



Number 149, June 2024

Birthday bells



May 10 '24

Clapham Newsletter,
I would like to thank everyone who made my ninetieth birthday such a memorable occasion; not least the bell ringers who rang a peal in commemoration. I had loads of cards, some of which didn't bother to add their address so I can't thank them personally.
It was also the day Simon's cows escaped. When the herd came galloping up the street I assumed this was just another imaginative way of celebrating the occasion.
Thank you all, Rupert and I are very lucky to be part of so loving a village.
Alan Bennett.

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Alan Bennett

Welcome and newsletter information

Welcome to the June edition of the Clapham and district newsletter. This edition is filled with local news which we hope is interesting and useful. We thank all those who have contributed articles, pictures and advertisements to make this edition an informative read.

The August edition will be our 150th - so if you want to help us celebrate this milestone let us have your articles by 20 July at the latest.

We look forward to receiving them.

The Newsletter Committee



August 2024 - 150th edition

Deadline date: 20 July

Email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Editions are produced February, April, June, August, October & December. Next issue: **August 2024. Deadline: 20 July.** Please note that we reserve the right to edit copy, or to refuse to publish submissions, and that the Newsletter Committee's decision on such matters is final.

Articles

Articles should be c250 words and, if possible, accompanied by a high resolution photo (at least 300 dpi).

Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Advertising and Sponsorship

Advertising rates start from c£11. We print in colour. We would love to hear from you if you, or your business, would like to advertise or sponsor colour printing.

Contact Judith: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Distribution

If the printed edition is usually delivered to your home and you haven't received a copy by 5th of the publication month, please collect a copy from one of our distribution points: Clapham Village Store, the porch at St. James' Church Clapham, the porch at St. Matthew's Church Keasden, Newby Methodist Church. Distribution points will have copies at the beginning of every publication month.

If you would like to help with distribution – please get in touch.

Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

The Newsletter is also available online on the village website, see: <https://claphamyorkshire.co.uk>

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Summertime



By the end of May the lambs are the equivalent of schoolchildren. They get up to mischief such as popping under gates, or through the tiniest of holes in a hedge, being completely unable to find their own way back to mum. She offers help by running up and down the other side of the hedge and panicking at the top of her voice until help arrives in the form of a shepherd. Catching lambs to return them to mum is like catching rabbits, time consuming, difficult, and interspersed with bad language.

We have also had two sets of twins of the bovine variety in recent weeks which is unusual for us. Both were unexpected as they were not picked up at the pregnancy scanning stage which is done at about five weeks. Myself and the vet were probably talking cricket instead of looking for an unlikely second calf.

The bull and I are in charge of getting cows "with child" and the twins were mine. The vet thought I could possibly be getting more fertile as I get older. This is a concern on many fronts, not least because I am not sure the vet has a proper understanding of how artificial insemination works, but he is right about one thing, I have had hold of a cervix or two in my time.

All the cattle are out by the middle of May. It takes us about two weeks to get everyone out as they are dispersed around the farm depending on what stage of their career they are at. Like trains, they need to be in the right place at the right time.

About a quarter of our herd goes "dry" as the grazing season starts. Dry, refers to a cow on her annual two-month holiday, a bit like being a schoolteacher. Having fewer cows to milk is also a holiday for the peasant farmer, as the winter boiler suit is tossed aside with gay abandon and sleeves are rolled up to last year's tan line. It might even involve a sock changing ceremony, although this would normally wait until after hay time as the feet are due a wash at that point, whether they need it or not.

By early June we are well into the summer season with grass, nettles and thistles growing in a rampant manner. Already we are turning our thoughts to the great grass harvest in order to fill the stores with hay and silage that will see us through next winter. To make grass into winter fodder, even a small farm such as Bleak Bank needs to have some kind of machinery. Ours is antiquated and breaks at the first sign of being attached to a tractor.

Generally, farms have some form of machinery, some of it is fixed and some is portable. Eventually the fixed machinery rattles loose and stops working, and the portable machinery stops being portable and stops working. In my experience farms fall into two categories, those that must own every piece of equipment they may ever need and even some they may never need. The others have very little machinery and rely on contractors being able to help out with very modern up to date kit that is packed to the rafters with technology. The way the contractors pay for this cutting-edge gear is by being devoted to work, usually day and night. I am not sure why they do it, but I am glad they do ...

John Dawson

Spring Saunter



*The beautiful scenery enjoyed by those on the Keasden Spring Saunter
Photo: Jules Drummond-Hay*



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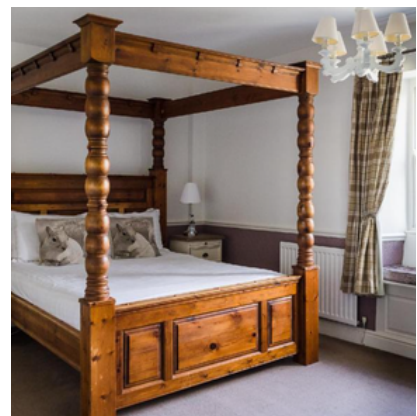
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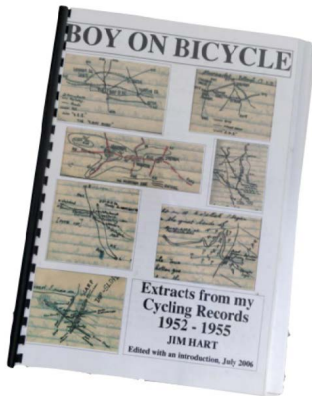
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Church news

John's Notes: Boy on bicycle



Having recently moved house I've decluttered: significantly shrinking my book collection, and jettisoning lots of extraneous memorabilia collected over the years. But there is one large box, stuffed full of paperwork, which has travelled with me for many years, unopened, and now it's challenging me again to do something with it. It is all that physically remains with me of

my old friend and mentor Jim Hart, an ex-town planner, urban missionary, motorcyclist and founder of the Hunts Cross Cycling Group, through which he shared his passion for cycling and travel with a generation of boys, some of whom came to regard Jim as a key role model in their lives, as I did.

