

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 15th May 2024

Minutes

Present:

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council: Cllrs Colin Price (Chair), John Dawson (Vice Chair), Diane Elphinstone, Ann Sheridan, Maria Farrer

Steve Culver (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

YDNPA: David Pickup

13 Parishioners

1. **Apologies:** Cllr David Ireton, Andy Scott, Ann Stewart, Annabel Preston, Sue Mann, George Greenbank

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 18th May 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by Cllr Colin Price, Chairman of Clapham cum Newby Parish Council. There were no matters arising.

The details of all following reports are included in the Appendix to the minutes.

3. **Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

4. **Report from North Yorkshire Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority & Police**

North Yorkshire Council – A report was read from David Ireton. A question was raised as to the benefits of creating the unitary authority and the discrepancy between the figures quoted ahead of NYC being created and those quoted in the report. IT was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would raise this.

YDNPA – A report was given by David Pickup. The fact that there was no funding for rights of way activities on behalf of NYC was raised and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would raise this with NYC given the significant cost savings arising from the creation of the unitary council.

Police – A consolidated Incident report of the past year was read by the Clerk

5. **Reports from Community Organisations**

Cave Rescue Organisation – Martin Holroyd

Clapham Village Hall – Gerald Kay

Clapham Newsletter Group – Chris Hart

St Matthew's Church Keaden – Angela Peach

Clapham Village Shop – Harriet Naden The Parish Council expressed its thanks to the work of the volunteers and all concerned in the shop.

St James' Church Clapham – Liz Mason

Clapham Age UK – Brenda Pearce

Clapham Bell Ringers – Liz Mason

Ingleborough Estate – Cllr Maria Farrer

Clapham Development Association – Cllr Diane Elphinstone

The following reports were read by the Clerk as the individuals were unable to attend

Clapham Sustainability Group - Jill Buckler

Friends of Clapham Station – George Greenbank

Clapham Lecture Group – Andy Scott.

6. **Parishioners Matter Arising**

Concerns were expressed regarding tree growth in the property near Wenning Bridge

Appendix

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting which the Parish Council is required by law to hold at some point between 1st of March and the 1st of June each year. This meeting will be followed by the regular Parish Council meeting at which all are welcome.

The Parish Council continued to meet monthly (August & November excluded) here in the Village Hall. In addition to me, the Chairman, there are four Parish Councillors and the Council is assisted by a clerk, Steve Culver.

The Council continues to maintain the closed churchyard of St James', Clapham. Messrs J. Hartley and son, now trading as W.H. Hartley had been employed cutting the grass there for a number of years, although announced their retirement at the end of the last cutting season. The Parish Council thanks Bill for the years of service. I'm pleased to announce that the Council has now secured the services of Matthew Holroyd (a Newby resident) to take over this work for us.

The Parish Council has not had a Parish Caretaker in post for a number of years; any work that would ordinarily be assigned to a caretaker are currently considered for allocation to independent contractors with only a limited volume of work required in 2023/24.

At each of its meetings, the Council receives updates in relation to local initiatives in which it has an interest including the community defibrillator and emergency plan and the neighbourhood planning initiative. Since the last Annual Parish Meeting the Neighbourhood Planning initiative has recently been submitted for examination and the team are now dealing with the final points brought out from that.

In the previous year the Parish Council recognised the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with the development of the "Platinum Toll Bar Wood". Following the death of Her Majesty we have now placed a memorial stone in the wood, once again with financial assistance from The Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust, for which we are most grateful.

The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III was celebrated in the village with a garden party at Ingleborough Hall. The Council would like to thank Ingleborough Hall for the use of their facilities for the function, and also the Community shop, for the financial support for the event.

The Council also undertook work to improve the drainage guttering around Keasden St Matthew's, this was funded by contributions from St Matthew's PCC and also the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, for which we note our thanks.

Regular reports from the police are received at Council meetings. These have been a mixture of both written and in person. The Council is also kept informed of relevant police information via the North Yorkshire Community Messaging Service. Substantial public concern over increased crime levels in the area was raised at the April 2019 Parish Council meeting. Since then a Mobile Rural Watch Scheme has been brought into operation with parishioners, including one Parish Councillor, participating. The Council owns a dash-cam for use by parishioners participating in the scheme. Should anyone wish to utilise this please contact the Clerk.

