



Number 126, August 2020

Closure of Clapham CofE Primary School

As most readers will know, the village school closed for the last time at the end of summer term 2020. With a school roll that had fallen to just seven pupils prior to the Covid-19 “lockdown”, it had simply ceased to be viable or in the best interests of the children for it to continue. In fact, only six children returned when restrictions began to be lifted. Closure itself will be on August 31st but, in practice, this means that the children will not return to Clapham school at the end of the summer holidays.

Mr Mathew Atkinson, the Executive Head, wrote: “Mr Kay and

I have been invested in the school for only a year and we feel great sadness and pain that it has come to this, so we can only imagine the upset that this causes you and the village. We know how passionately you believe in the school and fought to keep it open”.

Maria Farrer, on behalf of the Governing Body wrote: “I would like to thank Mr Kay, Mr Atkinson and their staff for the phenomenal work they have done over the past year and to echo their thanks to all parents, pupils and members of the community. While it is devastating to bring the history of Clapham School to an end, we say goodbye on a high note, with a school that had been turned around with amazing

progress having been made in all areas. Particular thanks to Lorraine Wildman who has been steadfast in her many roles and a great support through thick and thin. As a community, we couldn’t have done any more - and we came so close!”.

The school had first opened in its current building in the 1860’s - see Ken Pearce’s excellent article on its earliest beginnings later in this issue - so has been educating the area’s children for over 150 years, in some cases across the generations.

In recent years, however, the school roll had fallen from around forty pupils to the mid-twenties and this ultimately

triggered the local authority to initiate a consultation for closure. The village rallied round the school and fought long and hard to keep it. They ultimately persuaded the decision makers to give it a stay of execution in the hope that pupil numbers might increase. Sadly, this was not to be, leaving parents with difficult choices but where the interests of the children themselves had to be paramount. A second consultation for closure was initiated and led, ultimately, to the decision to close it down.

Staff and pupils worked hard during the final weeks, particularly on projects to promote safety on the railways and to celebrate the school’s past.

Continued on page 14

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News from the farm

Like many farms in our area, Bleak Bank is a traditionally managed stock rearing farm. This means we put a lot of effort into helping our cows and sheep have babies so that we have animals for sale to the more specialist farms in more productive parts of the country. For instance our gimmer (girl) lambs, born in April, will be sold in September to farms as far apart as Devon, Kent or Cumbria, where we hope they will have long and productive lives producing lambs for the table. It's the same for the cows, we rear dairy cows for our own small herd and any that are surplus, we are able to sell to dairy farms where they can better themselves. If you are a cow, leaving Bleak Bank is a bit like escaping the workhouse.

The common factor in all this is the auction mart, in our case the one at Bentham. Wednesday is often referred to as market day around our breakfast table and we try to find something to sell as often as possible in order to keep the wolf from the door, although in our case the wolf is in the kitchen and we are all on the furniture. From August onwards we hope to have some lambs for sale that are heavy enough and well fleshed or "prime". We treat lambs like diamonds: we dribble them onto the market in order to keep the price up but it never works. In theory the auction mart is a typical capitalist system. Up to 15 lamb buyers bid against each other to buy prime lambs on a Wednesday night, but in practice they tend to share them out "I'll have these, you have the next" sort of style. Our job is to produce good lambs of between 42 to 44kg. The auctioneer's job is to get the best price and he is, hopefully, incentivised as the mart's income is commission. He can sell lambs to a buyer who never even bids simply by knowing what that buyer normally buys. Often it involves verbal jousting as the buyer denies even being there let alone bidding. Of course, all this helps the auctioneer justify the commission and his inflated salary. Whenever the hammer goes down the peasant farmer leaves the ring sobbing gently.

This year, like many other aspects of life, things are slightly different. Normally I reverse up "t'docks" (unloading bays) and stumble from the Land Rover to help the unloading and penning process. Next I wash out the trailer before proceeding in a leisurely manner to the office to hand in the movement licence, and where I might pass the time of day with other farmers and discuss how bad the weather has been and how expensive everything is. Usually it is pointed out by the staff that I haven't filled in the paperwork properly. I remember a neighbour being asked by staff to put his phone number on the form as required, his response was he didn't know what it was but he thought it had a seven in it "somewhere."

Next is a trip to the auction café for a well-earned brew and sometimes supper, we have been known to go just for

supper even with nothing to sell. As you can see romance isn't dead at our house but it can get very ill sometimes. The café is the beating heart of the auction, the engine room. Like going to give blood or a visit to the dentist you are never quite sure who you will see. The common factor here is that it's where agricultural disasters of all types are shared and, believe me, they are many and varied: the hay that

got rained on, the terrible weather, or that right good tup that died of "shear bloody awkwardness". It's here that farming talk rules the day, the price of lambs, the shortage of grass: the list is endless. It's an example of how the farming life reaches into the soul, I mean, whoever heard of an accountant having a night out and talking about nothing but balance sheets? It must be remembered that many farmers spend much time working

alone so the mart and the café is a place to unwind, in a funny sort of way, with like-minded people. People who know how it feels when a one tonne bull stands on your foot because it has happened to them. Years ago, when I first started visiting the mart, it was almost impossible to see across the ring due to the blue haze of cigarette and pipe smoke. Nowadays cigarettes have mostly been replaced with that other addiction, mobile phones. Incidentally there is never any leftover food sent back to the kitchen, every plate is clean, brilliant.

At the moment things are rather different at the mart and they have a strict "drop'n'go" policy. This is like "wash'n'go" but with less water and shampoo, although some farmers could do with a bit more of both. The "drop'n'go" means exactly that: the yard staff unload the trailer; the paperwork is done through the window and off you go home. Later an email will arrive with the weights, prices and the astronomical commission which is deducted at source. The current restrictions do mean that the mart can function which is very important to the farming community, it means they can sell animals and they will get paid. Hopefully before the sheep breeding sales in the autumn I will be able to go into the sale ring to sell our lambs and witness the poor trade first hand. I have even heard rumours of the café doing takeaways, how romantic is that??

The shearing season is almost at an end and I hope to be able to walk upright again by the end of August. My Dad always said it wasn't natural to have your head below your a*se for much of the day. He told the tale that during the war one haytime the farm was busy, and a sheep died. Dad was instructed by his Dad to bury the sheep, which he did. A few weeks later after haytime he was instructed to dig up that same sheep, shear it and then rebury it. How times change, wool now effectively has no value (12p per fleece) but as long as we prefer to use oil-based materials instead of a totally sustainable alternative I suppose it has to be...

John Dawson





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Ingleborough Archaeology Group

Ingleborough Archaeology Group was formed by local people meeting at the Ingleborough Community Centre. We had become aware of the astonishing number of archaeological sites to be found in our area of which so little was known.

Since the formation of the Group we have engaged in a systematic survey of the landscape centred on the summit of Ingleborough extending to Kingsdale, Ribblehead, Ribblesdale and Clapham.

Our first excavation was completed in 2003/04 in partnership with Oxford Archaeology North, who provided practical training in the field. The following year we began a systematic exploration of a site at Kingsdale Head under the guidance of professional tutors from the Archaeology Department of Bradford University.

Over five seasons we uncovered evidence of Mesolithic pits, a Bronze Age burnt mound, a lithic scatter, and a Medieval dwelling, and completed courses on archaeology arranged by Craven College at the Centre.

The quality of the training we received enabled us to proceed under the guidance of our Hon. President, Dr David Johnson. We have gone on to investigate a number of sites throwing completely new light on the period following the departure of the Roman armies, producing reports to a professional standard.



Details of all our activities are on the website (www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk) including surveys and publications. We have produced an app and booklets detailing three Archaeology walks for which we are indebted to the Stories in Stone Project, lottery funded by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership.

From October to May, we run evening meetings at the Community Centre in Ingleton on the third Monday of each month from 7.30pm with illustrated lectures, followed by refreshments. Members pay £1.50 and non-members £3. During the summer months we arrange walks and visits gratis, excepting entrance fees etc. Annual

subscriptions are £12 for basic membership and £22 for full hands-on membership, which includes all field work.