Suffolk-born Jim spent his teenage years in the early 1950s cycling through much of the country, in all sorts of weathers, often riding through the night with no lights, driven by an urge to explore which never left him. He recorded each day's journey in detail, and in later years Jim revisited these teenage diaries, added commentary on them, and self-published (photocopied and comb-bound) 'Boy on Bicycle: Extracts from my Cycling Records 1952-1955'.

I think it's a gem of social and geographical history (life on the road in the fifties) and a series of wry and at times amusing exchanges between the boy Jim and adult Jim. Also inside the box are many other fascinating files recording cycling group European trips and Jim's papers theorising about working with teenagers and engaging with the natural and built environment.

After Jim died in 2009, I promised some of the ex-members of the Hunts Cross Cycling Group that I'd do what I could to honour his memory and his work by compiling and publishing those writings which he'd entrusted to me, with any proceeds going to youth cycling projects. Over the years Jim had introduced me to many of the off-the-beaten-track wonders of our area - Bowland through the western Dales and Cumbria - as we explored, by car, motorbike and on foot, a route he called the 'Alternative M6' - never using the motorway but roaming the minor roads which weave around and nearby it.

It feels like, as I've returned to the scene of such great learning, the time is right to reopen that box and try to deliver on that promise.

*Revd John Davies
Beckfield House
Cross Haw Lane
Clapham
Lancaster
LA2 8DZ
01524 805928
john.davies@leeds.anglican.org*

Anglican services

June

2nd: Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Easy Evening Church

9th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden

16th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

23rd: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 7.00 Keasden Evening Service

30th: 10.30 Austwick Benefice Holy Communion

July

7th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Easy Evening Church

14th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden

21st: Holy Communion 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

28th: Holy Communion 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Short Clapham Service for 'The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever'; 7.00 Keasden Evening Service

Each Wednesday:

10.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

Our services take place on:

the first Sunday of the month - Easy Evening Church at 6.30pm. No previous church experience necessary, pop along, all are welcome;

the second Sunday of the month at 11am, and the fourth Sunday of the month at 2pm.

For further information contact:

Revd Tim Broughton, Tel: 01729 554006 or

Email: tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Sunday Services 11am & 6.30pm. Junior Service 10am.

Monday at 6.30pm Prayer meeting.

Tuesday Bible study (check Facebook or website).

1st Thursday of the month at 2pm Thursday Friends.

Friday at 9.30am Clapham Tots.

Every other Friday at 6pm Kmotion, at 7.30pm Encounter. Coffee, Cake & Chat & Foodbank drop off 15th June & 20th July.

Sportsreach Football & Netball 31st July - 4th August.

Please see our Facebook page or website for updates.

www.bethelchapelclapham.org

Catholic Church - Bentham and Settle

St Boniface, Robin Lane, Bentham, LA2 7AB

Usual service times: Sun: 9:15am, Wed & Fri: 10:00am.

St Mary & St Michael's, Tillman Close, Settle, BD24 9RA

Usual service times: Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm.

Sun: 11:15am, Tues & Thurs: 10:00 am.

Parish Priest: Father Frank Smith, Phone: 01729 822525

Email: stboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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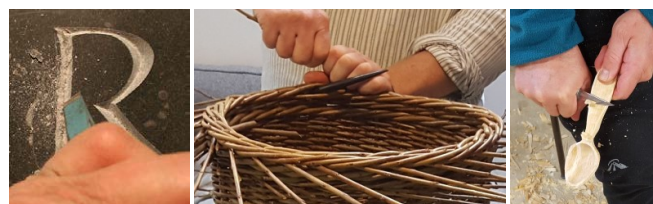
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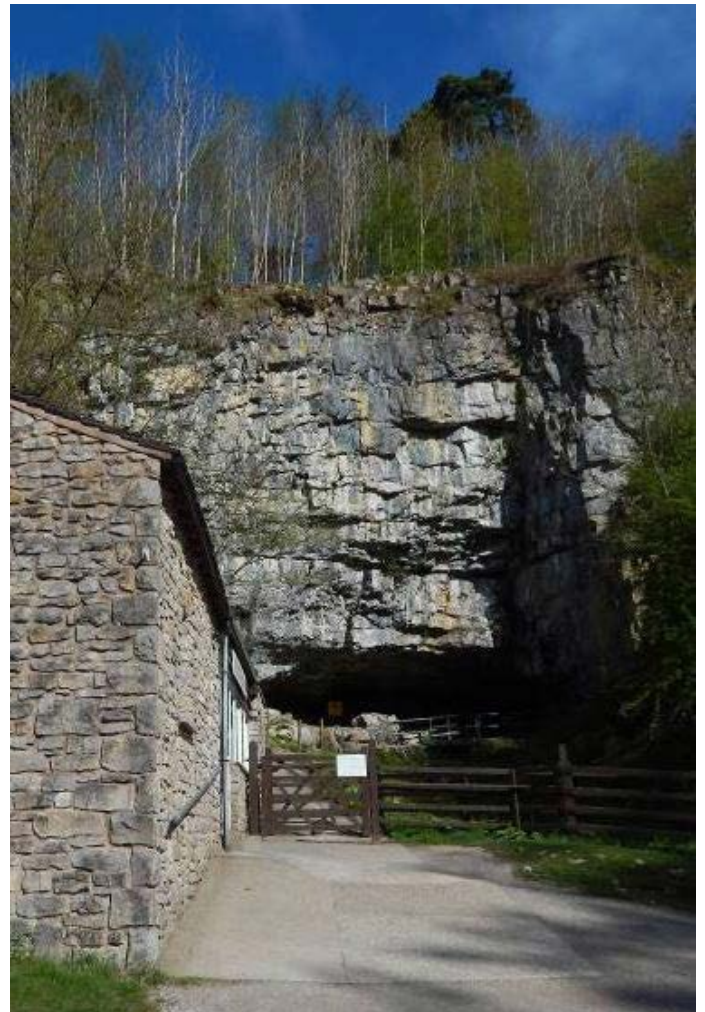
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Then and Now



