



Number 152, December 2024

'Tis the season

Looking back to the first December issue of the Newsletter in 2000, we can see that much remains the same in our community. A carol service in St. James' on the second Sunday, singers were sought to carol their way around Newby, Clapham and Keasden. A newly formed co-operative was striving to make a success of Growing with Grace. A yellow-browed warbler was spotted by Tim Hutchinson near Clapham station as happened again this year. Sadly, Clapham primary school will not be presenting a Christmas concert, but Austwick school returns to St. James' for its Christingle Service. The Parish Council was reported to have donated £100 to the Newsletter; what would that be today with inflation?

Turning to 2024, there are many celebrations of the Christmas season. The traditional coffee morning for Clapham church will have been

held by the time you read this and no doubt will have been its usual bacon-buttery inspired success. You can still, however, enjoy the coffee morning and sale of Christmas bakes and crafts at St. Matthew's in Keasden on Saturday 14 December from 10.30am to noon.

Crafts, Cake and Chat will be a festive chance to buy crafts and stocking fillers whilst enjoying a glass of mulled wine, all in support of St. John's hospice. This takes place on Wednesday 4 December, 3pm to 8pm in the Village Hall. Austwick school hold their Christmas Fair on Friday 6 December at 3.30pm and all are welcome.

The traditional Christmas services will be held and full details can be found in Church News. There is also a new and innovative event at St. James': 'Blue Christmas' for those who find Christmas hard, to be held on Sunday 22 December at 11am. Revd John explains: "For many reasons some of us find Christmas difficult and long for some relief

from its pressures. Come along to a Christmas-free hour at St. James. Refreshments and conversation for those who would like it; the opportunity for quiet and reflection for those who may find that helpful. An 'easy' hour; open to all, it's not a church service but a relaxed time in church; and guaranteed carol-free!"

Keasden church sends off its travelling crib at the Advent Sunday service on 1 December at 2.30pm. The crib and

animals will move from family-to-family and be welcomed back to St. Matthew's on Sunday 22 December at 7pm at the somewhat informal carols round the crib. Traditional carols will be sung, accompanied by mince pies, mulled wine and excitable children.

Clapham Village Store looks forward to its tenth anniversary in 2025 and has fabulous hampers for sale as Christmas gifts. Those

needing to get out and avoid the Sound of Music on TV can enjoy Church in the Pub on the last Sunday of December, this will be at the New Inn at 7pm.

Traditions continue in January with a New Year's Day walk at Keasden Head and a pantomime performance of Sleeping Beauty and the Beast at the Village Hall on Friday 3 January, tickets on sale now. The Bethel Chapel holds its own Coffee, Cake and Chat on Saturday 18 January. They will be collecting for the Skipton Foodbank who send their thank you for your generous support throughout the year. Finally, Andy and Niki Harris are hosting a Burns Night supper at the Village Hall on Saturday 25 January, book in advance.

Further details on the events above can be found throughout the Newsletter. May we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Newsletter Group



November snow on Ingleborough.
Photo by Andy Scott

Colour printing of this edition sponsored by

Glencroft

Welcome to the December newsletter

Welcome to the Clapham and District newsletter. This edition is filled with articles and information about the local area.

We thank all those who have contributed articles, pictures and advertisements to make this edition an informative read.

We are particularly grateful to Glencroft for sponsoring the colour printing of the December edition and to the many readers who have contributed to our Seasons Greetings. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Newsletter Committee

Editions are produced for February, April, June, August, October and December.

Next issue: **February 2025.**

Deadline: **Monday 20 January.**

Articles

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

Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

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.

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 a distribution point. These are: Clapham Village Store, the porch at St. James' Church Clapham, the porch at St. Matthew's Church Keasden, Newby Methodist Church.

If you would like to help us 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>



Next edition: **February 2025**
Deadline: **Monday 20 January**

A WARM WINTER WELCOME AT CLAPHAM VILLAGE STORE

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Winter cometh

It is well known by all peasant farmers that winter can only be shortened at its commencement, and this year the dairy cows have enjoyed a decently pleasant autumn with much of October being reasonably dry and fairly mild. Such a combination is a rarity, but it has meant the cows have been able to carry on going out through the daytime almost until mid-November. This is good exercise for her and good for the morale of those who keep her, with every single day looked upon as a bonus.

Of course, they have been staying in overnight for a few weeks before this in order to fill up on mediocre silage as grass quantity and quality deteriorates. For a modern dairy cow to have any chance of achieving her potential she must have the best of everything, both in diet and healthcare. Nothing is left to chance.

Like life, cow care has evolved enormously over the years. When I left school (about a hundred years ago) I used to “loose end it” which meant I did a day here and a day there on local farms in exchange for a bit of dry bread, half a cup of water and possibly a sliver of black pudding were it to be offered. My job involved all aspects of farm work, from hedge laying to dry stone walling; from shepherding to tractor driving and everything in between.

