western by then having become part of the Midland Railway company. The two companies were bitter rivals and there were many problems at Ingleton with train connections. These escalated to a level which eventually led to the Midland Railway building its own route to Scotland in 1869, via Settle to Carlisle, and the original main line to Scotland, via Clapham, never materialised.

Colin Price



Clapham Viaduct, as built, with wooden decking



Map of the station area showing the proposed boundaries of the works and the original road layout

Covid-19 updates from our advertisers

The newsletter contacted our advertisers to find out what's happening for them at the moment. These were the responses we were able to collect at the time of going to print.

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Kidz Day Nursery & Pre-school

Opening fully from 1st June
7am - 18.30 Monday - Friday
T: 01524 241903
E: info@kidzdaynursery.co.uk

Be a gardenmaker

Centre open 10am - 3pm. Or order by phone or email, see website/Facebook page for details
T: 01729 840848
E: hello@beagardenmaker.co.uk
www.beagardenmaker

Brookhouse B & B

Takeaway Wed and Fri. 5 - 8.30pm
Order by 3.45pm day before – agree collection time. Card payments on the phone. See Facebook page for menu
T: 015242 51580
M: 0785 535 6345
E: bookings@brookhouseclapham.co.uk

New Inn

Takeaway Thurs to Sat. 5 - 9pm,
Sun 1 - 4pm
Pre-order by phone or email. Card payments only. See Facebook page
www.facebook.com/TheNewInnClapham/
T: 015242 51203
E: tom@newinnclapham.com

Nature notes

Reasons to be cheerful: April was the sunniest on record; the last few days have brought the rain that local farmers and our gardens needed; and, as lockdown locations go, our friendly little village has had much more to offer than most. None of us have remained untouched by the trials of these difficult times, but we have at least been able to enjoy and appreciate spring in the Dales. No small consolation.



Young chiff chaff at the entrance to the Nature Trail
Photo: Brian Christian

Since the last newsletter there have been some significant 'firsts' and a number of notable sightings. On April 18th we saw house martins settling back in the village, followed soon after by swallows and, just over a week later, by the first returning swifts. I heard my first cuckoo on April 24th and saw my first small heath and speckled wood butterflies at the top of the Nature Trail on May 9th. There have been at least two sightings of red kites flying over the village, it seems that the mandarin ducks on the lake may include a breeding pair and a little egret was seen with a juvenile bird in Simon Coultherd's fields along Station Road. A little further afield a white-tailed sea eagle, one of the birds recently re-introduced to the Isle of Wight, caused quite a stir as it flew over Wigglesworth on its way to the North York Moors.

This is all very exciting, of course, but at a time when we are being urged to stay close to home, I want to focus on some of the everyday delights of the natural world right here in Clapham. We all know about the dawn chorus and there may be some of us awake early enough to appreciate it at its height. That said, you don't have to be an early bird to appreciate the birdsong in the village at this time of year and you may be surprised that you can very quickly learn to identify some of the singers. Most of us can recognise some of the usual suspects – the robins, blackbirds and song thrushes – but it can be rewarding to pick out the voices of some of the more unobtrusive members of the chorus.

Perhaps the easiest of them all is one of the hardest to see, especially now that the trees and bushes are so densely covered with fresh growth. The chiff chaff is a tiny olive-brown warbler, about the size of a blue tit. During the breeding season there are well over a million of them in the UK but if it wasn't for their distinctive song you would never know it. This is a bird that 'does what it says on the tin.' Stand in the churchyard or at the entrance to the Nature

Trail at this time of year and you will almost certainly hear the ringing, repetitive 'chiff chaff' that gives it its name.

In the same places, you are also likely to hear a singer so melodious that the poet, John Clare, called it the 'March Nightingale' and it is often referred to as the 'Northern Nightingale.' Richard Adams, the author of 'Watership Down' thought that the blackcap offered 'the most uplifting of all birdsong,' and I am not inclined to disagree with him. A small, grey bird about the size of a chaffinch, only the male has that eponymous black cap – the female's crown is chestnut brown – and you are much more likely to see the male, perched on a high branch to sing out his claim to his territory. Those of you who have derived so much pleasure from feeding the birds in your garden over the last few months may also be interested to know that the blackcap is unique in that it is the first bird to have changed its migration route and destination as a result of the food provided in UK gardens!

Another heart-warming sight in and around the village has been the reappearance of so many butterflies. First we had the emergence of a few over-wintering small tortoiseshells and the occasional red admiral, then the flamboyant peacocks were in the ascendancy for a week or two before the orange tips and green-veined whites began to take centre stage. Orange tips seem to have had an especially good spring, perhaps the dry weather has been beneficial for cuckoo flower and garlic mustard. Like the blackcap, only the male has the splash of colour that gives this predominantly white butterfly its name, but both sexes have the distinctive lichen-green marbling on their underwings which helps to distinguish them from other whites. In fact, it's always helpful to look at the underwing of butterflies if you want to identify correctly.



Green veined white
Photo: Brian Christian

See if you can spot a green-veined white in your garden over the next week or two and look out for some of our later arrivals, such as the painted lady or dark green fritillary – they will soon be about!