Membership of the Group does not require any specialist expertise. We offer training in the field for anyone wishing to join in the practical projects organised each year. We are currently offering survey work to complete surveys done on Scales Moor and a new Cairn Survey of Weysdale. We have identified three sites that together will form a single research project involving surveying and excavation in 2020 and 2021 and there will be opportunities to train using the Total Station, LiDAR and WebGIS.

*Carol Howard, Chairman,
ingleborougharchaeologygroup@gmail.com*

Playpark news

The playpark is used regularly by residents of the village, and visitors, but we are completely reliant on donations to ensure that maintenance can be carried out. Unfortunately, as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions, people have been unable to use the area and we thus haven't received as many donations as we would have in previous years. We have also recently lost two of our main sources of donations - The Bunkbarn and TeaTime Vintage.

You may have seen that we have been busy painting the fence and carrying out other essential maintenance - but we still have a long way to go to get the park regenerated! We have a number of repair jobs which need to be carried out: these are expensive but essential to keep it safe for the children.

We still have plenty of painting to do and bark to spread out in the playpark, and we are desperate for volunteers to help with this. We also need volunteers to help keep on top of the mowing and strimming of the park. If you can help with either these one-off tasks or the ongoing maintenance then please let us know.

We have recently opened a "go fund me" page to enable us to receive online donations. You can access this by the following website: gf.me/u/ydw8ra. Please support us.

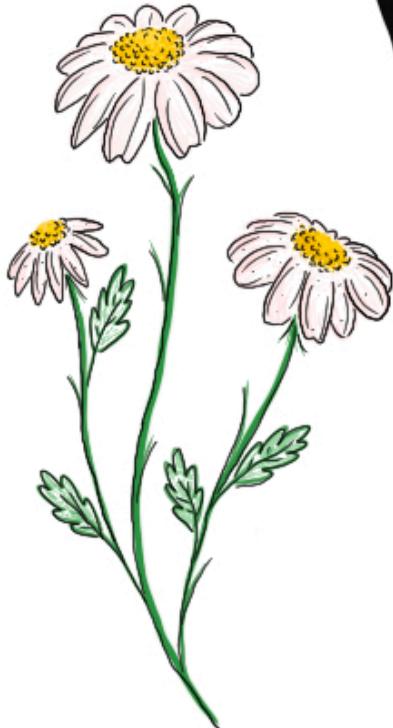


As many of you are aware, Don Gamble did a lot for the playpark over the years. He and his family have recently left the village and we want to thank him for all his hard work in the park.

*Amy North-Johnson
Clapham Park Association
Tel: 0740 229 3326*

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Parish Council news

Report for meeting 23rd June 2020

The Parish Council again met online on 23rd June 2020 with Simon Peach again kindly hosting the event on the Zoom platform. Only three Parish Councillors were able to be present and Councillor Ann Sheridan took the Chair for the meeting. There were also seven members of the public in attendance.

A police report was received. This set out details of incidents occurring in the area in the period between 29th May and 20th June 2020. These included a caravan being moved on because of the Covid-19 regulations, three speeding motorcyclists, an arson on Henside Moor and a vehicle arousing suspicion.

In relation to highways matters the Council noted that the problem of noisy and speeding motorcycles on the A65 had been raised with the police and had been referred to other authorities by a parishioner.

It was also noted that a broken footpath sign at Keasden, a broken street sign on Old Road, Clapham and blocked drains on Station Road, Clapham had been reported to North Yorkshire County Council. Further, the Council noted that North Yorkshire County Council are to investigate flooding on Lawsings Brow when it occurs again.

The Council was informed that No Waiting cones had been purchased for use on Riverside, Clapham below Church Bridge in busy periods.

The Council was told that plans to install a handrail in the churchyard at Clapham are progressing and are now dependent on permission from the church authorities. It was also informed that quotes for the installation of a defibrillator at Newby Chapel had been sought.

The Neighbourhood Planning initiative has been affected by the Covid-19 outbreak but the Council was informed that policies are being written and it is hoped that the referendum process can be carried out in 2021.

With regard to planning matters, the Council decided to comment on water supply issues, potential traffic problems and terms of occupancy in relation to a proposed development at Cruck Barn, Newby Cote while not opposing the application in principle.

It opposed a proposed alteration to permission already granted for the building of three houses as part of the Dalesview development. The Council noted that permission had been granted for proposed developments at Birk Knott and Halsteads Barn.

Report for meeting 28th July 2020

The Parish Council held a further meeting online on the evening of 28th July 2020 with nineteen members of the public in attendance. Again, the meeting was held with the kind assistance of Simon Peach who hosted it.

Concerns raised by members of the public included subsidence of Keasden Road at the top of Black Hill, undercutting of the road on Reeby's Lane near to the Old Temperance Hall, Keasden and a query as to compliance with planning permission at a local holiday park..

A police report was read to the meeting. This set out details of seven incidents requiring police attention in the parish in the month between 22nd June and 22nd July 2020. These included a speeding motor cyclist, an incident involving an animal in which Cave Rescue became involved, a suspicious vehicle on the National Park Car Park in Clapham which was seized by the police and criminal damage to a stalagmite at Ingleborough Cave.

In relation to highways matters, the Council noted that a collapsed stone parapet on Reeby's Lane had been reported to North Yorkshire County Council as had flooding on Lawsings Brow. It also noted that a number of parking cones had been used on Riverside, Clapham and had achieved some, if not total, success in preventing obstructive parking. The clerk was asked to report a pothole which has appeared near to the Green in Newby.

Updates were received in relation to the usual ongoing matters. It was noted that some work had been carried out on the tower steps at Clapham Church and the Council expects to contribute towards the cost. Councillor Price is to approach the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to inquire as to the availability of funds to repair stepping stones across the River Wenning on the footpath between Crina Bottom and Lawsings Brow. The Neighbourhood Planning initiative has been impeded because of recent events but policies are approaching final draft and it is hoped that soon plans can be made to move towards the consultation process. Quotes were received for the proposed installation of a defibrillator at Newby Chapel and the Council decided to allocate the work to Messrs Harrison and Cross.

Among the Council's dealings with financial matters, the Internal Audit report was received and the Council authorised the relevant documentation to comply with the External Audit process.

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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 22nd September 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



Martha Rose Sexton was born on 1st July in Harrogate weighing 8lb 6oz. Edward and Ruth would like to thank everyone for their good wishes.

Parish Council news

Continued from page 7

Planning matters occupied a substantial part of the meeting. The Council supported an application for the installation of replacement windows at Nutta Farm and an application to convert Giffords Barn, off Keasden Road, into a dwelling.

There was lengthy discussion, including some public participation, in connection with an application to develop Fountain House Farm, Clapham to provide five dwellings. Some reservations were aired but the Council decided by a majority to support the application while expressing concerns over the road access to the proposed development.

Three decisions made by Craven District Council or the National Park Authority to approve applications were noted:

- change of use to full residential occupancy from part bed and breakfast at Bridge Cottage, Clapham
- an application to enlarge a window at Long Barn, Clapham, and
- the construction of a garden room at Brunton Park, Keasden.

The Council expressed some interest in the future of the Clapham School site following the recent closure of the school and the clerk was asked to attempt to establish the identity of the owner of the site to assist in making future representations on the subject.

A personal message



During the past difficult months I have heard many glowing reports of how well the community of Clapham and Newby has risen to the challenge presented by the Coronavirus epidemic. For every individual name that might have been mentioned, I feel certain

that there are many others who have been diligently and generously working in the background, helping in many and various ways to ensure that everyone is looked after. For this reason, I wanted to write to thank you, as a community, for your kindness, consideration and strength. I know that this will continue for as long as it is required.

Jo Ropner

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for North Yorkshire

Twenty years ago

The newsletter has now been going since issue number 1 back in late 1999, so we thought it might be nice to share an article from 20 years ago.

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN VISIT PARISH

Once again, a group of teenagers from Belarus will visit Clapham, on August 15th. The youngsters, who are staying with hosts in the Bolton Abbey area, will walk around the Ingleton waterfalls, play tennis, visit Ingleborough Hall, and have lunch. If anyone is a Russian speaker and can help, please get in touch. We are also asking for donations of small souvenirs. Tennis will be played in the afternoon on the Clapham courts, and help from local teenagers would be welcome.