Cleaning out cows with a barrow and shovel filled many a winter's day as cows were tethered in shippons. Her diet in those days would consist of hay and a small amount of concentrates. If she gave much milk that was coincidental. Herds were smaller and, like the peasant farmer, she did the best she could with what she had. I am not sure what she would make of her modern equivalent, a bit like if my ancestors compared their life with mine.

One of the jobs my forefathers would recognise is gathering the sheep off Ingleborough. I cannot help thinking their observation would be “what have you done with all the neighbours?”

One of my favourite jobs was relief milking, I had twelve or so farms that I was responsible for if the farmer took a

holiday or, more likely, his legs fell off and he needed help managing the cows until he got them reattached after dinner.

The farms varied in size. My smallest milked twelve cows but they were spread over two sites, so six at each. After milking six cows the equipment was loaded onto the trailer and transported about a mile to the other farm to milk the other six. Finally, all the milk was brought back to the yard and tipped into the tank to cool and await collection. I did once lose everything off the trailer due to going round

a corner too fast. There was milk all over the road, well six cows' worth. Access to the farm was poor for lorries and I remember the driver telling me that if he had brought his cornflakes, it would save backing the wagon up.

The largest herd milked about 120 cows, which was quite a number in those days. The milking system was modern and very pleasant to work in. Cow throughput was the thing, no messing about, it was quite a responsibility. It's worth noting that it didn't take very much longer to milk the herd of 120 than the herd of twelve, but I do know who had the bigger overdraft at the time.

For the record, and for various reasons, milking cows on all but one of those twelve farms has now ceased, which is a sign of the times, but I still cannot go round that particular corner without thinking “slow down”.

Tupping time (baby making) is about over and the annual autumnal sport of catching tups to raddle

(paint) their chest is over. We do this so that when he serves a sheep, we know he's been, and therefore we have some idea as to when she will lamb.

I used to work for a chap whose dog, once we had caught the tup to raddle, got a bit excited. Despite our protestations of the most colourful kind, it would dive in and attempt to grab the nether regions – of the tup, in case you were wondering. It would have made quite a scene in “Carry on Farming” as we careered down the field with none of us prepared to let go. Happy Christmas, I suppose.

John Dawson



*Hands up if you like catching tups
Photo: John Dawson*



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BURNS NIGHT

Saturday 25 Jan 2025
Clapham Village Hall
6:30pm to 11:00 pm

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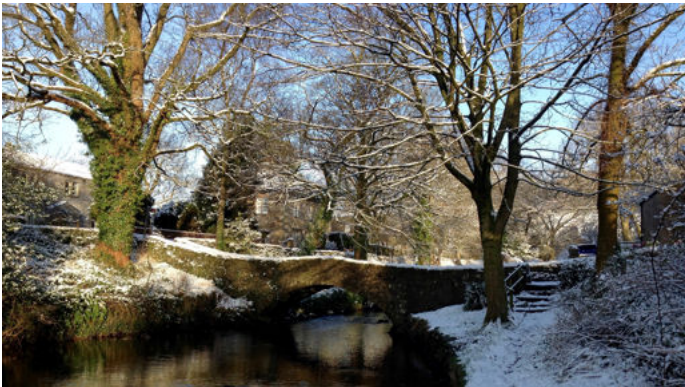
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Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of **16th October 2024** and was joined by a representative of the Sustainability Group and 5 members of the public.

The main points of business on the agenda were connected to St James' Churchyard. The Council confirmed that the reduced mowing of the churchyard was not an attempt to "re-wild" the churchyard, merely to undertake a managed reduction of mowing to provide opportunities for native flora and fauna to thrive. The Council did resolve that the grass would be "cut back" at the end of the season next year (we had already missed the end of this season) to further encourage wild flowers to spread. The Council also resolved that all monuments would be cleared such that they can be read and any nettles/brambles obscuring them would be removed.



The Council received a report from the Sustainability Group and the Chairman congratulated the Group on achieving a runner-up position in the North of England's Curlew Conservation volunteer awards.

At the half year stage, after allowing for timing differences, then compared to budget on a number of payments and receipts, the Council is £1,258 favourable. This is principally the result of an additional £658 received from HMRC for prior year VAT paid as a result of the guttering work on the highway adjacent to St. Matthew's in March, £205 as the current year's insurance premium was lower than budgeted, and £55 from additional bank interest received due to higher interest rates.

The Council also reviewed the first draft of the Precept position for the next financial year. Whilst there will be some updates as more costs for the current year become clear, the agreed approach is to hold the precept at the current year's level and to utilise some excess reserves to make up the potential shortfall to meet the Council's expenditure plans.