The Council makes regular requests to North Yorkshire Council for action on highways matters. These can be generated by complaints from members of the public but are often raised by Councillors themselves.

Planning applications to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and North Yorkshire Council are received by the Parish Council to enable it to make comments. This issue forms a regular and important part of the Council's business.

Representatives from the Parish Council attend meeting of many local bodies. These include Clapham Village Hall Committee, the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, the Yorkshire Local Councils

Association, the Clapham Development Association and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Forum.

The Council's finances are healthy. Auditing showing that the accounts have been adequately maintained and are accurate. Due to a significant VAT rebate receivable the Council was able to reduce the Precept levied on all parishioners last financial year. Since this is not a recurring item, unfortunately we have had to increase the Precept required to fund our activities this year, we have limited this as far as possible and will be utilising some reserves this year to "balance our books". The accounts and audit report, along with minutes and agendas of all meetings, are published by the Council on the Clapham North Yorkshire website and can also be obtained from the Parish Clerk or at Council meetings.

Thank you for your attendance at this meeting. The regular Parish Council meeting will take place immediately after this session and anyone who wishes to stay for that meeting is most welcome to do so.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

It is just over twelve months since the eight councils merged to become a unitary council. This is working well and the restructure is nearly complete.

This has allowed the reduction in the amount of buildings and the costs that were incurred in operating to be rationalised and we are now rationalising our teams of staff but we will maintain a presence in every part of the county.

The senior management team with a reduction of chief executives from 8 previously to now 1 is a saving of £900,000.

A reduction in the management board from previously 32 officers down to 8 is a saving of £200,000.

There have been 22 redundancies at a cost of £300,000.

The overall restructuring and staffing at all levels is a saving of £4.7 million.

The circumstances we face this year are very much the same as last year with similar pressures. Those are inflation, interest rates, energy bills and oil prices affecting transport costs eg gritter wagons home care, home to school transport costs and payment rates of the agreed rate of pay due to inflation and the rise in the minimum wage.

The local government sector is under severe challenges with rising demand. Especially in social care where adult social care and children services, especially in educational needs, being over 50% of the council budget.

With this huge amount being spent on care we continue to talk with central government about the challenges and the funding needed for the delivery of these critical services,

The Council has 5,500 miles of roads to maintain and keep open. The work on the new section of Kex Gill is under construction and is desperately needed as once again the road is closed due to land slip. It will be closed until the end of June causing major disruption on the east west connection and at a cost of £750,000

to repair.

We have started the next phase of work on the local plan for North Yorkshire land with the 'Call for Sites'.

I would like to let you know about this important piece of work because, in time it is likely that sites will be submitted in most, if not all, divisions throughout the county and it is important to understand what this is and more importantly, what this isn't.

This is a process whereby we ask landowners, site promoters, developers and other interested parties to submit their sites for consideration in the local plan. These sites can be for a range of uses and can include, but are not limited to, housing, employment and commercial development, retail and leisure, renewable energy generation and biodiversity or other environmental enhancement schemes.

It is important to note that these are not planning applications and therefore not sites that are up for consideration or development within the short term.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

We now have a dedicated Three Peaks Area Ranger who is available on a part-time basis (50%).

Work is currently underway on a new management plan for the park. The 1st consultation that has been drawn up has received over 1,000 responses (over 50% of which came from people who lived or worked in the National Park).

At the end of March the Park unfortunately lost the services of the ranger who was looking after the rights of way in the area, recruitment is now well under way for a successor.

The works on the rights of way are carried out under delegated authority from the relevant local authority, despite a request to North Yorkshire Council no funding for these activities has been forthcoming, it has been from Westmoreland & Furness and also Cumbria. In other national parks the responsibility has been passed back to the local authority in such circumstances, however this is not something that YDNPA is proposing at the current point in time.