Keasden rainfall report

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June	8" or 20.32cm	8½" or 21.59cm

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Church news

Watching the school leavers of 2020 planting a time capsule in Clapham village playpark on the school's last-ever day, 17th July, reminded me that a long time back - staggeringly, 49 years ago - I buried a time capsule of my own in our back garden. The Clapham Time Capsule - now set in concrete - is due to be retrieved in 2050. Maybe one or two of this year's 'last-ever' pupils will be around to take their children along to share in that revealing moment.

I must have buried mine during the second week of June 1971, as that was the week that John Noakes, Peter Purves and Valerie Singleton planted the Blue Peter Time Capsule in the grounds of Broadcasting House - to be reopened in the year 2000 - and encouraged all us young viewers to do the same. Whereas the BBC team filled their 'capsule' (actually it was a humble box) with Blue Peter memorabilia and film reels, I vaguely recall that mine contained a plastic action figure and a Dinky car, a poem (the one I was proud to have had printed in the school magazine that year), and I imagine perhaps a page from a comic and maybe a picture of my 1970 Division One Championship-winning heroes (just like Slade and power cuts, Everton were all set to be big in the Seventies, but it was 14 second-rate seasons before they lifted that trophy again).

Following the Clapham ceremony I suggested to my Mum that maybe I should try to dig up my capsule, as I've a rough idea where I planted it. She was noncommittal, understandably, given the probable havoc I would create in their garden; also, judging by the decomposed condition of the contents of the Blue Peter box when they retrieved it after just 29 years underground, I doubt there'd be much left at all of mine.

We can be confident that Clapham's corrosion-resistant steel capsule will keep their memorabilia and memories intact. Which is good news, as the Clapham pupils' time capsule also contains something unique: extracts from their 'Lockdown Diaries'. Unwittingly, the class and staff of 2020 were in a position to capture something of distinctive historical value - the thoughts of a community's youngsters during the most exceptional worldwide event in decades. It will be fascinating to those who open the capsule in 2050 to read about how they spent their days, apart from their friends but connected by online games, home-schooled and learning new skills in baking and creating artworks on stone. There are many memorable passages (you can read them in the souvenir newspaper which the pupils produced in the summer term): the most poignant for me being Sammuel's comment as they began lockdown in March: "When we were home I thought that would be the end of Clapham School."

This ending has been sad and painful enough, and an enforced premature finish would have been even more unbearable. Thankfully, those who remained until the end, did return to enjoy their last few weeks in a bubble together. We hold in our prayers the leavers from Clapham School, including the staff team led by Mathew Atkinson and Adam Kay, as they move to new beginnings; and the whole community at this time of loss and adjustment.

Church services and opening days

Clapham, Austwick and Eldroth Churches are now open during the day on Sundays and Wednesdays for individual prayer, and we are now gradually resuming our Sunday church services. For up to date information about our service pattern please sign up to our weekly email (every Saturday) by clicking: bit.ly/Churches-Email-Signup (or contact me), watch the church noticeboards or check the church websites:

bit.ly/ClaphamStJames bit.ly/keasden-church
bit.ly/austwick-church bit.ly/eldroth-church

Our services will be following guidelines on sanitation and social distancing, meaning no singing and only the bread being shared at communion. Diocesan advice is that people are free to attend services without wearing face coverings, if they so choose. However, we will continue to encourage everyone to wear a face covering out of love for others.

NHS Thanksgiving Service

At Clapham Church on Sunday August 30th at 11:00am, we are holding a special service of thanksgiving for the NHS and its staff, for all that they have done for us during the coronavirus outbreak and at all times. We hope that this date will enable some people who are still currently shielding or otherwise staying at home, to attend. Clapham Church is large enough to contain a decent sized congregation safely socially distanced. Do come along to share in this short and simple time of thanksgiving and encouragement.

*Revd John Davies,
Priest in Charge
john.davies@leeds.anglican.org.uk
01524 805928*

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

St. James' Church, Clapham

Sunday 2nd August, 11am - Holy Communion
Sunday 16th August, 11am - Holy Communion
Sunday 30th August, 11am - United NHS Thanksgiving
Sunday 6th September, 11am - Holy Communion
Sunday 20th September, 11am - Harvest Festival

St. Matthew's Church, Keasden

Sunday 9th August, 11am - Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd August, 7pm - Evening Service
Sunday 13th September, 11am - Holy Communion
Sunday 27th September, 7pm - Harvest Festival

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

No date for services to start yet but this is under constant review, being guided by Settle Methodist Circuit policy.

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

We have started to have one Sunday service either a morning or an evening, following the Government guidelines.

For times and further updates, please visit us on Facebook or our Bethel website (www.bethelchapelclapham.org).

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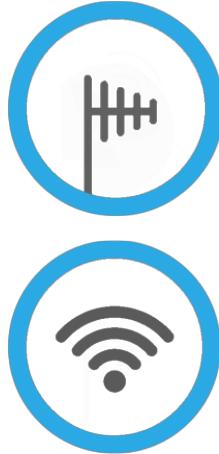
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Haymaking

During the lockdown I took the opportunity to try and declutter our loft, not an easy task as there is enough disorderliness to hide Shergar and Lord Lucan. So far, I have only managed two boxes and already found letters and legal documents going back to 1888. In with all the births, deaths, marriages and disputes over money, I found a set of my grandmother's schoolbooks each in a product splendidly titled The British Lion Exercise Book. My grandmother, Margaret Wilshaw, was born in 1890 and attended Keasden School.

This is an essay from her Writing Book in 1900 which gives a rather different view of gathering the grass crop from the tractors and plastic wrapped bales we see today. So this is what farming was like before mechanisation and government subsidies.



Margaret Wilshaw's son, Arthur Fretwell holds Dolly the horse outside the barn at Lower Hardacre in about 1940. The other gentleman is one of the itinerate farm labourers who were known locally as "Irish Men".

An essay - Haymaking

We start haymaking the last week in June or the beginning of July. Our fathers have to engage men to help with the hay. The first thing we do is to mow the hillsides with scythes. On the flat ground they mow the grass with machines. After it is mown we strew it with a rake. Then it is sown and generally cocked at night. They break it out in the morning to dry. Next we lead it into the barn but if it is not dry we stack it at night and break it out in the morning and then lead it. If there is a lot to lead we generally have two horses to lead the hay into the barn. Sometimes if we have to go up a high hill we have to have two horses to take one cart. As we lead the hay some one has to rake it clean. It is very hot in haytime and we have to wear big hats to keep the sun off. It is a very busy time. In haytime we have our eating in the fields and we call them drinkings. Our mothers make beer for us to drink in haytime. If we have not room in the barn to put the hay we make it in a stack outside. After it is made into a stack we thatch it so that the rain won't wet the hay. The cows eat the hay in winter.

Margaret Wilshaw

In addition to her Writing Book there was also her Arithmetic Book which contained the following question:

One-and-two-thirds of £113/9s minus three-sevenths of £5/18s/5d all divided by one guinea. No prize for a right answer, just the knowledge you could have coped with primary school arithmetic a hundred and twenty years ago.

George Greenbank

Then and now



With the Bunkbarn Café & Bar coming to the end of an era, I thought it would be timely to feature the building in this edition.

The building itself was built sometime prior to 1701, probably by the Clapham family, as the village's manor house, probably in succession to Clapdale farm which had previously served that function. Ultimately, it too was replaced when Ingleborough Hall was built, after which it became known as The Old Manor House.

Although used as a house for some years, it was afterwards granted by the Farrers to the village as a Reading Room primarily for "the young men of the Clapham district". Soon it served as a reading room, library, billiard room, penny bank and smoke and recreation room. It even housed a Sunday School for a time.



Our "then" photo shows the building as it was in 1903 with the Reading Room Committee posing outside. They had rather large committees in those days! In 1942, with Ingleborough Hall having been sold, the building became the home of Matthew Roland Farrer, then squire and lord of the Manor. He died in 1952 and his successor chose to live at Hall Garth, with the Reading Room passing back to the village at a rent of 2/6 pa. In 1968, the building was sold to the West Riding County Council for use as a National Park Information Centre. They then transferred it to the YDNPA who ran it until it was closed in 2003 and subsequently sold to private owners in 2005.

Our "now" picture shows the building today, with the initials of William and Isobel Clapham still prominent over the new two-storey porch that they had added in 1701.