The Council also agreed to submit proposals for a Forest of Bowland Diamond Landmark Tree for the junction between Henbusk Lane and Old Road at Newby Cote and also for St. Matthew's Eastern Churchyard. We await to hear if we have been successful at either location.

Parish Council meetings are generally held in Clapham Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, with no meetings in either August or November.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Wednesday 11th December.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Steve Culver, can be contacted:

Tel: 015242 51862 or

Email: parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com

School news

A Very Happy Christmas from Austwick School Where every day is an open day

This term we've celebrated links with our local community and it was lovely to take part in the Festival of Creativity at St. James' Church. We are now looking forward to returning to Clapham for our Christingle Service on Tuesday 17th December at 1.30pm. All are welcome. We are also involved in an exciting collaborative project on the Nature Trail and have been working with a professional illustrator and writer to bring some wonderful mythical creatures to life.

While we are a Church of England Primary School, we actively welcome children and families of all faiths, or none! Our Church of England ethos is based on building self-respect and respect for each and every member of our community. At our school we are laying the foundations for life and our teaching and learning reflects this. Pupils talk proudly and happily about what they are learning, about keeping themselves and others safe, about getting outside and enjoying nature ... and going on residential! Our curriculum is always evolving and we have a brilliant new library of non-fiction books to support it.



Children from both Austwick and Benthams School about to go gorge walking on their recent residential to How Stean Gorge.

You can check us out on Facebook to see what we have been up to bit.ly/fb-austwick-school. And if you are thinking about Austwick School for your children, please do contact us to arrange a time to come and visit.

We invite you to come and join us at the school for our Christmas Fair: Friday 6th December 3.30-5.30pm.

Austwick School

Email: admin@austwick.n-yorks.sch.uk

Clapham Curlew Cluster awards

Clapham Curlew Cluster were the recent recipients of three awards by North of England Curlew Conservation. Two participating farmers in the cluster, Pete Webster and Colin Price, both received an award, as did the Group.

These awards celebrate the work of farmers, volunteers and upland managers to conserve curlew. Whilst a sense of recognition is welcome, the Clapham Curlew Cluster project is only as effective as the contribution made by every participant.

There are now 15 local farms and 20 survey volunteers involved in monitoring and protecting curlew, which remain on the red endangered list.

Clapham Sustainability Group



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andrew@septic tanksnorthwest.co.uk

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Crafts, Cake, Chat

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Cakes, tea, coffee, mulled wine and raffle

Wednesday 4th December

Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall 3.00pm - 8.00pm

All proceeds to be donated to St. John's Hospice



Donations of crafts, cakes, savouries, raffle prizes or offers of help are very welcome
Please contact Chris Horsewill on 07771621016 or Anne Douglas on 07472165429

Church News

John's Notes: How can we raise our heads with the weight of the world on our shoulders?



*Christ in the rubble,
Kelly Latimore*

I know that some people, this year, will find it very hard to sing the words, 'O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie', for these words may stick in our throat as we contrast them with Bethlehem today, where, rather than watching 'the silent stars go by', the occupants lie awake at night in fear of attack by soldiers or settlers

intent on forcibly removing them from their homes.

Advent Sunday's reading (from Luke 21) has Jesus saying, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.' And our Evening News is full of it: Flash floods in Valencia, a tornado in Marbella, tropical storms in the Philippines.

He goes on to say that 'People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken'. And our daily papers promote the shenanigans of reckless world leaders, terrorising their neighbours, tearing up agreements designed to protect the earth, their fingers poised provocatively over the nuclear button.

'Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near,' he said. The question for so many people is - how can we raise our heads with the weight of the world on our shoulders?

Jesus insists that 'our redemption is drawing near'. Back in the day, wise men from the East studied the stars for a sign of a redemption they believed was coming. And in Advent, we are invited to join them in their hopeful search for a new beginning for this broken world.

We who carry the weight of the world on our shoulders - may God help us to raise our heads to follow this star.

Following the star means watching - looking out for what Jesus is doing in this world. It means paying less attention to the miserable rolling news and more to the gracious actions of those who practise love for their neighbours - opening our eyes to small acts of kindness: food handed over at a doorstep, conversations over fences; a smile across a street. It means opening our ears to those working hard to practise loving their enemies - like those two women, two mothers, one Palestinian, one Israeli, who lead the Parents Circle Families Forum, a self-support group for bereaved families from all communities in the region. They witness the pain and loss of the conflict every day. In a recent statement they said, "So many more bereaved families have joined us in the past year, and our hearts break together with them. Like all Israeli and Palestinian mothers, we do not want to sacrifice our children. All we want is to raise our children in peace. For us to live, the war must end.