Whilst the entrance to Ingleborough Cave probably hasn't changed much for thousands of years, the view of it nowadays is dominated by its "ticket office" – not surprising when one considers that it is one of Britain's best show caves. The current ticket office replaced an earlier "tin shack" one that was situated further from the cave mouth, between the track and the beck.

The cave was formerly known as Clapdale Great Cave or Clapham Cave, only really becoming Ingleborough Cave to match the name of the estate on which it stands. When first explored, it didn't go very far: just 50 metres in you

encountered a deep, cold lake formed by water ponded against a stalagmite barrier. In 1837, following a massive flood, the cave was pushed beyond this point by Matthew and James Farrer after estate workers had breached the dam. An entry of 11th October of that year in *The Cave Book* – the written record of exploration kept by James Farrer – reads: "James, M.T.F. and Encombe, accompanied by Wm. Hind passed through the shallow waterfall and reached the deep water (which we now know as Lake Avernus) at the distance of 940 yards from the Entrance Gate. Here James swam with a rope attached."

Andy Scott

Parish Fete – Saturday, 27th July

Clapham and Keasden churches are planning for the Parish Fete which will take place on Saturday, 27th July between 10am and 2.30pm in Clapham church and churchyard.



There will be a variety of stalls and activities plus plenty of chance to meet friends and neighbours.

Bacon butties, teas, coffees and delicious cakes.
It will all culminate in the Duck Race at 2.00pm.

More details to come but get the date in your diary.

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Steam update

There is still very little in the way of steam activity through the station though we are occasionally seeing locos returning to Carnforth after coming off Settle and Carlisle line tours at Hellifield. Nearly all of these are either empty stock or just the loco plus a supporting coach – and inevitably running tender first.

We did have one passenger carrying service through when, back in mid-April, the “Great Britain XVI” steam tour passed through.

The “Great Britain” is now a regular on the UK’s steam-tour itinerary, now in its 16th year. It’s a week-long extravaganza as passengers (some of whom must surely have taken out a mortgage to pay for it!) are taken on a trip from London to northern Scotland, back through Wales to the south-west, and then return whence they started, overnighing in hotels along the way.

Different engines are used for many of the legs so adding to the interest. In the past, the circuit has gone from London to Scotland up along the east coast route and back

down along the west coast one but, this year, it was changed to include a run over the Settle & Carlisle line which is where we came in, as the tour made its way from Lancaster to Hellifield. Inevitably, though, the steam loco – 34067 *Tangmere* for this leg – was on the rear of the train and facing backwards!

One loco it would be good to see again this year is 60532 *Blue Peter*. This is the engine that was subject to a campaign for restoration undertaken by the BBC children’s TV programme of the same name, culminating in its unveiling to a crowd of supposedly 60,000 in 1971.

However, in 1994, it suffered a catastrophic failure which resulted in it being withdrawn for

significant repairs and, ultimately, its mainline certificate expired in 2001.

In March this year it returned to steam for the first time 23 years on and is currently undertaking a series of test runs.

Next stop Clapham? One can only hope!

Andy Scott



LNER Class A2 60532 *Blue Peter* during running-in on the Severn Valley Railway.
Photo: B Ward

A Month of Music in June in Clapham

Saturday June 15th
St. James' Church, 7.30pm
Benjamin Saunders,
Concert Organist
With Refreshments.
Tickets £10 from Clapham Village Shop
and on the door

Saturday June 22nd
St. James' Church, 7.30pm
Craven Accordion
Orchestra
With Refreshments.
Tickets £10 from Clapham Village Shop
and on the door

Saturday June 29th
Clapham Village Hall, doors open 7 pm for 7.30
Peter Harrison and Julia Elliott:
Branwell's Flute
and Hardy's Hornpipe
With a Bar.
Tickets £10 from Clapham Village Shop
and on the door

Thank you for your support



Recently, St Matthew’s Church held a coffee morning in Clapham Village Hall. Bacon butties, sausage sarnies and delicious cakes were enjoyed by all plus there was a fantastic array of raffle prizes. Thank you to everyone who cooked, baked, donated prizes and came along on the day. Your support was much appreciated.

Angela Peach

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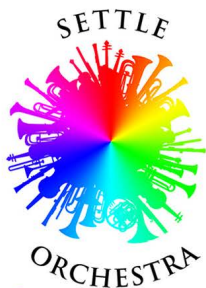
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Summer Concert

Sat 22nd June, 7.30pm
Settle Parish Church

Sat 29th June, 7.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

Mozart

Overture, 'The Impresario'

R Strauss

Horn Concerto No.1

Soloist - Will Padfield

Beethoven

Symphony No.7

Conductor - Maca Barbosa

Leader - Anne Heaton

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Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of Wednesday 17th April with a representative of the Sustainability Group and one further member of the public in attendance.

The Council was asked to consider the proposed changes to the 'Home to School' Bus service that recommends that catchment as an eligibility criterion in the school transport policy be withdrawn. It was resolved that the clerk would write a letter to North Yorkshire Council (NYC) opposing the proposal and that this would be copied to Julian Smith MP and also to David Ireton (our NYC Councillor).