Andy Scott

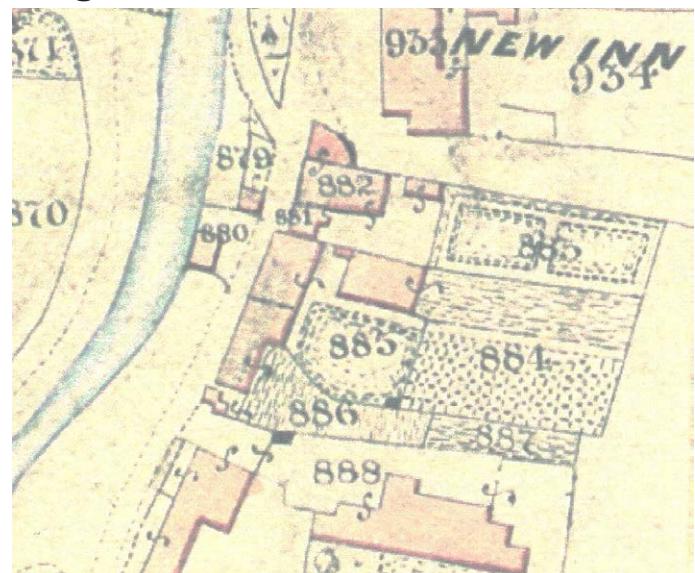
Building the village school

Clapham's first school, built in 1669, stood in the southwest corner of the churchyard. By 1824 it was too small so was pulled down and rebuilt, but by 1845 it was again too small and the Farrers' agent could not find a suitable house to use as a bigger one. In 1862 it needed a new floor but the Farrer brothers, James William and Oliver, decided to provide a new building instead.

They identified a site, occupied by The Fold and Piccadilly Cottages. The Farrers' agent, W.J. Walker, wrote to Oliver Farrer in London in January 1863 saying that if they were to build during the summer they should tell the 8 or 10 tenants that they would have to leave their cottages, but that postponement would allow the brothers to settle on the design and begin building the following spring. In March Walker wrote again, saying the cottages were dilapidated though occupied, and that he feared moving "Maudsley, Bowker and Johnson" ... "so miserably poor ... they would take badly to increased rents" for better accommodation.

By April the decision had been made – the cottages were to be pulled down next haytime and work on building the schools would start that summer. Alfred Waterhouse was engaged as architect and it was intended that Estate tradesmen would build them. The architect's original brief was to design an infant school for 70 children, a mixed elementary school for 70 children and a house for the schoolmaster. His fee was to be £28. Work was delayed by the death of James William Farrer on 9 November 1863 and by the many alterations requested. Around this time it was decided that the two schools should be joined together to make one large space when necessary.

Early in 1864 Estate workmen were digging building sand and quarrying building stone at Wenning Bank. Waterhouse's plans were ready in early March. The Schools were to be "useful and comfortable rather than very picturesque and ornamental" and the total cost was to be



Map showing the future site of the school as it was in 1847.

under £800. A school inspector's report of 28 April stated that "... the new buildings are in progress; the work has been delayed till a short time ago by legal difficulties ...".

By the end of May a fresh architect had been engaged, Edward Paley from Lancaster. The Farrer family decided that the schoolmaster's house had to be axed to keep the total cost down to £600. In late June 1864 Walker calculated the cost of the new design at £821. In early July the stonemason ordered dressed stone from Steeton. In late September a Mr. Hodgson was ready to carve the lettering over the west door, recording that the school was in memory of James William Farrer (1785-1863), financed by his brothers Oliver (1786-1866) and William (1788-1868) and by James' son James (1812-1879). Heads on either side of the doorway may represent James William Farrer and his wife Henrietta.

The Schools were opened on 31 July 1865 though they had been ready for "... some time ...".

Ken Pearce



Continued from page 1

They created an artwork designed to remind people not to stray onto the railway lines and this was reproduced as two posters which (as can be seen in the photograph on page 15) were unveiled on both platforms at Clapham Station. They asked former pupils to share their memories of the school and produced a short film - **A Fond Farewell** - which you can find on YouTube at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=J59GT4mXygA

– and **Clapham News** a newspaper which you can collect from the village store.

Finally, on Friday 17th July 2020, the last remaining pupils took part in a well-attended but emotional tree-planting ceremony and the burying of a time capsule in the village playpark. They were joined by their teaching and ancillary staff, the school governors, representatives from the diocese including Rt-Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Ripon, and Revd John Davies, past pupils and members of the community. Here they pose for a final farewell photograph.

Lorraine Wildman

Lorraine Wildman is being forced into retirement this summer because Clapham School is closing. She tells me that she was intending to retire next year when she will be seventy but I don't believe it. She has been so closely involved for so long that I think she would have gone on forever.

Lorraine was born in Ipswich where her mother was a housewife and her father an RSPCA inspector, a job which led to him being transferred to various locations including Bedford, Wolverhampton and Lancaster. When her dad died the family moved to Clapham, a village they all knew because they had enjoyed many Sunday afternoon picnics here. After leaving school Lorraine had various jobs and it was while she was working at The Plough in Wigglesworth that she met John who worked as a quarryman. They married in 1970 and showed their sense of adventure by moving to Australia on the £10 assisted passage scheme but they never had any intention of staying there permanently and returned home after three years. They had three children, David, Andrew and Paula but the family has been scarred by tragedy. As Lorraine and her mum were en route to the airport before a holiday they were involved in a car crash which resulted in serious injury to Lorraine and the death of her mum. From that time onwards Lorraine and John became guardians of her younger sister, Linda. Their daughter, Paula, suffered from an extremely rare and devastating brain condition and died when she was 13. It was moving to see how caring the whole family were with her.

For five years Lorraine was a member of the catering staff at Ingleborough Hall before she started at the village school in 1986 as a lunchtime supervisor. She then became assistant cook under Daisy Mason before her promotion to head cook. In that role she has shown how much she cares by attempting to meet the needs of all children including those who have unusual dietary needs such as the boy who wanted a tuna pasty minus the tuna and the girl who wanted a baked potato cooked without skin. Delia Smith would have struggled. She catered for a TV crew filming Mr Bloom in Clapham and has cooked meals regularly for members of Age UK. She was appointed as a cleaner and then became the caretaker, a job which entails much more than wielding a mop and a bucket.

We lived next door to the school and noticed how devoted she was and the hours she worked. If we heard the alarm going off in the middle of the night you can be sure who we rang. The usual trouble makers were bats but on one occasion a policeman summoned her to assist his investigations. The culprit was a spider which had nested behind the alarm and could not be persuaded to relocate from its inaccessible hiding place. Sadly, the policeman did what a man has to do and said that he would write in his log book: Intruder resisted arrest and was killed at the scene of the crime.

Lorraine has always gone above and beyond the demands of her job. She became an unpaid volunteer in order to help the youngest pupils in school and was later appointed as a classroom assistant. She helped with all functions in school and accompanied many educational visits. The school honoured her by inviting her to present the bibles at the annual service for leavers in church. She emphasised to me how grateful she is to all the staff over the years who included her in everything, including social activities. Eleven heads and acting heads came and went during Lorraine's years of service and they were lucky to have her.

Away from school she has contributed so much to the life of the village but there are some people who will not know her because she is very modest and never seeks attention. She has been on the village hall committee for many years and secretary for the last fifteen. Behind the scenes you will find her catering for functions such as the two annual fund-raising quizzes for the hall and the school. She raises further revenue for the hall by manning the duck stall at the street fair. As a member of Clapham WI for forty years she has been on the committee and secretary, on and off, throughout that time. Who holds that post at present? Have a guess. For more than twenty years she has been on the committee which looks after Clapham Play Park and helped raise funds, via grants, to provide fencing.

Most people who live in our village think they are lucky to be here. Some people think that as a result of that good fortune they ought to give something back to our community. Nobody gives more than Lorraine.

Stuart Marshall



Two pupils help to bury the time capsule in the village play park.



Pupils visit Clapham station to unveil a new rail safety poster they designed.