Don't forget, if you have news of interesting or unusual sightings in the area, do send me an email (bc.riverside28@gmail.com) drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply stop and chat when you see me around the village. I'll also be posting regular snippets on Twitter: @bc_riverside

Brian Christian

Clapham Village Store

... the heart of our village



Clapham Village Store

Main Street

Clapham

LA2 8DP

Telephone: 015242 51524

Email: info@claphamvillagestore.co.uk

Website: www.claphamvillagestore.co.uk

Opening Hours

We are still operating with reduced opening hours to enable us to deal with deliveries from suppliers, manage deliveries out to those in our community who are self-isolating, and maintain a safe environment for customers, staff and volunteers.

These are currently:

Monday to Friday: 8.30 – 5

(closed Thursdays 11.30 – 1.30 and Fridays 1-2.30)

Saturday and Sunday 8.30 – 3.30

Visit our website to keep up to date with changes.

Annual General Meeting

COVID-19 and the need to maintain social distancing means that we will be unable to hold our July AGM in the normal way. We are currently considering various options regarding the best way to hold this meeting. Further information will be emailed to shareholders and posted on our website in early June.

Shareholders

If you would like to support the shop by becoming a shareholder and be able to participate in the AGM, please contact Diane Elphinstone for further info.

Management Committee

We have vacancies on the Shop Management Committee. New and existing shareholders are eligible to stand for election. If you would like to put your name forward, please contact Harriet Naden or Diane Elphinstone.

Harriet Naden: harrietnaden26@gmail.com

Tel: 0203 371 8137

Diane Elphinstone: dianeelphinstone@gmail.com

Tel: 015242 51813

Why not try something new?

During lockdown some supplies have been hard to come by. Many of our local suppliers have been amazing: Cornvale, Dales Butchers, Udales/Slacks, and Seasons Bakery, as has the **Suma Cooperative**. If like us, you are flicking through your recipe books looking to make something different, we may just have what you need. Here are just a few of their wonderful products we now stock:

- Panko breadcrumbs
- Miso paste
- Nuts, seeds and dried fruits
- Vegan soups
- Herbs and spices
- Rice varieties including arborio & basmati
- Kalamata and Cypressa olives
- Tahini
- Red and green pesto ... and much more



Visit our website for more information about our products

Clapham Sustainability group

After a relatively quiet period when community energy was temporarily diverted to focus on getting our village shop up and running, the Clapham Sustainability Group has 'zoomed' into life once again.

We are *not* a locally-exclusive group with formal membership, but a like-minded group of people, keen to build links with other local groups and happy to share, learn and co-operate with anyone else who is interested.

The group has various areas of focus: "Hands-on" micro-projects such as keeping chickens, home-grown food, tree-planting, bee-keeping and natural diversity alongside projects focused on reducing waste and saving energy. In addition there is interest in how smaller communities and individuals can contribute to wider issues of climate change, sustainability and the environment through actively campaigning and raising awareness and being a part of larger group action.

If you would like to join our group or link up with us, please contact us by email:-

claphamsustainabilitygroup@gmail.com

Maria Farrer

Art group



"Dales Barn" by and © Margaret Blackburne

Like many other activities in the village, Clapham Art Group was sadly unable to proceed with their Annual Art Exhibition this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This would have been our 69th Exhibition and they have been held every year since 1951, first in the Potting Shed, then the Old Manor House, before moving to the Village Hall in 1997. Members have always looked forward to welcoming visitors, old and new, both from the local area and increasingly from far and wide. We know that alongside the artwork, another great draw has been the provision of delicious homemade refreshments provided by volunteers and sold in aid of St James's Church, Clapham.

Members have been continuing with their artwork whilst isolated at home, and we look forward to returning to the Village Hall at some time in the future, both for our regular meetings and eventually another Exhibition. We hope everyone stays well and we look forward to seeing you there.

Linda Clemence

Twenty Questions Answers

Answers to the questions on page 17

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Kent, | 11. Cold Cotes, |
| 2. Bath, | 12. Portsmouth, |
| 3. Settle, | 13. Bleak Bank, |
| 4. Liverpool, | 14. Orwell, |
| 5. Coventry, | 15. Lune, |
| 6. Giggleswick, | 16. Norwich, |
| 7. Bentham, | 17. Caton, |
| 8. Ouse, | 18. Bristol, |
| 9. Derby, | 19. Long Preston, |
| 10. Avon, | 20. Sheffield |