Police Reports

MONTH	Incidents	Vehicle/Road related	Theft / Fraud	Domestic /Civil	Abandoned Calls / False Alarms	Unwanted Calls	Wildlife / person	Other Force
Apr	9	5	2		1	1		
May	5	1	1		1		2	
Jun	11	2		2	3		2	2
Jul	12	5	1	2	4			
Aug	5	3				1		1
Sep	7	2					5	
Oct	4	1			1		2	
Nov	2	1					1	
Dec	4	1					3	
Jan	7	1	1				5	
Feb	7	3					3	1
Mar	3		1	1	1			
	76	25	6	5	11	2	23	4

Cave Rescue Organisation 2023 report

The team responded to 89 incidents along with 13 alerts. A breakdown of the incidents includes:

- 4 Underground incidents
- 67 Surface incidents
- 10 Animal incidents (5 underground/5 surface)
- 8 'local incidents' (team expertise has been used to help 'other' situations)
- 13 alerts (overdue party, however the team does not respond)

Almost 50% of the surface incidents are to slips and trips resulting in lower leg injuries. Incident hot spots include Ingleton waterfalls, Malham cove and the 3 Peaks.

This required over 2800 volunteer hours to resolve these incidents and does not account for the many volunteer hours behind the scenes to ensure that the team is able to provide such a response. Residents will be familiar with the regular Wednesday evening attendance at the depot to ensure the team is prepared.

The team remains nonjudgmental regarding incidents and will provide advice and education as necessary to those affected in an incident.

In 2023 the total expenditure was £67000. As a volunteer team fundraising is therefore a significant part of the time dedicated by team members and the team is extremely grateful for the donations made.

The team is undergoing a review of its current vehicles as one of the land rovers needs to be replaced and is likely to incur a significant financial spend.

Currently a team video is being completed for social media to highlight the work undertaken by the team.

The annual CRO challenge will take place on Saturday 18th May, this is a significant fund-raising event for the team.

Finally, the team would like to extend a special thank you to you, the residents for your continued support and patience particular during those unsociable hours when the team has responded to an incident. To the land owners who continue to support the team by allowing vehicle access in emergency situations.

You are all very welcome to come and visit the depot

Clapham cum Newby Village Hall

Over the past few years, the hall team has been working hard to try to get the facility onto a firmer footing, both financially and in terms of governance. These initiatives are now beginning to pay off.

In terms of governance, we have a committee which widely represents the community with policies and procedures in keeping with those required by a charitable organisation. We have updated the day-to-day management, introducing a new web presence which both advertises the hall and its facilities more widely and allows prospective hirers to make bookings online. We have also started to use a new accounts software which has been integrated with the new online booking system. This has had the benefits of increasing hall usage (and thus income) whilst, at the same time, reducing the workload for those responsible for its day-to-day management, particularly for the bookings secretary and the treasurer.

As a result the hall is increasingly busy. This April, for example, the hall was in use in some way or another for 23 of the possible 30 days and for May we already have bookings for 27 of the possible

31 days - the building is busy. The increased usage obviously drives up our energy costs but these are being more than met by income from bookings meaning that we remain financially secure, even excluding income from other sources such as fundraisers. This income allows us to keep the building in good repair and also to reinvest in some of the facilities we have available. The hall is also the custodian of the tennis court and, this year, we are proposing to bring that facility more under the committee's wings by opening that up for online bookings too.

In summary, the hall is currently well placed for being able to support the community by offering a facility and a service in the years ahead

Clapham Newsletter Group

The newsletter is a community initiative which shares news, announcements and items of interest. It is funded mainly from advertising revenue, sponsorship, and fundraising events. The publication relies on volunteers to get it together and distributed. The intention is that it's both 'for the community' and 'by the community', so we rely on submissions from readers and the village institutions which make up our community.

As we have reported in the past

There is a committee which includes, an Editorial team, Proof readers, Advertising administrator, Writers, Illustrators and a Distribution squad, along with the predictable roles of Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Last year some parishioners appreciated our description of the logistical and near professional time line for the next edition at that AGM We will not repeat this but if anyone did not hear, has forgotten or is interested any member of the committee would be willing to share those details.

The committee, which is always ready to welcome new volunteers is also a micro mutual social entity. We host meetings informally in each other's homes where, as well as conducting the business, we drink tea & coffee and sample home baking. We have an annual get-together in the depths of winter to wine and dine, at our own expense, in local restaurants (usually an advertiser's establishment) and we extend our hospitality to all, in the form of an autumn coffee morning. This year it will be Saturday 2nd November please put that date in your diary now.