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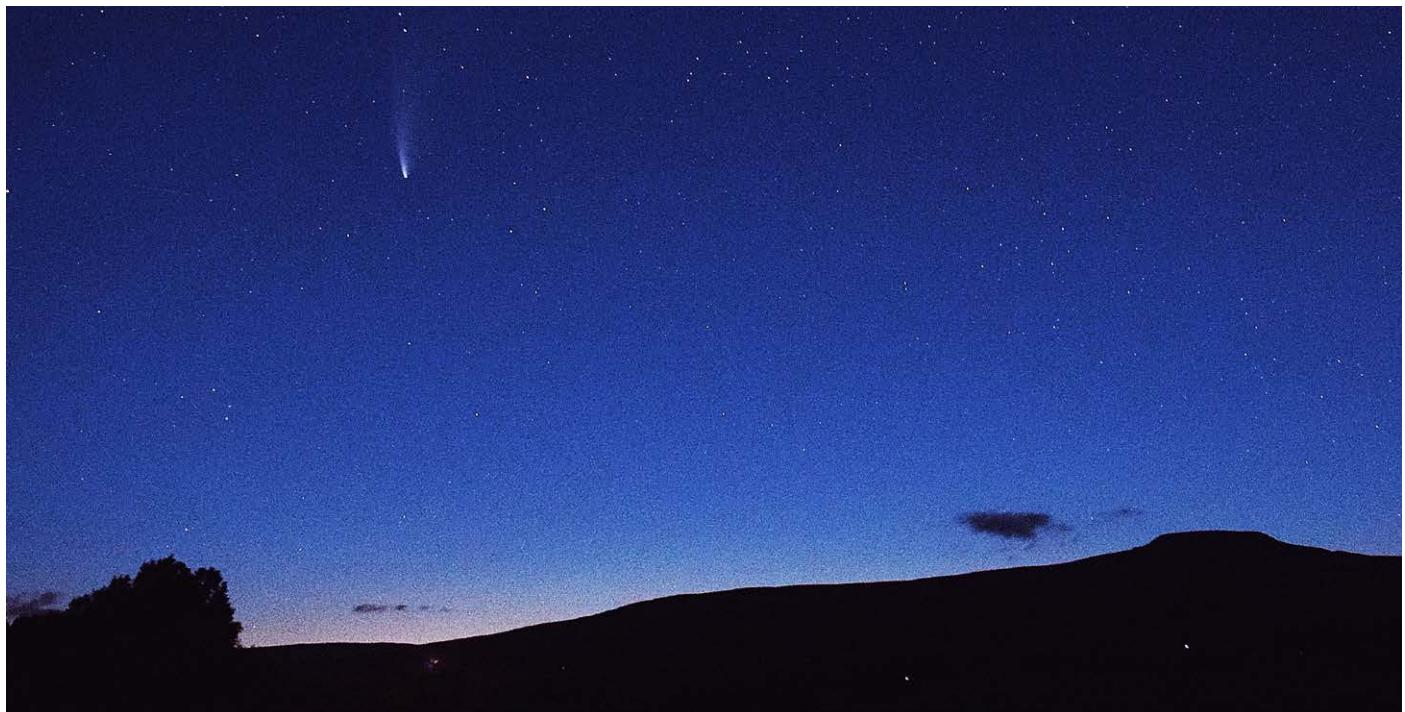
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The bright comet



Stargazers in the village have been given a real treat in recent weeks with the appearance of a bright comet in the northern skies. Comet Neowise - or more properly, Comet C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE) - was first identified back in late March.

Coming from behind the sun, it passed inside the orbit of Mercury before beginning its journey back out to the extreme reaches of the Solar System. Luckily, its path has made it visible to the naked eye from Earth and, indeed, it passed closest to our planet on 23rd July - though it was always more than 64 million miles away. Whilst the comet is close to the sun, the solar wind creates the comet's distinctive coma,

or tail, giving it the impression of dashing across the sky. As it gets further from the sun so its brightness will reduce as will the length of its coma.

At the time of writing, it is low in the north and best visible just after sunset or just before sunrise. It's been estimated that its "period" - the time between its successive closest approaches to the sun - is just under 7000 years. So the last time humankind might have seen it was in about 5000BC – some two thousand five hundred years before they were even contemplating starting work on Stonehenge.

Andy Scott

An update on the Bunk Barn



As most of you will know, Clapham Cafe, Bunk & Bar closed its doors at the beginning of March. Initially we were hopeful that the Covid-19 nightmare would

be over quickly and we could all get back to work. Sadly, due to the length of the shutdown and following a winter of storm after storm, we have decided to call it a day.

We've enjoyed 10 fun, happy, exhausting and sometimes exasperating years. We've loved entertaining old friends and making fantastic new ones. We've been honoured to host christenings, engagements, weddings, birthdays, club dinners, book launches, great music and a few too many funerals. We've received more support than we could have ever dreamed of from locals, regulars, caravanners, caving clubs, climbing clubs, walking groups, mountain biking/cycling groups, Clapham Shoot and, of course, the lovely

lads at JSMT (Joint Service Mountain Training Centre). For all this support we are extremely grateful. Oh and I suppose we mustn't forget the coach groups...

- "Excuse me, can you tell me, is Ingleborough Cave indoors or outdoors?"
- "We don't want anything off the menu, just 4 portions of chips.": "We don't do chips, that's why they're not on the menu!"
- "Could we have a pot of tea for two and seven cups please?"
- "Would you like alcoholic ginger beer or non-alcoholic?": "What's the difference?"

Should I go on?

Currently displaying a "To Let" sign, the Old Manor House is a beautiful building and we have grown very attached to it over the years. It's bursting with character and we wish whoever comes next every success: I hope they have as much fun as we've had.

Anyway, I guess what I'm trying to say is, from the Latimer Dream Team and our lovely staff, thank you for the great times and see you all down the pub.

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Steam update

With the tentative beginnings of the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, heritage railways and steam tour operating companies are making plans to restart operations. The Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway near Skipton restarted public services on Saturday 25th July whilst The Keighley & Worth Valley team are planning on reopening on Wednesday 19th August. In both cases, there are restrictions on both services and on how the railways can be used - potential visitors are urged to check the respective websites to understand these requirements before arranging their trips. Pre-booking is likely to be essential and face masks are expected to remain mandatory in line with Government guidelines. Over the hill, The East Lancashire Railway is yet to give a firm date for re-opening but it is likely to be sometime in August. Up and down the country, other heritage railways are going through the same processes, though one or two are likely to give the whole season a miss.

Many have had to begin new fundraising campaigns to keep them open following the significant losses of revenue whilst, sadly, it has been reported that a couple of the smaller ones have decided to call it a day.

As I write this, some mainline steam services are beginning to restart. "The Jacobite" (Fort William to Mallaig) service was the forerunner, with a reduced service beginning on Wednesday July 15th. The first trips over the Settle and Carlisle should be running just as this issue is going to print, as should be the first of the Scarborough Spa express services.



Robin Proctor's Scar looms behind Clapham Viaduct as No 62005 passes on its test run before heading north to Fort William for the 2019 summer season service on The Jacobite.

Photo: Andy Scott

Preparations for "The Jacobite" resulted in the first steam working through Clapham since the lockdown started – a test run by Carnforth-based engine no. 60005 during the evening of Friday 10th July before she headed north that weekend. The next steam through Clapham is likely to be on Tuesday 4th August, when a light engine should pass en-route to Hellifield, where it will be providing the motive power for a York to Carlisle and return service. Hopefully, things will begin to pick up again from that point. The first revenue-earning steam working through the station should be this year's Lune Rivers Trust special, which is currently scheduled for Saturday 26th September. Hopefully, it won't be the last.

Also over on the Settle to Carlisle – though not steam related – is news of an innovative new service which has been developed

especially for the Covid-19 situation and the likelihood of larger numbers not wishing to venture abroad this summer. Additional diesel locomotive hauled services will run three daily return trips from Skipton and Settle to Appleby

The former first-class carriages have been converted with perspex screens to create mini-compartments, each of which can be booked by only one household or social bubble. Each will have a one-way system in place for getting on or off.

Each train even includes a spare carriage for use if anyone needs to self-isolate mid journey. The trains will be operated by Rail Charter Services and this is the first time a charter operator has ever run a timetabled service alongside that provided by the franchise operator.

Andy Scott

Who were they?



Kathleen Lambert kindly sent us a couple of photographs from the last century - via Lynda Christian.

Kathleen was Daisy and George Mason's daughter and lived in Clapham with her parents up to the time she got married.