Everyone must return home. The occupation must end, and the conflict must be resolved through political agreements. The Bereaved Families Forum stands in solidarity with all grieving families and wishes healing and recovery to all those wounded and affected by this war."

And following the star also means acting - joining in what Jesus is doing: sharing in those acts of kindness, big and small, which 'lay dormant within us, like a seed in need of certain conditions to grow', *Kindness*, begins Brian Bilston's poem of that title,

*affects young and old equally;
there is no race or gender immune from it;
it has the power to topple bad governments;
if one person were to pass it on to just three others
and they, in turn, were to pass it on to three more,
in no time at all, the world would be full of it,
and where, might we ask ourselves, would we be then.*

Where would we be on the day that kindness fills this broken world? With the bereaved bridge-builders of Bethlehem, practising kindness, seeking to bring healing and recovery to the troubled and wounded around us?

Revd John Davies

*Vicar, Clapham with Keasden &
Austwick with Eldroth*

01524 805928

Email: john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

Churches' website: bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick

John's talks: bit.ly/johndavies-talks

Anglican Services

Sunday 1st December: Advent Sunday

Holy Communion 9.30 **Eldroth**; 11.00 **Clapham**;

2.30 **Keasden** Advent Starts Here: Keasden's Travelling Crib Launch Service; 6.30 **Newby Chapel** Evening Easy Church

Sunday 8th December: Second Sunday of Advent

9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion

7.00pm **Clapham**: Clapham and Newby Joint Carol Service

Wednesday 11th December: 2.00 & 6.00 **Austwick** School Nativity Services

Sunday 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent

9.30 **Austwick** Shorter Holy Communion; 4.00 **Austwick**

Carol Service; 7.00 **Eldroth** Nativity & Carol Service

Tuesday 17th December: 1.30 **Austwick** School Christingle Service in St. James' Church, Clapham

Sunday 22nd December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion; 11.00 **Clapham** Easy

Church: 'Blue Christmas': *for those who find Christmas hard*; 7.00 **Keasden** Carols around the Crib

24th December: Christmas Eve

3.00 **Austwick** Crib Service; 5.00 **Clapham** Crib Service (then short Holy Communion); 11.30 **Austwick** Midnight Holy Communion

25th December: Christmas Day

Family Communion 9.30 **Eldroth**; 11.00 **Keasden**.

Sunday 29th December: The Sunday after Christmas

10.30 **Clapham** Benefice Churches Joint Holy Communion

7.00 **Clapham** New Inn Church in the Pub

Sunday 5th January 2025: The Epiphany

9.30 **Eldroth** Holy Communion (*Revd Mark Evans*)

9.30 **Austwick** Holy Communion; 11.00 **Clapham** Holy Communion

6.30 **Newby Chapel** Evening Easy Church

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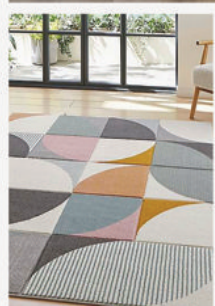
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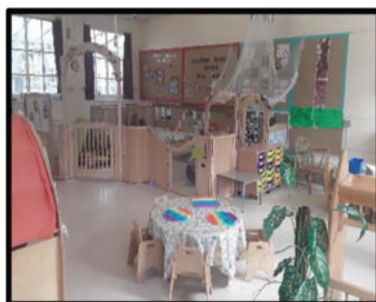
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Church News *continued*



Carol Singing

All welcome to join in ...

Friday 13 December 6.30pm
meet at the New Inn in Clapham

Tuesday 17 December 6.30pm
meet at the Green in Newby

Thursday 19 December 6.15pm
meet at St. Matthew's Church Keasden

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Usual Sunday services take place:

Each week at 11am and 6.30pm.

Special notices for December:

Thursday 5: 12.30pm Christmas Dinner & After Dinner Talk

Friday 6: 6pm Kmotion 7.30pm Encounter Christmas special

Saturday 7: 7.30pm Christmas Celebration with friends from Quernmore

Friday 13: 9.30am Clapham Tots Christmas special

Sunday 22: 11am Balloon Nativity service & 6.30pm Carol Service

Wednesday 25: Christmas Day service at 10.30am

Special notices for January:

Thursday 2: Friends@2pm

Monday 13: Christianity Explore Course

Saturday 18: 10.30am Coffee, Cake & Chat & Foodbank

Please see our Facebook page or website for further info.
www.bethelchapelclapham.org

Catholic Church - Bentham and Settle

St. Boniface, Robin Lane, Bentham, LA2 7AB

Usual service times: Sun: 9.15am, Wed & Fri: 10am.

Christmas Day: 9.15am Mass

No service 27 December

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

Usual service times: Sat Vigil: 5.30pm; Sun: 11.15am, Tues & Thurs: 10am.