There would be no Clapham & District Newsletter without the community's support and involvement; many of you will be among those who contribute articles, pictures and information for publication. We would especially like to thank our regular contributors whose bimonthly prose is avidly anticipated by various fan clubs within the parish, for example: the naturalists are eager to compare their own observations with Brian Christian's in his 'Nature Note's, the spiritual adherents are anxious to check John Davie's 'Church News' and the off-come-domes are in suspense to align their novel calendar with the indigenous pastoral scene as described in each issue by John Dawson

There are also advertisers who provide the major financial backing and we hope that the community will reward them with their patronage. Especially the 'sponsors' of the colour printing of each edition.

The group is especially grateful for support from the Parish Council,

We also feel indebted to the 'Clapham, North Yorkshire' website, especially for making the archive of all past editions available 'on-line'. There is also appreciation for the efforts of our printers who also advertise within the pages.

During the past year copy has reported about occasions in village life, an accrual of history, 'for the record'....

.....Do dip into the archive and acknowledge and enjoy.

.....Thank you for mutually associating and listening

There is a constitution which guides our activities and governance. To these ends thus:

The aims of the Group are to produce a regular newsletter of local interest, every two months, for Clapham & District residents.

In furtherance of these aims the Group will also:-

Undertake to make new residents welcome, encourage them to become involved and recognise that they are welcome and needed.

Make residents aware of all relevant matters affecting the Parish.

Encourage residents to use their votes in the election of Parish & District Councillors.

Co-operate in and promote any agreed scheme for the moral, cultural and physical well-being of the residents of the Parish.

St Matthew's Church Keasden

2023 was significant for St Matthew's Church Keasden as it was our 150th anniversary. The Church Council agreed to mark this milestone in a number of ways.

Our **New Year's Day walk** saw the launch of the **150 Grand Draw**, This Grand Draw was generously sponsored by the F&K Estate and aided by local businesses. The funds raised have formed part of a 150 Legacy Fund to be used to improve facilities at St Matthew's for the benefit of the whole community.

In **May**, with great support from the local community, the church hosted a **150 Keasden Exhibition**. Over 200 visitors viewed the range of artefacts on display. The Exhibition closed with the annual Lambing Service which was enjoyed by all.

June saw St Matthew's Church joining with **Newby Methodist Church** to mark our joint 150 celebrations with a walk from Keasden to Newby.

In **July**, we were able to hold a **Summer Barbecue and Walk** at Keasden Head Farm. Over 70 guests enjoyed the hospitality and live musical entertainment.

September saw the culmination of much hard work. The church hosted a **150 Celebration Supper** at Eldroth Hall. Guests from Keasden and further afield packed the hall for an evening of excellent food, entertainment and the climax of the Keasden **150 Grand Draw**. The following day Sunday, 24 September a service led by Rt. Revd. Nick Baines, Lord Bishop of Leeds was followed by the **consecration of our New Burial Ground**. The consecration means that burials can now take place at the new ground and follows five years of hard work by the Church Council. The church was gifted the land by the Cornthwaite family and many generous offers of support have made the project possible. The church service celebrated 150 years almost to the day since the first service was held at St Matthew's. The Lord Bishop reflected on the many events over the years that have shaped the lives of the church and people of Keasden.

In addition to all these special events, the church continued to provide regular services, well-supported community events and raise funds so that the church - the only community building - remains at the heart of Keasden.

Clapham Community Shop Ltd

The shop is continuing to weather the inflationary storms, although it is an on-going battle to achieve the right balance between keeping our heads above water and holding pricing at reasonable levels. Much of our success in doing this is due to Helen who continues to run the shop brilliantly, to our treasurer Jill, who keeps us all on top of the numbers, and to our amazing team of staff and volunteers.

We currently have 40 volunteers on the roll, which includes two new joiners. We've said goodbye and thanks to John and Anne Norris who have been volunteers for many years and have now moved to another area, and also to John Elphinstone who has retired as one of our long-standing volunteers.

Sadly two of our team have died in the last year: Margaret Harrison our long-serving sandwich maker, who died in August, and Kathy Hall who as a volunteer made such a huge contribution to the shop and who died in December. We miss them both.