This photo is of a group of Clapham children on a trip to the seaside in about 1933.

The little girl second from the left at the back is Gwennie Jones and the little boy at the front with the spade is George Mason.

Kathleen wondered if anyone could name the others?

Andy Scott

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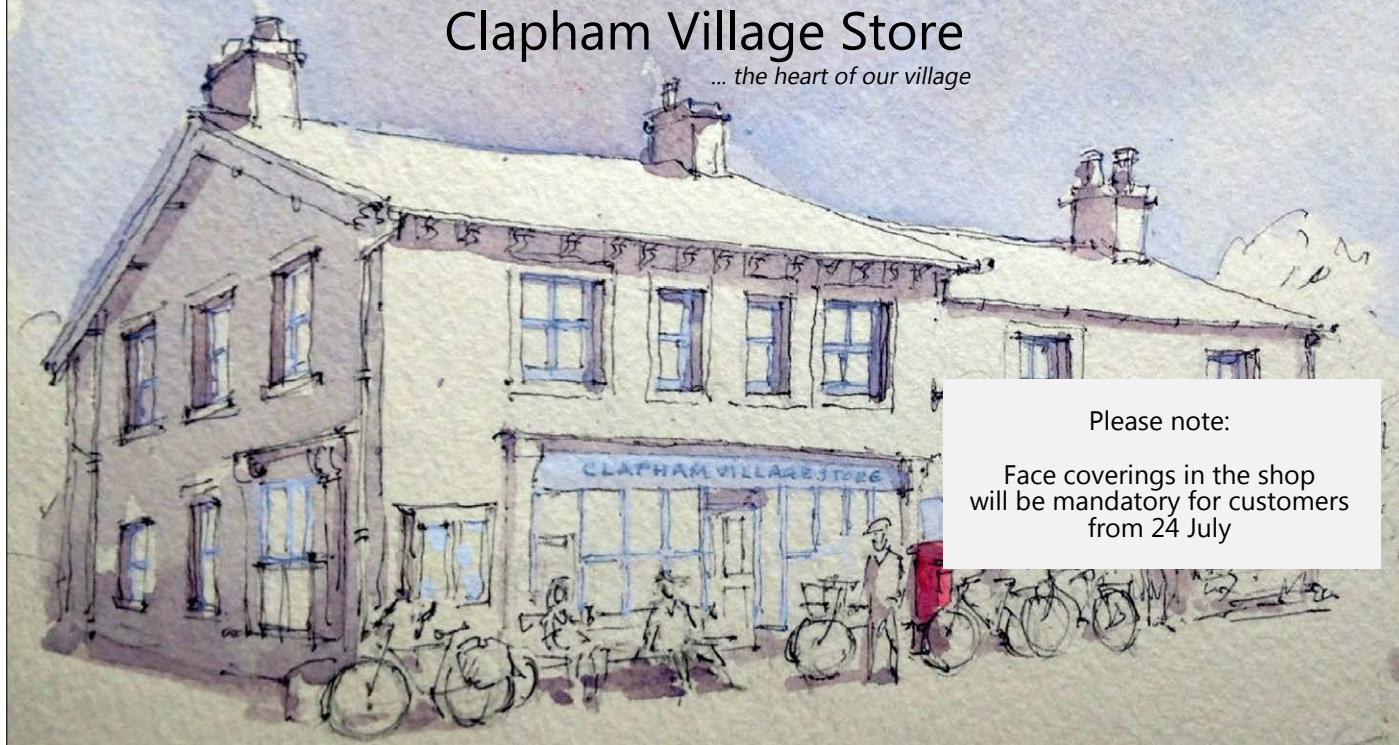
Our takeaway service will be continuing – please see the board outside or Brookhouse B & B facebook page for our new menu. You can also email bookings@brookhouseclapham.co.uk to request a menu.



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Nature notes

I am afraid that I owe you all an apology. In my introduction to June's Nature Notes, I welcomed the showers that arrived in late May as a blessing for our farmers, gardeners and the local wildlife. Now I find myself writing this piece on St Swithun's Day and wondering whether the blustery drizzle that seems to have been our constant companion ever since is going to be with us for another forty days. Like lock-down chocolate, you can have too much of a good thing!



Juvenile wheatear, Clapham Bottoms. Photo: Brian Christian

I suspect that some of the residents of Cross Haw Lane might be thinking much the same about curlews. The nesting pair in the adjacent fields have successfully reared no fewer than four chicks and, understandably, they have been making quite a song and dance about it. Both the male and female birds incubated the eggs and shared the workload while their offspring were still in the nest but once they fledged the male took on the responsibility of acting as guardian – and he is the one who has been making most of the noise. This proud father has been especially conscientious, spending much of his time in recent weeks perched on a wall-top vantage point and calling out 'cur-lee, cur-lee' at the slightest sign of danger. The fitting reward for his efforts was that all four youngsters took to the air for the first time just one day before their favourite foraging field was mown. A lucky escape!

The whole family will now venture further afield before heading to the coast for the autumn and winter months, but we can expect to welcome at least some of them back next February. Curlews tend to be faithful to their partners and to their nest sites, and they can live for up to thirty years, so those of you who have only just come to know them can look forward to maintaining that acquaintance for many years to come.

Until the recent easing of the lockdown restrictions, many of us have been enjoying the slightly selfish pleasure of finding ourselves alone on the more popular hill paths that lead out from the village. I think the same can be said for some of the wildlife. Another of my favourite summer visitors, the wheatear, seems to have had a particularly successful breeding season up on Clapham Bottoms and on the lower slopes of Ingleborough. This dapper character - the male looks especially resplendent in his smart breeding plumage - spends the winter in tropical Africa and arrives here in March, usually raising two broods before returning to warmer climes in August. Juveniles from the first brood

are already quite independent and are beginning to spread out across the moor.

Incidentally, if you are wondering about the unusual name, all I will say here is that it refers to the distinctive flash of white rump that is often the easiest way of confirming this shy little bird's identity as it darts away from you.

For the most part, the unsettled weather has at least given us some fairly warm, humid nights so June and July have witnessed the emergence of plenty of summer butterflies and moths. The area at the top of the Nature Trail, just where it opens out onto the beck-side track to the cave, now offers lots of dark green fritillaries, common blues and small skippers as well as the more unobtrusive meadow browns and ringlets. If you look closely enough, you will also come across chimney sweep and silver-y moths flitting among the grasses. Small tortoiseshells are everywhere at the moment and soon the buddleias in our gardens will be attracting painted ladies, peacocks and red admirals.

Another sign that it must be summer has been the appearance of some spectacular damsel and dragonflies. Last month it was a real treat to see so many jewel-like banded demoiselles on the banks of the Wenning near Clapham Station, and I am indebted to Andy Scott for sending me a stunning photo of a female broad-bodied chaser he came across nearby.



Female broad-bodied chaser, Gisburn Forest. Photo: Andy Scott

Coincidentally, I had an equally impressive blue male hovering around our garden pond just a few days earlier. Keep your eyes open and the chances are you will also see common hawkers in and around the village; the black males with their bright blue spots are especially distinctive.

Thank you to Andy for forwarding his superb dragonfly photo. If you capture something interesting on camera, or you have news of notable sightings in the area, do send me an email (bc.riverside28@gmail.com) drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply stop & chat when you see me around the village. I'll also be posting more frequent snippets on Twitter: @bc_riverside

Here's hoping that by the time you read this the sun has returned and the swallows are flying higher in bright blue August skies.