Christmas Eve: Mass 10am, Confessions 10.30am, First Mass of Christmas 5.30pm

Christmas Day: 11.15am Mass

No services 26 & 27 December

Parish Priest: Father Frank Smith

Tel: 01729 822525

Email: stboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

Our usual services take place on:

First Sunday of the month - Easy Evening Church 6.30pm.

Second Sunday of the month at 11am, and

Fourth Sunday of the month at 2pm.

Carol service - Sun 8 December 7pm at St. James' church

Carol singing the Green Newby - Tues 17 December 6.30pm

Christmas service - Sun 22 December 2pm

For further information contact:

Revd Tim Broughton, Tel: 01729 554006 or

Email: tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk

Religious Society of Friends - Quakers

Worship in the manner of Friends (members of the Religious Society of Friends - Quakers) takes place on:

Sundays: 10.30 am at the Meeting House, Settle (opposite the Victoria Hall),

Sundays: 10.30am at the Calf Cop, Burton Road, Lower Bentham, and

Tuesdays: 12.30pm in Settle.

For any further information - please go to the website:
<https://settlequakers.org.uk/>



Christmas Coffee Morning

**Saturday
14 December
10.30am to 12 noon**

At St Matthew's Church,
Keasden

Hot drinks, cakes & bakes,
crafts & raffle

All welcome!



New Year's Day Parish Walk at Keasden Head Wednesday 1 January

By kind invitation of our friends at
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Spring Concert

Sat 22nd March, 3.30pm
Settle Parish Church

Sat 29th March, 3.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

Sibelius
Finlandia

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The Noon Witch

Tchaikovsky
Symphony No.5

Conductor - Harry Lai
Leader - Anne Heaton

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A sun worshipper in Clapham

In 2022 we installed photovoltaic roof panels at High Hazel Barn. Our electricity use is high as we have an electric car (plus a 'plug-in' using petrol, or electricity for about 45 miles) and we only charge them at home. Our first 'solar' year generated 11,000kWh (kilo-watt-hours), our second 9,600kWh. Typical households here use 3,200kWh electricity yearly.



Brightest, longest days generate 100 times more than gloomiest, shortest days which barely produce enough to brew our tea. We need a wind powered 'twirler' on our chimney for dark days, and nights! Our best days provide sufficient electricity for seven typical homes. But without ways of storing power, it is only usable the instant it is generated. Electricity consumption to charge our car flipped instantly from zero to £2.46 per hour when the sun went behind a cloud.

During power cuts most photovoltaic systems switch off, to keep grid workers safe. In 2023 we installed sophisticated batteries, adding an eye watering £17,000 to our original system cost of £8,000. Battery prices may plummet in coming years. Some batteries allow generation during power cuts. Stored energy slashes our consumption from the grid, except on the dullest days.

In December 2023 we generated 27% of the power we used. By March 93% was solar, rising to 99% in June. Some suppliers pay a pittance for surplus electricity generated, but during May to September our suppliers pay us more than we pay them. As ever, the best £ spent is devoted to basic energy efficiency (insulation, draught proofing etc).

Rodney Dinnen

Thank you from the food bank



Over this past year in the Craven area, we have given out 1172 emergency food parcels feeding 2383 individuals including 787 children.

We could not do this without the support of our donors in the community. A big thank you to those who give to us at harvest and who also give to us on a regular basis through our donation points.

Those using the Food Bank find it to be a lifeline when their circumstances mean that affording to feed themselves or their families is a big challenge. We see all sorts of people with multiple issues at the Food Bank, but the gift of a food parcel is a great support and encouragement to them.

Skipton Food Bank

Infra-red camera loan

Once again, the Clapham Sustainability Group would like to offer use of its thermal imaging camera to members of the community as part of our aim to become a sustainable community. The camera was acquired through the generosity of a loan from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

This amazing camera is available to every household in the community. It connects wirelessly to a smart phone or tablet and, through thermal imaging, identifies areas where your home is losing heat and thus increasing your electricity bills. You can see the places that most need attention and repairs. A maximum minimum temperature will be recorded along with a specific temperature at a marker in the centre of the screen, and a colour range of the image, such as a door or window, for example.

We have also acquired two power meters. The meters can monitor real-time energy consumption of your electrical appliances, helping you to manage energy usage and reduce cost. These will also be available for loan.

If you are interested in the camera and/or a power meter, please contact me using the details below.

Jill Buckler
015242 51030

Email: jillbuckler@mac.com

Newsletter Coffee Morning



As mentioned in our last issue, the Newsletter Group is reliant on our wonderful community for its financial support. That support truly shone through at our newsletter coffee morning which was held on Saturday 2 November where, with sales of coffee and cakes, gifts and books, plus our regular raffle, we raised over £550.