We are always hoping to welcome more new volunteers to join our team - both in the shop, and also for the myriad ad hoc tasks that come up from time to time. Specifically, we currently need a morning baker to join the rota for a few hours in the morning one day a week. If you are even mildly interested in helping in one way or another then Helen is always happy to have an informal chat. And if anyone is interested in joining the management committee, then we would love to hear from you.

You will have seen that the bike is back outside the shop following its winter hibernation, and on the theme of improving the shop's (and hence village's) 'kerb appeal', we are in the process of replacing our shop awning.

There have been various other improvements to the shop in the last year such as sprucing up the paintwork, and on an environmental theme, we ran an initiative during the winter to loan out radiator keys to anyone who needs them.

We continue to source as much as possible from local suppliers. A recent addition being the fresh baked cheese scones we get in each Thursday. And we now have a map up in the shop, drawn by James Innerdale, showing the locations of many of these suppliers.

We also regularly refresh our range of gifts and greetings cards – again, many being locally made. So if you've not been in for a while, come and see us and help support our local community.

Looking forward, it will be the shop's 10th birthday in 2025, so look out for celebrations to do with that.

St. James' Church, Clapham

The church has delivered its usual sequence of services throughout the year. Most of these followed the traditional pattern with Holy Communion. However, we have also had special services to celebrate the various church festivals, including Christingle and Carol Services and special services at Easter, Harvest and Remembrance. One initiative which has proved to be very successful has been a monthly 'Easy Church' service – a short, uncomplicated half hour's worship – no previous church experience needed! And, of course, we must not forget Church in the Pub which continues to be very popular. We are really pleased to work closely with Newby Chapel on a number of these occasions and look forward to doing so in the future. Numbers are small but enthusiasm is not lacking!

This is perhaps best illustrated by the range of activities which we run during the year. They go under the heading of 'fundraising'. However, our priority is that they should be FUN, providing opportunities for people to get together and enjoy one another's company. Activities range from:

- Coffee mornings in the winter months.
- The Parish Fete, along with Keasden Church.
- An evening of Poetry and Prose with contributions from the audience.
- An organ and accordion concert.
- Jazz and Afternoon Tea.
- Work with Clapham Village Hall and Yorkshire Rural Arts to bring a varied programme of activities, including pantomime, to the village.

The church building is, of course, a significant focus in whatever we do. We know that it is greatly appreciated by visitors and residents alike as being somewhere that people can find peace 7 days a week – we know because they tell us in their comments in the Visitors' Book. Over the last year, apart from the usual annual maintenance we have also had an Energy Audit and, as a result, under pew heating has been installed in the main body of the church. In addition, we planned to remove the pews from the north aisle, replace the floor, carpet the area and install new tables and chairs to create a more comfortable area both for church activities and visitors. At the time of reading this report that work has largely been completed. We appreciate the support we have received from the Diocese of Leeds, the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust, the Friends of Clapham Church and Settle Rotary Club which has enable this re-ordering to take place.

The next Quinquennial Inspection is due to take place during the early part of 2024 and expectations are it will highlight necessary repairs to the church roof.

There have been ongoing discussions about the maintenance of the Station Road cemetery and we have been very grateful for the work of volunteers here. Following much discussion the Parochial Church Council has decided to employ a contractor to take on straightforward maintenance as well as grass cutting. It is intended to attempt to rewild the less visited parts of the Cemetery, only cutting the grass twice a year, to allow wildflowers to blossom and seed and provide greater biodiversity. The other areas will be maintained in line with the wishes of the relatives of those buried in these areas.

Clapham AgeUK Group

The Clapham AgeUK Group meets monthly in the Village Hall. We begin at 10.30 a.m. with coffee and biscuits (of course!) and a discussion on where we might go on the trip the following Thursday, when we have the use of the AgeUK minibus, with a driver, to go for a day out to a destination of our choice. After that we either have a speaker or an activity which takes us up to lunchtime. The meal is always two courses with a choice of vegetarian or meat/fish and is always delicious, thanks to our wonderful volunteer cook Lorraine Wildman. This group is particularly appreciated by members who live alone and often have no transport of their own. We aim to provide activities and companionship, with access to individual advice from the office in Settle when necessary. It is very much appreciated by all our members and is a very useful contact. We are thankful that this service is available and that we are able to meet in our comfortable and well-equipped village hall.