Brian Christian

Settle photographic group



*Frosty Morning in Littondale, by Ian Hughes
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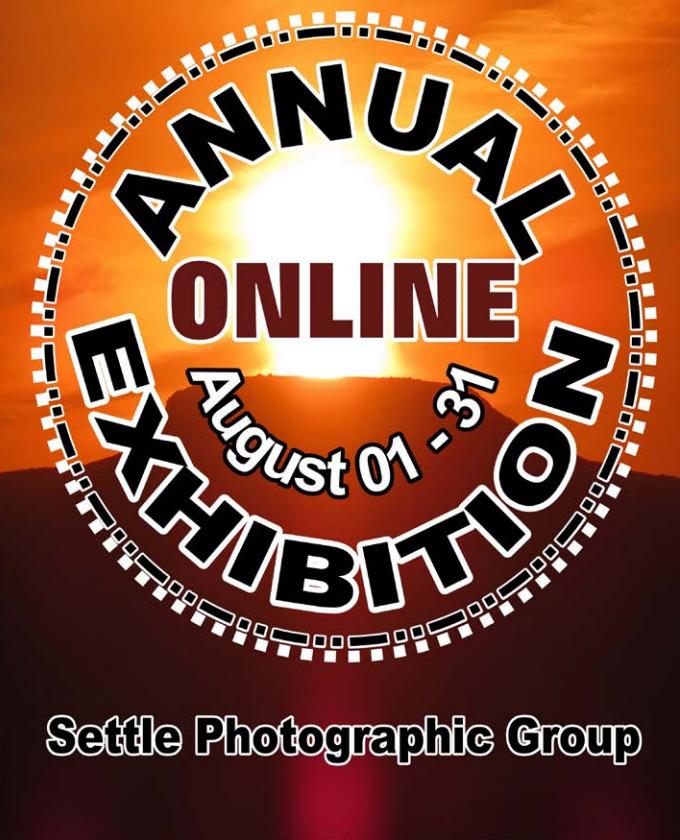
Covid-19 is not going to stop Settle Photographic Group from holding its twelfth Annual Exhibition of members' images this year, but it will be online only.

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Clapham Park Association



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

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.

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

August 2020 edition - Clapham Village Store

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

News from YDMT

At the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT), whilst much of the work of our Stories in Stone project, a scheme of conservation and community projects in the Ingleborough area, has been paused, the team has still been busy!



- Work to restore the shelter on the summit of Ingleborough and install a new brass toposcope (pictured above) naming the mountains, hills and other landscape features that can be seen has been completed – surely one of the high points (pun intended) of the scheme!
- Settle: A Historic Market Town, a well-researched and highly readable history of the town, has recently been published and can be ordered from www.ydmt.org/shop
- A fully revised edition of Ingleborough: Landscape and History will be available in a few months' time. Originally published in 2008, this new edition is informed by new thinking and understanding that's arisen from archaeological work carried out in the area since then, much of it funded through Stories in Stone.
- We were very pleased to be able to fund the production of The Pebbles of Settle and Giggleswick, a booklet of photographs of the many colourful, hand-painted stones that local children and adults left around the town as a creative response to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Proceeds are supporting local community projects.
- As part of the Yorkshire Festival of Story, we've commissioned a one-man play about the life of Reginald Farrer.

All events are online and free. Visit www.yorkshirefestivalofstory.com for further details.

Some of the training courses and activities we have had to cancel or postpone due to the pandemic are now available online and are available to view for free on our website: www.ydmt.org/discover. Stories in Stone is mainly funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

*Mike Appleton
Marketing and Communications Officer
YDMT*

News from Settle Swimming Pool

Settle Area Swimming Pool locked down on 20 March and we were able to place all our staff on the Government furlough scheme. At the time of writing, we are still waiting for guidance on reopening swimming pools and leisure centres from the Government and Swim England. We already have guidance from the Swimming Teachers' Association, Royal Life Saving Society and Health and Safety Executive. We have been awarded £10,000 by Sport England to help with keeping the pool in business during lockdown – utilities, maintenance etc. The Settle Rotary Club has also kindly donated a very generous £2,000 and there have been several donations from generous individuals and businesses including Bar 13 in Settle, Bentham Town Council, and several Parish Councils.

It is clear that when we reopen we will be required to put in place new systems to ensure social distancing and additional hygiene. Obviously we will undertake a thorough risk assessment to ensure we are able to comply with all guidance and as soon as we have a reopening date we will send out further information.

Regular users will know that there are some aspects of the pool that need improving and modernising, such as our reception area, changing facilities and more space for more dry-side activities. Members have helped Staff, Trustees



and Friends of the Pool to raise funds for the building project for a number of years. As you know we had to use some of these funds to replace our 40 year old boilers at the beginning of the year. Two years

ago we applied to Sport England for a large grant which would help us to start this process. It's taken a long time to receive a result, but in May this year we heard we had been awarded £135,000 which takes us much closer to the target for rebuilding. This is sufficient for us to submit a planning application and begin the preparation for building this summer. We will share these plans with members when the current restrictions allow

Our paper recycling scheme, based in the carpark outside Settle pool, has raised a phenomenal quarter of a million pounds over the years. It has helped to pay for pool improvements, transport for school swimming, and support for the Swimming and Disabled Clubs. Funds are also making an important contribution to our rebuilding plans. Although our recycling closed due to Covid-19 and rock bottom prices for paper, the world price has recently risen, and we may be able to open again.

Chris Hirst

Wordsearch

By popular request, here's another Wordsearch for you try. As before, there are 50 answers to find – across, down or diagonally, forwards or backwards – and this time they all are names of geographical features – hills, valleys, rivers, caves etc – all within 10km (that's just over 6 miles in "old money") of Clapham, and each with a minimum of 5 letters. No prizes, but maximum kudos for anyone who finds the lot – and if you let me know when you've completed it, we'll print the winner along with the answers in the next issue.

Andy Scott

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A	L	L	E	F	K	R	A	P	E	N	Y	G	H	E	N	T	I	P	A	N	R	J	S	Z

June 2020 Wordsearch – Answers

AIRTON, APPLETREEWICK, ARNCLIFFE, ASKRIGG, AUSTWICK, AYSGARTH, BAINBRIDGE, BOLTONABBEY, BUCKDEN, BURNSALL, CARPERBY, CASTERTON, CHAPELLEDALE, CLAPHAM, COLDCOTES, CONISTONE, COWGILL, FOXUP, GIGGLESWICK, GRASSINGTON, GUNNERSIDE, HALTONGILL, HARDRAW, HAWES, HAWKSWICK, HELWITHBRIDGE, HETTON, INGLETON, IREBY, KETTLEWELL, KILNSEY, KIRKBYLONSDALE, LITTON, MALHAM, MARSKE, MASHAM, MASONGILL, MUKER, NEWBY, PATELEYBRIDGE, RAMSGILL, REDMIRE, REETH, SEDBERGH, SELSIDE, SETTLE, STAINFORTH, STARBOTTOM, SUMMERBRIDGE, THRESHFIELD

Kudos for the best solution received this time around goes to Brenda Pearce.

Bentham Community Primary School

Is your child aged 3+? Are you looking for Nursery provision locally?

Bentham CP School has a Nursery class for children aged 3+, led by a qualified teacher

15 hour Universal Funding available (9.00am-12.00noon every day)

30 hour funded places available (9.00am—3.00pm every day, option to extend to 3.30pm)

Transition to a Reception class in any school will be accommodated, including to Bentham CP School.

Come and visit us in action 015242 61412

Headteacher: Mrs Claire Pearson



Hitting the headlines, again

“The remote British Village that built one of the fastest Internet networks in the UK”. Thus began an article which recently appeared in the online journal “The Conversation”.

Started in Melbourne, Australia, in 2011, The Conversation claims to be an independent source of news and views, sourced from the academic and research community and delivered, online and always for free, direct to the public. It launched in the UK in 2013 and now has a London-based newsroom.

The news article itself begins by explaining the village’s response to Covid-19 – the Clapham COBRA Committee - and then goes on to explain that this was far from the

first time that we’ve simply “got on with it”. It uses the installation of B4RN as an example, which, of course, is what the article is really all about. A self-built network that brings the community together and one which just happens to really come into its own when, with something like Covid-19 to contend with, the chips are down.

If you want to read more – and it is worth a read – then the full article can be found at

<https://theconversation.com/the-remote-british-village-that-built-one-of-the-fastest-internet-networks-in-the-uk-137946>. But I’m told you shouldn’t treat all the quotes it includes as entirely verbatim!