A review of the full year spend was undertaken with a full year overspend to budget of £169 being reported. There were three principal components to this: a £523 upside of additional VAT reclaimed relating to the prior year, offset by a £565 grant repayment of unspent monies for the Neighbourhood Plan production, and £307 overspend on maintenance work relating to the guttering work on the highways in the vicinity of St. Matthew's church, Keasden. This last item was not included in our budget and was a gross cost of £3,158, we had received grants of £2,700 against the spend and have an outstanding VAT claim of £526 relating to this that will be received in April.



The issue of parking in Clapham had been tabled for discussion. The currently utilised yellow bollards being seen as somewhat at odds with the scenic look of the village. The Council concluded that prior to the introduction of the bollards parking had been a regular issue for discussion, but since their introduction this was the first discussion there had been.

Whilst the Council accepted that the bollards may not be to everyone's aesthetic tastes, they were actually very effective and other proposed solutions would have potential unintended consequences or simply fail to be as effective.

The Clerk had also been approached by a Newby resident regarding the state of the tracks across Newby Green. The question was being asked to determine which organisation was responsible for track repairs. Since the land was owned by the Ingleborough Estate, did responsibility for repair reside with them? This query was passed to the Estate office who have subsequently confirmed that the Estate has no legal responsibility for repairs. As such Newby residents affected by the tracks will be looking at options to improve the condition of the tracks in due course.

The Parish Council met on the evening of 15th May. Present, besides Parish Councillors, were thirteen members of the public.

Two meetings were held on this occasion: the **Annual Parish Meeting**, followed immediately by the **ordinary meeting** of the Council.

The Chairman provided a report on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year. Reports were also received from our NYC Councillor, followed by reports from representatives of various groups and organisations active within the parish. In no particular order, the groups represented in person were:

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, St. James' Church Clapham, St. Matthew's Church Keasden, St. James' Church Bell Ringers, Ingleborough Estate, the Cave Rescue Organisation, Clapham Village Store, Clapham cum Newby Village Hall, Age UK (Clapham Group), the Clapham Development Association and Clapham & District Newsletter. Written reports from the Friends of Clapham Station, the Lecture Group and the Sustainability Group were also read to the meeting.

Full details appear in the minutes of the meeting which are published on the website <https://bit.ly/parish-council>

The issue of Thwaite Lane being turned into a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) has now reached the point for the Secretary of State to review. The Council, in conjunction with Ingleborough Estate had sent a response detailing the basis of our objections. One item we had raised was that any visit to the site should be accompanied by a member of the council. We had received a response stating that this would only be possible if all interested parties attended the visit and if any one party was unable to attend then no other parties could attend. On that basis the decision was taken to remove that request as it appeared to make matters overly complex.

The Neighbourhood Plan had received a number of questions from the external examination and Cllr Sheridan had provided the Councillors with a proposed response to them. It was agreed that the response be sent, and we would hopefully now be nearing the end of the process.

The Council had been approached by Settle Beavers who had created some signs urging individuals to clean up after their dogs for their community badge. Since a number of the Beavers live in Clapham they asked if we would like to have a number of signs erected in the village. The Council agreed this would be a good idea, so please do look out for these new signs in due course.

For further information about Clapham cum Newby Parish Council and full meeting minutes, please visit: <https://bit.ly/parish-council>

Parish Council meetings are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in Clapham Village Hall. The next meetings will be held on **Wednesday 19th June & Wednesday 17th July**. The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Steve Culver can be contacted on: Telephone: 015242 51862 or Email: parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com

Enjoy the new look church!

After a winter of activity in and around St James' Church, there is a fresh new look to the building: now even better able to offer welcome and interest to all who visit.



The North Aisle (the side of the church between the bookstall and the organ) is now a nicely carpeted open space and has already been put to good use: hosting the (excellent) Cry of the Curlew exhibition and a session of Easy Church (which is 'church' without fuss). Both of these made good use of a new refreshment area, with suitably decorated chairs and tables. These are the sort of things which the PCC intend to increase as time goes on now that we have a lovely space ready for creative use by the church and community groups.

To create this flexible-use area, the North Aisle pews were removed, all sold, and were delivered to local buyers.



Their sale raised the sum of £1,700 - so we give grateful thanks to all who supported the church by making a purchase, and thanks to our volunteer delivery team John Dawson, Steve Rathbone and Simon Coultherd, and to Anthony Dent for helping with the removal of the wood from the floor.

Running parallel to this, the other big item of work in St James' Church now completed is the installation of innovative under pew heaters and wall heaters, plus kitchen and toilet heaters. We'll feel the benefit of these next autumn and winter, but they are excellent quality modern designs which were highly recommended to us during the process of an energy audit we undertook last year. Again, two old radiators removed from the North Aisle were sold at £25 each, and we are grateful to Rick Newton for painting the wooden wall heater supports.

We couldn't have done this without financial support from Leeds Diocese Church Buildings Grants Scheme, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Settle Rotary Club, and The Friends of Clapham Church. Thanks to all these groups, and big thanks to churchwarden Denise Wilson who coordinated the work, and Sue Mann who took on the grant applications.

Come in to St James' and take a look at the new area - and if you have any suggestions about ways we can use the space, do talk to us, we are open to ideas.

Revd John Davies

Gordon is innocent!

Three Peaks Players - May 2024



On Saturday night, at approximately 8pm, Gordon Ramsbottom was charged with the murder of Julia O'Grady, owner of the joke shop. He was also charged with bullying. Constant bullying - of Joyce.

But fear not - Gordon was the main character in The Three Peaks Players' latest performance, Murder in Little Grimley, which took place on Saturday 11th May at the Village Hall in front of a great audience. And while Gordon was indeed innocent, the cast did their utmost to ramp up the tension and deliver some great laughs.