That excludes the monies collected for the Christmas Greetings which, with donations at the coffee morning and also those left for us in the collection box held at the village shop, have raised in excess of £300.

Thanks to all who supplied a marvellous array of raffle prizes or goods for sale, to all who baked or helped in any way on the day, and to all who came along and supported us. A special thank you to Glenys and Mavis for donating beautiful knitted dolls and jigsaw puzzles.

Quite separately, but equally appreciated, the group has recently received a donation from the Farrer Family Trust - Ingleborough Estate's Charitable Trust, of a further £250 for which we'd like to thank the trustees.

All this generosity leaves us well placed to go into the year ahead even if our costs rise. We are truly grateful for such great support from everyone in the Clapham-cum-Newby district.

The Newsletter Committee

Seed to sapling

Join us!

The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is developing a community growing scheme in Clapham, which will provide the tools, skills and materials needed to grow trees from seed to be planted in to the local landscape!

We share a regular newsletter with plenty of tips and handy information for growing your own trees!

We also host lots of events throughout the year, including seed collection and tree identification walks, seed sowing days, tree planting days and much more.

We'd love local residents from the surrounding areas to get involved!



For more information about the project, events, and to sign up to the Seed to Sapling Newsletter, scan the QR code!



Or visit our website at:

<https://www.ydmt.org/tree-community>



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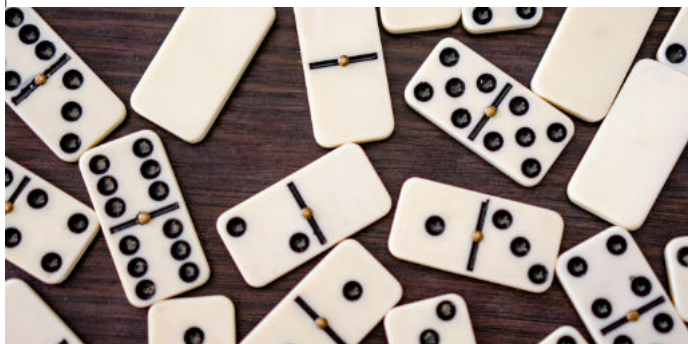
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invites you to a**

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Glencroft

Park Association update



*Amy North - who has indicated her wish to stand down as group chair. The group all wish her well and thank her for all the work she has done helping get the park into its present state.
Photo: Nell Whitley*

It's the time of year when the park is almost hibernating, so we'll take a moment to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the upkeep of the park this year, either financially or with their time.

There is a lot to do as we look forward into 2025, including a committee reshuffle. After 5 years, Amy North has decided to step down from the Association committee, so we are in need of an extra person to join the team. No experience needed! You can email me on the address below if you're willing, or just interested to know more.

We want to give a million thanks to Amy for all the fundraising, maintenance and other contributions she has made to ensure the park is a place for everyone to enjoy.

Eleanor (Nell) Whitley
claphamparkassociation@outlook.com

MacMillan Coffee Morning



We are delighted to tell you what a great social and fund-raising event we held on September 27th. We raised just short of £700.

Thank you to all of you who helped to make it happen and for the support of those that came.

*Jackie Kingsley and
Liz Mason*

Congratulations



Photo: Simon Drummond-Hay

Warmest congratulations to Graham and Lynda Taylor of Keasden who celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary in October.

Family and friends joined together to celebrate and wish them all the very best and much happiness for many more years to come.

Angela Peach

Keasden rainfall report

	2023	2024
September	8.75" or 22.23cm	3.78" or 9.6cm
October	9" or 22.86cm	6.93" or 17.6cm

Newby garden waste bonfire

Since the lighting of the bonfire on 2nd November, a number of local residents have noticed inappropriate items being added to the fire. All residents are advised that the bonfire is for garden waste only and is not a general tip.

Steve Culver



Our thanks to these readers for supporting the newsletter with

Jackie & David
Dalesview Close

Sylvia & Alan Caines
8 Dalesview Close

Anne & Poppy
Dalesview

Nick & Linda
Dalesview Close

Jayne & Richard
8 Gildersbank

Margery Dowling
Sandy Bell, Cross Haw Lane

Anthony & Lesley Dent
High Leys

Christine & Martin Wilcock
4 Yew Tree Cottages

Angela & Simon
Rantree Middle Barn, Keasden

Isobel & Flo
Bridge Cottage

Philip, Maria & Family
Hall Garth

Anne
Park House

John, Judith & William
& animals at Bleak Bank

Lucy, Mark, Mollie & lads
17 Station Road

Inki & Howard
Jacques Barn

Elizabeth & George Greenbank
Wenning Bank

Judith Holt
Dalesview Close

Ian, Suzanne & Archie
Barn Cottage

John & Diane
Crooklands

Barbara & Stuart
Bramall

Thomas & Carol Parker
Reeby's, Keasden

Rosie & Ray
Park View

John & Sheralee Duckworth
Dovenanter Barn

Jules & Simon
Clapham Woods Farm

Norma & Michael Stephenson
Jack Beck House

All the staff & volunteers
Clapham Village Store

Philip & Diane
Westavon

Ann Stewart
Dalesview Close

John & Pauline Hird
Boskins

Linda & Colin Brindle
Lindens, The Green

Sheila
7 F.H.C.