Andy Scott



Keep your eye on the ball

Once upon a time we worried about a hole in the ozone layer and its effect on our world so something was done about it. Then people noticed that glaciers were shrinking, which set them thinking. They measured the icecaps at the Poles, only to find that they were also getting smaller. This year it will be relatively easy to sail the Northwest Passage along the northern coast of Canada, a voyage which used to be so dangerous that many men died in the attempt. Today you can book a trip in comfort through that one-time deadly passage. Our climate is changing; the ice is melting away, giving up the secrets of Franklin’s fateful voyage of 1845-48, when so many men died. Those fatal events seem long ago and far away but climate change is here and now, in Clapham. We are getting perilously close to that tipping point when it may be too late to reverse global warming. We need to take a wide variety of measures to stabilise the global temperature, now. These include changing from fossil fuels to renewables – driving an electrically powered car, using household energy drawn from wind and water, choosing an electricity company which sells only power made with renewables, switching to low energy lighting, cutting back on energy consumption by reducing, re-using, repairing, recycling.

One of the many steps we can all take as individuals is to change our diet to a plant-based menu. Here in the Yorkshire Dales such a step poses problems. For hundreds of years the area has been famous for its livestock. The sweeping slopes of the very dales themselves are testimony to the meat we eat. Yet the flocks and herds produce vast volumes of methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas. If we opt for the safety of a vegetarian diet many of the traditional Dales livestock will go and the hills will look so different - but our world will be more secure.

The urgent issue of climate change was forced off the front

page by Brexit which, in its turn, was squeezed out by Covid-19. And yet it is vital that we do not lose sight of what is potentially a matter of life and death for the human race. We must keep our eye on the ball and make essential changes in our way of life.

Ken Pearce

Village hall news

We are sure that you will all be delighted to hear that the village hall is still very much OK. Luckily, all the major refurbishment was completed last year. We still have a few damp patches and we are looking into what we can do to resolve this.

We recently had a meeting of the committee and trustees via Zoom (computer on-line conferencing), ably set up by Angie and chaired by me. The discussion was focused on whether we should consider re-opening, even if only in a limited form, in accordance with the current, slightly relaxed, regulations. The overall feeling of the meeting was “not to reopen till September” at the earliest and then possibly not all the facilities. Some of the constraints are quite comprehensive so we will need time to fully comply.

On a positive note, our finances are secure at the moment. We benefited from some donations as well as a Covid-19 grant from the government. We were also able to accept some bits and bobs from the school. I did pull a few weeds from the outside but sadly they keep growing, so if anyone feels energetic please feel free to assist. Sheila Maywood did a fantastic, ‘deep clean’ of the kitchen and even gave Maurice Brown’s bench a flash over with varnish. Thanks to all who have helped keeping the hall going during this lock down period - we look forward to better times ahead.

David Kingsley

News from our sponsor - Clapham Village Store



It has been a very busy time for our Community Shop and the contribution and commitment of all our staff and volunteers during the pandemic has been recognised by the Lord Lieutenant in a personal note of thanks.

We have also received very kind messages from locals and visitors. Additionally, you may have seen recent articles in the local press describing our community shop as "a lifeline". All of this is much appreciated, and we continue to do our best to stay ahead of the game in everchanging circumstances.

As lockdown has started to ease, we are glad to see some of our regular volunteers returning to their shop duties. We have missed them, and it is great to have them back.

With cycle parking and well-spaced tables, our garden is proving very popular with locals and visitors alike. It is a lovely place to sit and relax while enjoying a coffee, cake, sandwich or drink from the shop.

And the new ice cream freezer is up and running, allowing us to display our excellent selection in a far more accessible way.

Now we just need the summer to return - though ice creams are good at any time!

From Helen and the team!

◆◆◆ SHOP QUESTIONNAIRE ◆◆◆

Clapham Community Shop is your shop and your views are always valuable to us. Please help us by filling out and returning the questionnaire at the back of this newsletter so that we can continue to improve the service we provide.

DELIVERIES will now take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for those who are vulnerable or self-isolating. We can take orders up to 11am on the day of delivery, but it is very helpful to have orders the day before so we can order in fresh produce accordingly.



Meet Jackie Hassall

Many of you will have met Jackie already and we are delighted to welcome her to Clapham Community Shop as our new weekend Supervisor.

Jackie lives in Keasden and worked for 39 years as a practice manager for the NHS. She is settling into her new role and is a welcome addition to our happy team.

◆◆◆ FACE MASKS ◆◆◆

We continue to sell a lovely selection of face coverings for just £5, made locally by Barbara Marshall. Comfortable and attractive, Barbara's masks have been flying off the shelf (or out of the basket) with all profits going to The British Heart Foundation (with over £500 raised so far).

Reminder: From 24th July, all customers will be expected to wear a mask whilst in the shop.



The Honeycomb Company has been supplying the shop with their "Pennine Honey Bee" honey, preserves and biscuits since we first opened and have supported us wonderfully throughout lockdown for which we are most grateful. Attractively packaged and absolutely delicious, their products make a great addition to your shopping basket either as a gift or for use at home.

If you fancy giving some honey-inspired recipes a go, you might like to try glazing pork loin with honey, ginger and soy sauce as a lovely variation for roasting or for the BBQ.

For dessert, stewing fresh plums or rhubarb with orange juice and honey makes a fresh and healthy alternative to sugar and is great with cream, ice cream or Greek yogurt (all available from the shop!).

Visit our website

www.claphamvillagestore.co.uk
for more information on our products

SHOP CLEANER(S) REQUIRED FROM SEPTEMBER

We are looking for an individual or team to carry out a deep clean 6 days per week after the shop closes. This is a paid role. For more information please contact Helen on 015242 51524.

Clapham Village Store questionnaire



Clapham Village Store is a community business set up and run by the community for the benefit of the community. We've been trading for five years now and that, plus the uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus pandemic means that we feel it is time to check if what we are doing is what our village and our visitors to the village want and need.

We would really appreciate your honest feedback to help us plan.

Please place completed questionnaires in the box in the shop, or through the letterbox at the side of the Village Hall by 31 August. If you are isolating and need someone to collect your questionnaire from you then please call the shop on 015242 51524.

Are you: A resident Visitor (Leisure) Visitor (Business)

Are you: Under 17 18-24 25-49 50-64 65-74 Over 75

1. In normal (non-Covid-19) times, how often do you visit the village store?

<i>Please use tick box</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Comments - please expand</i>
Every day / Several times per week		
Once a week		
Just at weekends		
Once or twice a month		
Rarely or not at all		
Has this changed during the pandemic?		

2. Products & services We try to stock a reasonably wide range of goods, locally produced where possible, but within the constraints of the space we have in the shop. What attracts you to the village store?

<i>Please tick any that apply</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Comments - please expand</i>
Convenience		
Sale of newspapers		
Tobacco or alcohol		
Fresh food (bread, cakes, fruit & veg, meat)		
Dairy products		
Frozen and ready meals		
Sandwiches and snacks		
Hot food and drinks		
Premium brands and products		
Dry cleaning		
Gifts and cards		
Collecting prescriptions		
Somewhere to obtain local information		
A pleasant place to visit		

3. What do you think about the products and produce we offer in the village store?

<i>Please tick any that apply</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Comments - please expand</i>
The range of goods is about right		
The range is too limited		
I'd like to see more budget price ranges (Happy Shopper etc.)		
I would like more choice of hot food		
The quality of the fresh produce is good		
I'm disappointed by the general quality		
Products are easy to locate		



Clapham Village Store questionnaire

4. Our prices

<i>Please tick one column for each product type</i>	<i>Too expensive (Wouldn't buy)</i>	<i>Expensive (But would buy if needed)</i>	<i>Value for money (Will buy)</i>	<i>Too cheap (Perceived not of good quality)</i>
Dairy				
Meat				
Fruit & vegetables				
Alcohol				
Non-perishable goods				
Gifts				

5. What do you find attractive about the shop and what less so? How can we improve?

6. Delivery Service

During lockdown we have been running a delivery service for our elderly and vulnerable customers

	Y/N	<i>Comments - please expand</i>
Is this a service you would continue to support in the future?		

7. Do you visit the village store website, Facebook pages or Twitter feed?

	Y/N	<i>Comments – please expand</i>
Website		
Facebook		
Twitter		

8. Would you be interested in subscribing to our mailing list to receive updates on product ranges and offers?

	Y/N	<i>If yes, please provide your email address or alternatively email the shop direct: info@claphamvillagestore.co.uk</i>
Subscribe		

9. Please add any other comments or suggestions relating to the village store and the services we offer.

Follow us on our website: www.claphamvillagestore.co.uk Facebook and Twitter

Thank you for your support and helping us to keep the village store at the centre of our community.