"The cast rehearsed tirelessly to learn their lines and they gave a faultless performance," said Director Adrienne Robins. "I've been at every rehearsal, of which there have been many, and I still found myself laughing as Gordon tried to coax Joyce into recognising that 'sloth' and 'sleuth' were not interchangeable nouns."

The play was followed by a music set from Austwick-based country and covers band, The Little Things, giving both cast and audience a chance to show off some spectacular moves. There was some old-skool pogoing in evidence, and also a little touch of salsa (thanks to the great tuition of Anne and Kevin Lawler - but that's another story).

"Thanks to everyone who supported the show, and also to those who so generously entered the raffle which made almost £100 and will be donated to the Air Ambulance," said Adrienne.

For more information on joining The Three Peaks Players or coming to a future performance, you can find The Three Peaks Players on Facebook, Instagram, or email them on threepeaksplayers@gmail.com.

The Little Things can also be found on Facebook (search for The Little Things Duo), Instagram and Distrokid.

Adrienne Robins

Nature notes

Purple loosestrife arrived early, shaking luxuriant locks along the edge of the mirror whence its own face laughed back at it. Willow-herb, tender and wistful, like a pink sunset-cloud was not slow to follow. Comfrey, the purple hand-in-hand with the white, crept forth to take its place in the line; and at last one morning the diffident and delaying dog-rose stepped delicately on the stage, and one knew, as if string music has announced it in stately chords that strayed into a gavotte, that June at last was here.

Kenneth Grahame – The Wind in the Willows

For a number of years, I lived and worked in Singapore. On the one hand, it is a futuristic city state: gleaming glass and polished steel, and fantastical architecture straight from science fiction. On the other, it offers so many reminders of a long gone colonial past – think gin and tonics on the bougainvillea wreathed verandah of the Polo Club. Surprisingly, it also retains fragments of primary tropical rain forest and so much of the flora and fauna associated with the jungle from which the 21st Century state emerged.

I loved my time on the island but there always seemed to be something missing. Situated almost exactly on the equator, Singapore has no distinct seasons. The hottest month is February, with an average temperature of 27 degrees; the coldest is January at a mere 26. Dawn breaks at 7.00am and the sun sets – often spectacularly – at 7.00pm. The difference between the shortest day of the year and the longest is approximately nine minutes.

I learned many things during my time overseas but perhaps a heightened appreciation of the seasons was the most important of them.

Here in the Dales, we are so lucky. The early sunrises and late light nights of June are among the most special gifts of our more northerly latitude – even if they do encourage the house sparrows roosting below our bedroom window to wake us at an ungodly hour or make bedtime even more of a battle when our grandchildren come to stay!

These longer, warmer days are especially important to insect eating summer visitors with hungry mouths to feed. Particularly at a time when insect populations are in such steep decline. Swallows and housemartins can be on the wing for sixteen hours a day, swooping low over fields or soaring high above our rooftops on the hunt for the tiny invertebrates that make up most of their diet.

The light and warmth of early summer bring life and colour in so many different ways: our gardens are vivid with green; hawthorn and crab apple trees are heavy

with blossom. Against the drystone walls along roadside verges, Garlic Mustard* and Cuckoo Flower offer a rich food source to the caterpillars of Orange-tip and Green-veined White butterflies, while just a little later birds-foot trefoil will be equally important to the tiny, jewel-like Common Blue. I swear that there are some days when you can hear the grass growing!

So much of this early summer bounty is short-lived. By the time you read this most of the blossom will have disappeared and there will be very few Orange-tips on the wing. Even the swifts, whose noisy arrival we anticipate so eagerly each year, are only with us for twelve short weeks. That's the thing about the seasons, the world turns, and they begin and they end. We have to enjoy what they bring while we can.

*Just a few days ago, David Crutchley reminded me that one of the traditional rustic names for Garlic Mustard is *Jack-by-the-Hedge*. Apparently, the Devil's breath was thought to smell of garlic and *Jack* is one of many folk names for the Devil!

As ever, if you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, please send me an email or drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply

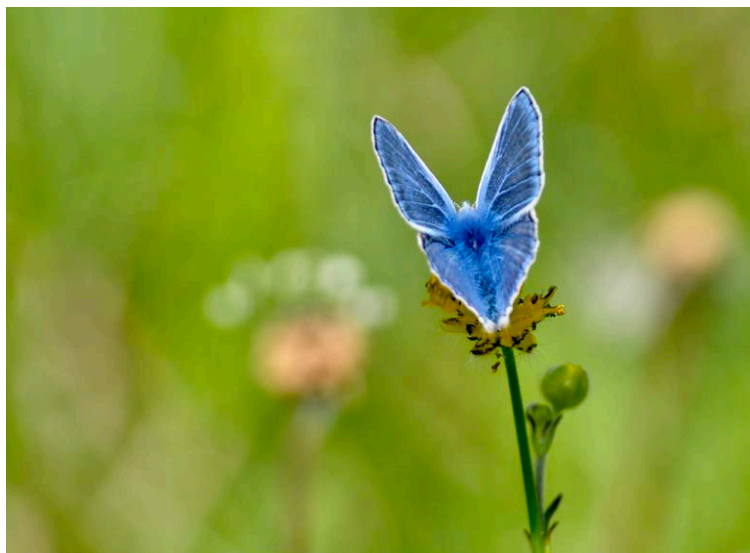
stop and chat if you see me around the village. Photographs are always welcome, and I will do my best to use any that are sent in to me.