Derrick, Kate & Sam
Clapham

The Biltons
Rosedene, Rosebank Cottages

Nell, Robin, Bessie,
Eddie & Xander, Fellside

Justina & Richard Sexton
Fall View

David & Denise
1 The Green

Paul & Mollie Bratt





a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all their friends

Jill, Iain, Chloe & Emily
Old Manor House, The Green

Mrs Betty Lovett & family
Kirkdale

George & Ann
Keasden

Margaret & Dennis
Brookside, Station Road

Edward, Ruth, Martha &
Phoebe Sexton, Clapham

Ken & Brenda
Stonegarth

Mavis, Glenys & David
Gilgen, Cross Haw Lane

Clive & John
Low Lea, The Green

Liz Mason
Clareson

Joy & Clive
Keasden

Lynda & Brian
2 Eggshell Lane

Grace & Paddy
The Pens, The Green

Ron & Denise
Tinkers Ford

Anne & David
1 Eggshell Lane

Gerald & Diane
South View

Margaret, Kenny & Jake
Church View

Charlie & Julia
Water Gap Cottage

Chris & Tony
Long Barn

Neil & Kate Edwards
Ardbeg 20 Dalesview

Liz Wake
Old Mason's Yard

Annie
The Beeches

Angie & Andy
Station House

Sue & James
5 Gildersbank

The Coultherds
The Hayloft

Pat & John Sanders
Tinklers Cottage

All the team
at The Old Sawmill

John, Lorraine &
Fred Wildman, Station Road

Scott & Harriet
Fell Brook

George & Diane
Hill View

David
Gildersbank

John & Helen
Green Acre

Bryan, Paul, Anne, Hannah &
Sam, Giffords, Keasden

Jess & Chris
Honeywood

Rick & Jennie
1 Sunnybank Cottages

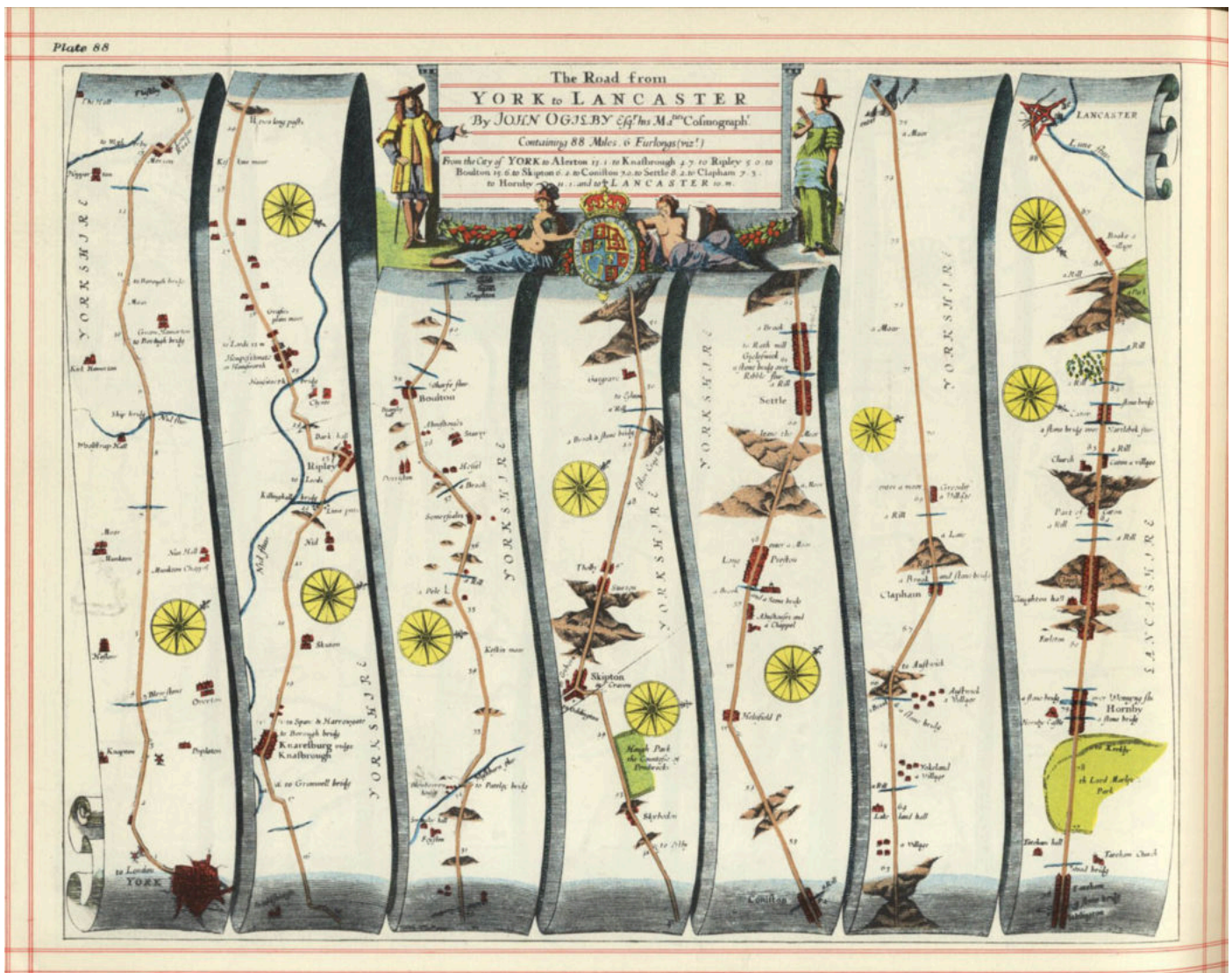
Brian Staveley
Newby

Val & Eddie Braithwaite
Ex Clapham now Kirkham

Anne & Kevin
Dalesview Close



Our road



Section of the road from York to Lancaster as depicted in John Ogilby's road map *Britannia* of 1675. Clapham is shown on the second strip from the right.

I suspect that many, like me, think of the A65 as “our road”. It’s the road we use to go to the market in Settle, the supermarkets in Kendal or Skipton, and perhaps more poignantly, it’s the road by which we return home after we’ve been away. Currently, the two ends of the A65 are at Leeds and Kendal - but it wasn’t always like that, so this short piece is a brief history of our road told through the maps that depict it.

Early maps didn’t usually show roads. Many will have seen – and several may possess – a copy of John Speed’s map of the West Riding dated 1610. Speed’s maps, which covered the whole country, were perhaps the first to depict a recognisable Britain. The coastline is close to what a satellite image would show today, the towns and settlements shown are the correct distance and direction from one another, hilly and mountainous regions are shown, and the rivers follow recognisable courses. But there are no roads. There is a much older map – the Gough Map of around 1310-1410 – which, perhaps holds a tantalising clue. Great Britain is shown on one sheet and on its side, with North to the left. The line of the coast is somewhat fanciful – much of Scotland can only be reached via a bridge – and the whole is very faded to the point where some things are very hard to read. Close inspection, though, does show towns called *Skiptou(n?)