Clapham Bell Ringers

Clapham Bell Ringers began the year on a high note, ringing the bells to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. We have rung regularly for at least three services per month, and on Mondays we continue to hold our practice. People like to visit the Dales and ringers are no exception, and over the past year we have welcomed six bands of visiting ringers, to enjoy our tuneful bells.

Taylor's Bell Foundry from Loughborough have visited this year to service the bells, and currently, there are no problems with the bells. We have had jackdaws nesting in the tower, and once the Jackdaws had abandoned their nests, our Steeple Keeper got busy spring cleaning in the belfry, repairing or replacing the damaged netting and the screen wires. We are now considering installing Swift Boxes in the tower, with liaison and advice from RSPB.

Despite teaching four new ringers since 2022, the band remains small as some of our more senior ringers have been taking a step back, and so we are always on the look out for new recruits. Notwithstanding this, the band are embracing the challenge and we are happy to ring whenever our services are required.

Ingleborough Estate

Property

- All residential and commercial properties are currently occupied and there continues to be a high demand for rental cottages in the village.
- Nick Armstrong trading as 'Badger in the Wall' has taken on the tenancy of Home Barn. He is a local artist who will be showcasing his work along with other local amateur artists and plans to host themed exhibitions throughout the year. His first opening weekend was the bank holiday weekend at the beginning of May and was a great success.
- The Estate continues to invest in property upgrades and improvement/refurbishments works as funds allow. The Old Post (Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust Building) was re-roofed last year and there are a number of other works planned to residential properties and agricultural farm buildings this coming summer.

Environmental and Woodland

- Required thinning work in the Estate's main woodland block Thwaites, Spring Valley and Twenty Acre, is currently taking place and should be complete end of June/early July. The works are a requirement as part of the Estate's woodland management plan with the Forestry Commission and the removal of dead and unsafe trees (predominantly caused by Ash die back). Re-planting has already commenced in some areas with the aim to retain a healthy and sustainable woodland.
- The Estate continues to provide access and support for a variety of environmental surveys including curlew surveys being led by Clapham Curlew Cluster in conjunction with the RSPB.
- The Management Team continues to have a good relationship with Natural England and the National Parks; working closely and being involved in their various schemes.
- We are currently working closely with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and several other landowners, regarding a large Landscape Recovery Scheme which will be centred around habitat restoration and changing land management plans to help recover three target species (Curlew, Black Grouse and Ring Ouzel). We are currently in the development stage, with roll out planned later in 2025.
- In conjunction with YDMT, the Parish Council and the Sustainability Group, a new community tree growing scheme will commence later this summer at a site adjacent to the existing community allotments. Trees will be grown to approximately 2'ft in height and grown in table planters. The project is voluntary led, and the trees will be used in local planting schemes.

Farrer Family Trust - Charitable Donations

- Last year the Estate's charitable trust donated to a number of local charities and organisations including Clapham and Austwick Brownies, Cave Rescue Organisation, YDMT, Clapham and Austwick Play Park, Friends of Saint James Church, the Village Hall and Newsletter, as well as other larger organisations including St James Hospice Lancaster and Yorkshire and Northwest Air Ambulances services.
- Looking ahead, conversations are already taking place with the Farming Community Network Group and local Young Farmers Club regarding financial support this year.

Recreation. Tourism and Access

- Cave Building Extension – planning was granted for extending and repairing the building at the entrance to Ingleborough Cave. The works will make a much-needed improvement to the space, provide additional inside shelter, upgrade welfare facilities and enhance disability access for visitors. A number of school tours, groups from disadvantaged backgrounds and Bendrigg Trust (a charitable organisation for the disabled) along with the YDMT, all visit on an annual basis so will be beneficial to them. Works will commence in September post peak season.
- Dam Viewing Platform - the dam viewing platform at the Lake was opened by the High Sheriff of NYCC in March and is a great addition to the Nature Trail. The new location offers members of the public and local residents stunning views up the Lake and to the Scars beyond, and is very quiet and peaceful space to stop.
- The Estate continue to provide access for recreational activities including Harrogate Army Foundation College Training events and activities and Potholing Clubs and organized events such as Austwick Amble Fell Race, Orienteering and Duke of Edinburgh camps and expeditions.