Brian Christian

Email: bc.riverside28@gmail.com



Green-veined White butterfly



*Common Blue butterfly.
Both photos: Brian Christian*



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T: 01729 823066
Web: ageuk.org.uk/northcraven
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Second Time Around
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Settle
BD24 9EX
T: 01729 824009

John Colton (1948-2024)

We are sad to report the death of John Colton, a former resident of Clapham, who died on 27th March 2024 at his home in Halifax. John was born at Bell Busk in 1948, where his father was the stationmaster. The family re-located to Clapham in 1952, where Peter Colton took over the railway station, which at that time employed 28 workers. In the days before electricity, one of John's nightly jobs as a teenager was to light 14 paraffin lamps along the station platform.

John attended Settle High School, and then worked in forestry for a time before taking a foundation course at Lancaster College of Art. He then headed to Loughborough to study Fine Art where he became Chairman of the Student Union and of Loughborough Colleges Mountaineering Club. It was in this period that the interests and passions that shaped the rest of his life were laid down.

Upon graduation John trained as a teacher, working first in Derby, then becoming headteacher at Beaconsfield School in Halifax, which specialised in children with behavioural difficulties – a vocation he continued right to the end of his life as a founder member of the Invictus Wellbeing organisation in Halifax. He had a special gift for working with young people and his down to earth approach allowed him to cut through educational jargon and connect directly with their experience. He was never judgemental and retained his delight and affection for young people throughout his educational career and through his many close and varied personal relationships.

John was a gifted rock climber and mountaineer, climbing extensively in the UK, the Alps, North Africa and the Himalayas, often in extreme situations. He successfully

combined his abilities as a climber and artist, drawing and painting in situ, taking superb photographs with his Leica camera, and exhibiting his work at the Alpine Club in London and at Courmayeur in North-West Italy. He was most at home outdoors, a keen observer of the natural world, taking an informed interest in issues of conservation and habitat preservation for native species. Few people were as familiar with the natural world

or able to accurately identify so many varieties of wildlife.

John kept up his links with Clapham, returning throughout his life on his BMW motorcycle to link up with old friends and walk the hills. In many ways he never left the village and it continued to fire his imagination through its landscapes and the rich links it held to the past. Despite his many achievements and accomplishments, John remained a modest and self-deprecating figure with a wonderfully mischievous sense of humour. He was a true cosmopolitan, able to talk to anybody from any walk of life and to share stories with them, drawing on his own experience whilst always listening to theirs. He will be badly missed by his friends and family and by those many young people whose lives he helped to transform for the better.

John is survived by his wife Anne, and his daughters, Amy, Chloe and Danielle.

Colin Price

Settle College – Transport for students



Settle College has been the first choice for a growing number of families in the Bentham and Ingleton area when choosing a secondary school. North Yorkshire Council is now proposing that families from these villages and possibly from the edge of Clapham parish who choose Settle College in the future will have to pay for their own school bus, potentially costing a family with two children going to Settle College over £2,000 every school year. This issue was raised at the Clapham cum Newby Council April meeting. See the Parish Council report on p11.

Many families will not be able to afford that kind of extra spending. They will be forced instead to send their children to their second-choice school, which will be outside North Yorkshire, just because it is a couple of miles closer. For every child that does travel to their nearest school outside of North Yorkshire, the council will still pay for a bus and so

will save nothing, but Settle College will lose about £30,000 from the Government – money that is no longer going into education in North Yorkshire.

In short, families will either have to pay or lose their first choice of school. Families will lose out and Settle College will lose out: losing income and missing the brilliant contribution that pupils from the Clapham, Bentham and Ingleton area can make. Existing pupils and those joining this autumn will not be affected regardless of the outcome.

Through a consultation, North Yorkshire Council has asked for feedback. However, the deadline for responses has now passed so if you wish to object, please lift the points made above and send them in an email to Councillor David Ireton (cldr.david.ireton@northyorks.gov.uk).

*Gareth Whitaker
Headteacher
Settle College*

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News from the Tower

Updates from the Bellringers at St. James'

As you will see on the front page, we had cause to ring our bells for a very special secular occasion. This was to celebrate the 90th birthday of Alan Bennett, a much-loved actor and author, and long-time Clapham resident. On Thursday 9th May, ringers from St. James', complemented by others from nearby towers, rang a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Minor, being 45 minutes of continuous well-struck ringing, containing 1260 different changes. Alan enjoys hearing the church bells when he is in Clapham and has written about the bells and the ringers in the past.

We've also had our Annual Ringers' Meeting, and our new Tower Captain is Jess Hart, who lives in the village and will be well known to many.

We can never have too many ringers, so if you are interested in knowing more about ringing, you can pop up to the Tower any Monday evening, between 7.30pm and 9.00pm, to meet us and see what's happening. We ring the bells for practice on Monday evening, for services on Sundays, and for other special occasions.

Come and join us!

*Annabel Preston
Tower Secretary
Bellringers at St. James' Church*

Information Directory

WELCOME TO CLAPHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA



The attached information and a range of local businesses and services can also be found on the village website www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk and on Clapham Families and Keadon Community Facebook pages.

The free Clapham & District Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October and December and on the village website. It is delivered to every house and is available in the Village Store.

The attached information was correct at the time of printing. For updates please contact dianeelphinstone@gmail.com issued: December 2022

We hope that the following pages will help you to settle in and find information that you need or may be of interest.

(www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk). It is hoped this will provide new residents with useful information to help settle in. A limited number were printed and delivered to those homes where we believed new folk had moved into. The feedback has been positive, including from people that have lived in the village for decades, and we are now planning to update the Directory as information keeps changing – in particular, banking services.

We would appreciate it if you could have a look at the Directory on the website; it is saved as a pdf if you prefer to print it. If there is any information you think should be added, or there are details which are now out of date or incorrect, please let me know. If you don't have access to the internet, I have a few printed copies.