April 2020 Wordsearch – Answers

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| ARBUTUSHOUSE | INGLEBOROUGHCAVE |
| BACKLANE | KEADENSTMATTHEWS |
| BARPOT | LAITHBUTTS |
| BLEAKBANK | LOWPOND |
| BRIDGECOTTAGE | LOWSTERN |
| BROKKENBRIDGE | MAFEKINGBRIDGE |
| BUNKBARNBAR | MILLENIUMSTONE |
| CHURCHAVENUE | NEWBYCOTE |
| CLAPDALEDRIVE | NUTTAFARM |
| CLAPHAMBOTTOMS | OLDPOSTOFFICE |
| CRINABOTTOM | OLDROAD |
| CROOKLANDS | REEBYSLANE |
| CROSSHAWLANE | RIVERSIDE |
| DALESVIEWCLOSE | SKEWBRIDGE |
| DOVENANTER | SMITHYCOTTAGE |
| EGGSHELLLANE | STATIONROAD |
| FLATT | THEBEECHES |
| FLYINGHORSESHOE | THEGREEN |
| GAPINGGILL | THENEWINN |
| GILDERSBANK | THEVILLAGESHOP |
| HALLGARTH | THWAITELANE |
| HAMMONHEAD | TROWGILL |
| HENBUSKLANE | VILLAGEHALL |
| HIGHHAZELHALL | WENNINGBANK |
| INGLEBOROUGHHALL | YEWTREECOTTAGE |

Kudos for the first solution received by the editors goes to Ann Stewart.

Andy Scott

Shop life during lockdown

Continued from page 24

As is getting the order to the shop the day before, especially if it includes fruit, vegetables or dairy produce.

We have a team of volunteers to deliver the orders, which has been somewhat challenging once or twice for some of the more remote (and unsigned) locations.

All in all, it has been a challenging time. But we have learned some lessons and I think we have all enjoyed keeping the shop going and providing the service that we do. I certainly have.

Harriet Naden
Chair, Management Committee

Coronavirus Community Fund



Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is working with Two Ridings Community Foundation to support charitable organisations and community groups across Craven and Richmondshire, who are providing vital services to those who need it most.

The Coronavirus Community Fund is providing grants of up to £2,000 to support the incredible people and communities in the Dales to deal with the COVID-19 emergency. Helping people stay healthy, safe and connected.

We are keen to support new initiatives which are responding to the crisis, reaching people who may not currently be able to access services. Support is also available to existing groups to help them remain viable through these uncertain times, when they may be experiencing a loss of income.

Priority will be given to organisations who support those most vulnerable at this time, including older people, people with long term health conditions, those with mental health difficulties and people affected by homelessness.

The Coronavirus Community Fund is part of a national response to the current crisis. It will enable us to build on the success and expand YDMT's Roger Stott Community Grants programme, which has awarded nearly £125,000 in grants over the last four years to community groups who are making a difference to the lives of local people.

The application form, guidance notes and FAQs are available on the YDMT website: bit.ly/YDMT-Coronavirus

We aim to make the application process as simple and quick as possible and decisions on applications are being made on a weekly basis.

Please send your application to Michaela Brennan at the email address below. We are unable to receive hard copy applications via post.

*Michaela Brennan
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
michaela.brennan@ydmtd.org*



Shop life during lockdown

You may have been wondering how we have been getting on in the shop over the last few weeks. Well, it has been strange to say the least. And whilst the village has been weirdly quiet, the shop is very busy.

In essence we've had to weather a perfect storm. As guidance from Government firmed up, the vast majority of our volunteer workforce, who are over 70, had to step away from the shop and self-isolate. At the same time Ruth, our weekend manager decided to leave us, and Will our Saturday supervisor was on lambing leave. Then Helen our manager was ill and had to isolate. This all whilst we were trying to set up a delivery service for the vulnerable, extend our prescription services for Townhead and Benthams surgeries and deal with some quite significant supply problems – if this had been on TV, you would not have believed it!

So there we were, a very small bunch of volunteers, trying to keep the shop open, deal with suppliers, set up deliveries and maintain a safe environment. The gin and red wine flowed in the evenings in those households.

However, we have been so lucky – we managed very quickly to recruit some temps to help in the short term, plus we moved an existing volunteer whose job is on hold into a paid supervisory post. Also a number of new volunteers have come forward and are making a huge contribution. We do hope they will stay with us when we get back to some form of normal.

We have had some mess-ups with the supply chain during this time as we tried to source items in short supply. Sometimes we have had nothing, despite ordering from all and sundry – there has been some quite innovative sourcing going on! And sometimes we have ended up with a glut – so if anyone wants loo rolls or chickpeas please come to the shop!

But I have to say, our local suppliers have been more than wonderful. They have kept our supply lines open, stepping up quantities and have borne with the slight ineptitude of we volunteers as we have tried to place orders in Helen's absence. A huge thank you to Cornvale, Dales Butchers, Slacks/Diggles and Seasons Bakery.

So, all in all, those first few weeks were pretty fraught with so many people learning about our systems and procedures, and us all muddling through. That said, it all seems to have settled down now, especially as Helen is back with us (as is Will) and providing us all with a steadying hand.

As most of you will know, we took the decision quite early on to reduce our opening hours so that we could manage both the deliveries into the shop from suppliers and also our delivery service, whilst still maintaining social distancing. This seems to be working well, and we do try to be flexible if someone is in need.

People who are self-isolating have taken up our delivery service wholeheartedly, and we are doing our best to keep you all supplied. We are particularly busy with this at the end of the week, so any shifting of orders to Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday is helpful.

Continued on page 23