CLAPHAM SUSTAINABILITY GROUP - CSG

CURLEW PROJECT. The Clapham Curlew Cluster is now entering its third year with a further increase in surveyors and participating farms. A member of CSG, artist Sarah Smith and a colleague, visited primary schools in Settle and Kirkby Malham to work with the children on Curlew artworks which contributed to 'Cry of the Curlew' exhibition shown at The Hawes Countryside Museum before it was moved on to Kirkby Malham and very soon Clapham Church. The Folly will be showing the exhibition next year.

INFRA RED CAMERA. With the help of funding from Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust a 'top of the range' Infra Red Camera has been offered to local residents to help establishing where insulation work is most needed in their homes.

GIVE AND TAKE. We held another successful Give and Take in October 2023. Success is always measured on how much is left at the end of the event for transportation to Household Waste. UK

SHARED PROSPERITY FUND. Although successful in our pre-application for a decarbonisation audit, as yet, North Yorkshire County Council have been unable to provide us the services of a specialist to help us move forward.

NORTH YORKSHIRE CLIMATE COALITION The group, to which CSG belong, now has some 37 members across the area of NYCC. The aim of the group is to influence policy makers ensuring climate action is taken by the Authority, recently focusing on views of the mayoral candidates for the region.

SWIFTS With the help of money from the Quarry Fund, administered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park, we were able to hold a popular Swift event in the village hall, install 22 Swift boxes around the village and give out some Swift bird callers.

PARISH FETE Once again, we were very pleased to be invited to have a stall at St. James Church in July for their annual Parish Fete.

TREE SEED NURSERY. The Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust plans to have a seed nursery in Clapham and have asked the CSG to participate in the venture. The tree seeds will be collected from species in the local area and planted in specially designed seed boxes until germination occurs.

HOME UPGRADE GRANT (HUG2) Once again we were keen to promote the government's relaunch of this grant that appeared to have such a meagre uptake on its first introduction. To date we have not been informed of any applicants.

Friends of Clapham Station

We continue to maintain the planting and leaflets on Clapham Railway Station and liaise with Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users Group (LASRUG).

Each season the four half barrel displays are refreshed with appropriate seasonal planting, spring bulbs and perennials and bedding plants in the summer. The hoppers are also filled with the Clapham Information leaflet. We also speak to LASRUG about issues affecting the Station and the Bentham Line in general.

This year we were able to speak to the surveyor conducting the annual inspection of the Station. His attention was drawn to the state of the overbridge, the peeling paint and the condition of the steps. The lack of disabled access to the Lancaster platform (Platform 2) was also pointed out. Current issues are the closure of the shelter on platform 2 requirement to replace some of the flower barrels and the hoppers and the use of the waste sack by dog walkers to dump poo bags. LASRUG are hoping to provide replacement barrels in the near future.

Recently some of the Platform 2 boarding was replaced because of rotten wood. The timbers below the platform have been inspected and Network Rail are now looking at ways of supporting the shelter area of the platform.

The present timetable will continue until December 2024; 8 trains each way Monday to Saturday and 5 each way on Sunday. Passenger numbers continue to rise after covid. The rural stations are performing best and have now exceeded pre-covid levels.

Clapham Lecture Group

The lecture group continues to meet for a series of 10 lectures on Tuesday evenings during the "autumn term". The range of topics is wide and, often, led by requests from attendees – with subjects including local and less local history, natural history, travel, science and astronomy. Last season we had a "mini-series" about the history of Lancaster Castle and a number of "one-offs" including a very popular one on the history and working of Clapham's railway station presented by Colin Price. The group has about two dozen subscribers who pay an up-front fee for the whole series but also welcomes attendance at individual lectures on payment of an "on the night" fee.

In addition to the above, the group holds its AGM during the summer and runs an optional "field trip" to further explore one of the subjects covered in the preceding season – this year it is planned for the group to visit Lancaster Castle for a guided tour. At the upcoming AGM, our long-serving secretary Jeanne Carr has indicated her wish to retire from the post so we will be electing a replacement.

The group is well placed financially so currently sees no reason why its activities cannot continue beyond the season ahead.

Clapham Development Association

3 maps have been placed around the village which have been well received by residents and tourists alike. A registry of services has been developed to be passed to new residents and is now available to view on the Clapham Village Website (all feedback is most welcome). An article relating to this will be in the next copy of the village newsletter.