If you could let me have any updates via email or pop a note into my letter box (at Crooklands on the top road) by the end of June, that would be appreciated.

*Diane Elphinstone
dianeelphinstone@gmail.com*

Austwick school news

Small is beautiful but it's better together!

A new collaboration for Austwick and Bentham Primary Schools



A new chapter has started in the life of Austwick School. From the beginning of this term, Bentham Community School and Austwick Church of England Primary School are sharing a headteacher. Bentham currently has co-headteachers, Mrs Claire Pearson and Mrs Alison McGregor. This will continue with Mrs Pearson spending part of her time at Austwick School.

In addition, Austwick has appointed a new Assistant headteacher, Mrs Beth McHardy, who has been the Class 3 teacher for a number of years so will bring continuity, a familiar face and a wealth of school knowledge and experience to her new leadership role.

While both these successful schools would be classified as "small" by local authority standards, they still vary considerably in both size and culture. Notwithstanding, they share aspirations, aims, objectives and ambition. This provides exciting opportunities for sharing, learning, collaborating, and generating new possibilities. It gives each school the potential to be both distinct, yet unified. Children can benefit from coordinated projects and shared events and staff from collaborative development and the sharing of expertise.

Mrs Pearson has a record of successful leadership; leading Bentham School to a successful OFSTED inspection in November 2022 and significantly improving children's achievements in recent years. After only a short time, she has already started to establish herself as an important, respected, and approachable part of Austwick School's community.

Austwick is rare in being one of the remaining small village primaries in the area and it is the local school for children in Austwick, Clapham, Horton, Stainforth and surrounding areas.

Mrs Pearson and Mrs McHardy look forward to sharing future news with you and prospective families are most welcome to visit at any time.

*Claire Pearson
Tel: 015242 51366
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John Staveley (1938-2024)



John Staveley (also known as Jack or Bunt) was born in 1938 and lived in Newby all his life. He was brought up with his (slightly older) brother Brian. Brian remembers that, as sometimes happens, the brothers fell out from time to time, and Bunt would hit Brian. However, Brian always had the last word as he would hit him back then would run like hell because Bunt wasn't quick enough to catch him!

Bunt went on to run his haulage business from Newby and was involved in farming all his life. He played a central role in establishing the calf market at Bentham Auction Market. Established in 1983, this is still going strong. Stephen Dennis, auctioneer, said: "Without doubt Bunt was the cornerstone on which the sale was built. He ensured that farmers selling in Bentham received a fair price. Our local farmers and I owe a great debt of gratitude to him, and I am pleased to say that his legacy lives on."

Bunt loved driving, not only as a professional in his haulage business, but also as a volunteer driver for Age UK taking people to various appointments at the doctors, hospital, dentist or optician. Sandra Kay, Transport Co-ordinator for Age UK North Craven wrote: "The people who Jack took to their appointments held him in the highest regard. I was often told to 'See if Jack Staveley is available' when transport bookings were made. The gentlemen loved Jack taking them because they could have a 'good blokey chat'. The ladies loved him because they said that he was 'always a true gentleman'. It has been a great privilege to have worked alongside Jack for the past 10 years. I know that he enjoyed being busy and he often told me 'Well, I've nowt else on' when I phoned him."

Jack/Bunt married Dot in 1964 and they would have celebrated their Diamond Wedding just two weeks after he died. He is much missed by Dot, Brian, son John, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren (with two more on the way). Quite a legacy!

Sue Mann

Scandimoot 2024 - 3rd to 6th May



Johanne Løkensgard Mjøs from Bergen, Norway playing Hardanger fiddle.
Photo: Phil Keen



Anna-Karin Andersson from Malmö, Sweden playing normal fiddle.
Photo: Phil Keen

One of the pleasures of bringing artists from Scandinavia to Clapham at the beginning of May is that they are pretty much guaranteed to be delighted by the weather. This weekend can sometimes bring the first sight of grass to visitors arriving from Norway, and always provides them with the novelty of trees in blossom. This year they arrived to see all that plus a sunlit beck and picture postcard waterfall, which slowed their progress up to lunch at The Old Sawmill considerably.

The rest of the weekend went very happily as well, the two concerts (Victoria Hall Settle and St. James' Church in Clapham) were very different, and equally excellent. We do hope you were able to see one of them; the church concert is a gift from us to say thank you for the friendliness we always experience here.

We do feel very much part of the village after 15 years or so of our annual Scandimoot, and it is very sad that Ingleborough Hall is no longer available. Our plans for next

year are not yet definite, but Andrew Jarman and Philip Farrer are being very helpful. If we can make it possible, we'll return next May for another Scandimoot. In the meantime, warm wishes and thanks from us all.

Pat Goodacre

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Baptism at Keasden



A happy occasion for the Linney family as baby Maisie is christened at St. Matthew's Church

Keasden rainfall report

	2023	2024
March	12" or 30.48cm	8½" or 21.59cm
April	5¼" or 13.34cm	9½" or 24.13cm

A new helper?



Lucy getting ready to help with distributing the village newsletter

Park Association update

It took us a while to start doing our regular maintenance this year, mainly due to rain and mud, but slowly you'll see some improvement works being completed. Playdale, the provider of the play equipment, has been replacing some necessary parts due to rot. This has raised a flag for us in that, although the bark flooring looks very nice, it is causing some early degrading of the wooden frames. We are now considering alternative flooring which will be a huge job to plan and complete.



This is just one of a few "big jobs" which need doing – so we have a plea for help! If anyone has any spare time and can lend a hand to help paint the fence over the coming weeks, then we would greatly appreciate it. Please get in touch with me using any of the contact details below.

Thanks to everyone who lends a hand throughout the year keeping on top of things. Finally, a big thank you to Bernard Ashurst for fixing the wall in April!

There is a WhatsApp Noticeboard for regular updates, and we now have a specific "Mowers" group for the grass cutters! Let us know on the email given below if you'd like to get involved.

Eleanor (Nell) Whitley
3 Gildersbank / 07766 088169
Email: claphamparkassociation@outlook.com

Lecture Group news

The Lecture Group held its AGM on Tuesday 21st May with the formal proceedings followed by a presentation on "Yorkshire's Ruined Abbeys". At the AGM, the Chair and Treasurer reported on a successful programme for 2023 and a healthy financial situation for the group which will trigger a reduction in fees for the series this coming Autumn. The 2024 series will start on 17th September with a visit to Tatham Church under the guidance of Mike Winstanley, followed by nine lectures in Clapham Village hall which, with a break for half term, will then finish on 26th November.

At the meeting, Jeanne Carr stood down as Lecture Group Secretary after many years' service, for which she was thanked by all. Angie Martin was elected to take over the secretarial reins, whilst Judith Dawson was re-elected as Treasurer and Andy Scott as Chair.

The group's next meeting will be its field trip to Lancaster Castle on Thursday 20th June. This event will be open to guests as well as subscribers – please contact me by phone or at the email address below should you want more details or if you wish to attend. For subscribers, the trip will be free, but guests will need to pay a fee.

Andy Scott
andy@station-hse.co.uk
015242 51749

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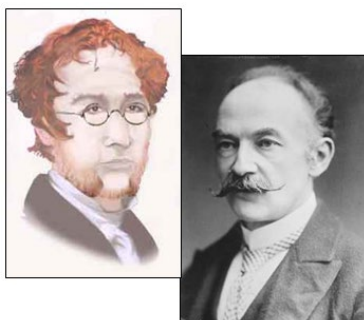


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claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com

Clapham Lecture Group

New series starts on Tuesday 17 September

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andy@station-hse.co.uk

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kenpearcela2@gmail.com

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(No meeting in June or August)

Andy Scott

015242 51749

claphamdewdropin@gmail.com

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(Usually 3rd Wednesday of the month)

Steve Culver

015242 51862

parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com

Tai Chi

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Tony Bennet

taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com

Craft & Chat

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Angie Martin

015242 51749

angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk

Sustainability Group

Thursdays 7.30pm onwards

(2nd Thursday bi-monthly: July, September etc.)

Jill Buckler

jillbuckler@mac.com

Board Games Group

Fortnightly on Fridays 2 - 5pm,

check Hall website calendar or call

Jackie Kingsley 015242 51240

jackieanddavid@yahoo.com

Cuban Salsa Dancing

Fridays: Beginners 6.45pm; Improvers 7.30pm

Anne Lawler

07990 633465

a.lawler@sky.com

For more details of the above, and for the latest on
other events in the hall, please visit:

claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk

The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever

Sunday 28th July, 11am – 1pm, Ingleborough Hall

Strange though it may seem, “The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever” – a celebration of Emily Bronte’s classic novel and the iconic 1978 Kate Bush song – has never been held in Yorkshire.

This will be rectified in 2024 when The Three Peaks Players host this fun, interactive fundraising event at Ingleborough Hall in Clapham, North Yorkshire on Sunday 28th July.

Incidentally, this date coincides with both Kate Bush’s and Emily Bronte’s birthdays.

A fully ticketed event, with all funds going to The Cave Rescue Organisation, participants will follow in the footsteps (or should we say dance steps) of many other groups across the world from as far afield as Sydney, Texas and Copenhagen. First staged in Brighton in 2013, it seems only right that the event now takes place in Yorkshire.

Surreal though it may seem, participants are invited to dress as Cathy from Kate Bush’s iconic video, complete with a red dress and black belt. They will then be taught the iconic dance, with a dance instructor taking them through the

moves, step by floaty step. Once learned, the group of red-dressed Cathys will perform the dance in this stunning Dales location.

Tickets are limited and are available from Eventbrite using the following link: <https://bit.ly/3yhQaU1>.

Although this event is free, participants are requested to make a donation to the Cave Rescue Organisation (CRO). The suggested donation is £10 per participant (Kate/Cathy), although any amount is welcome.

Details on how to make a donation can be found on the

Eventbrite page. For more information and the link to the Eventbrite ticketing page, go to The Three Peaks Players page on Facebook.

Adrienne Robins



A previous MWHDE event in Australia

News from the River Wenning Group

Clapham and Austwick Becks combine before the railway viaduct to form the Wenning, which then flows through Bentham to join the Lune at Hornby. The Wenning was once a river to be proud of, with prolific wildlife and healthy fish stocks – unfortunately, it is now in poor condition. The River Wenning Group has been set up to try to reverse this decline. If you care about our local river, read on...

There are many factors affecting our river: climate change, some farming practices and habitat degradation amongst them, but sewage is a significant contributory factor. In 2022 Wastewater Treatment overflow spillage on the Upper Wenning occurred on 99 days: this figure rose to 164 days in 2023.

The Government promises action and has earmarked funds to cut spills. United Utilities promise a 60% reduction

in pollution events over the next five years. The Environment Agency monitors progress and has a duty to assess water quality in all rivers, but resource shortages mean it cannot always achieve this. Whilst future intentions are fine, our rivers and wildlife need action now to survive.

The River Wenning Group has started a water testing and wildlife monitoring programme to support the improvement of our local rivers, working with the Lune Rivers Trust. We are

grateful for support from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Bentham Hub and local business Alcedo Selection. We are advising Ingleton Angling Association to develop water testing on the river Greta, another tributary to the river Lune.

If you are interested in our work, please do contact me.

*Iain Crossley
oldmanorhouse1@gmail.com*