*, *Settell* and *Kirkebie Lonesdale* and, joining them, is a series of straight red lines. These, it is thought, don’t depict actual roads but, are rather, to show the distances between selected places. It must surely imply a road, though,

as otherwise the measurement of a distance would not be easily accomplished. If so, then “our road” at that time started at Doncaster and ended at Kirkby Lonsdale.

The first proper attempt to show roads in a way useful to travellers was made by John Ogilby in 1675 in his book *Brittania*. It lists all the country’s main roads and shows the route of each on a set of strip maps. These are printed side by side, with each strip abutting the next, such that the whole route from A to B is shown by scanning the sheets and turning the pages. The direction of North, however, is not constant and is shown by a compass rose which rotates slightly from one strip to the next. Each strip is drawn to scale and shows towns and stately homes, river crossings and passes, junctions and distances. One of the roads thus described – on Plate 88 - is that from York to Lancaster. This passes through Skipton and then onwards through Clapham and Hornby. No road from Clapham towards Kendal is shown, though such a road must have existed since monastic routes passed that way. Another of Ogilby’s roads is that from London (actually St Albans) to Richmond, Yorkshire which is shown on plates 47, 48 & 49. Somewhat surprisingly, this route passes through Bedford, Oakham, Nottingham, Rotherham, and Halifax then up the Aire Valley from Keighley to Skipton before heading on northwards via Kettlewell. But back to “our road” then which, in 1675, ran from York to Lancaster.

Our road *continued*

Ogilby's atlas was updated and reprinted many times and by many contributors, usually with the title "*Britannia Depicta or Ogilby Improv'd*" and continued to serve until the late 1800's. By then it had been overtaken by a desire to show the network properly orientated north-south, and the burgeoning development of the new roads created as part of the growing network of turnpikes. Nevertheless, there is a throwback to Ogilby's route still apparent to this day: the road from Skipton to Rotherham (and thus that south from Skipton towards Keighley) still carries a single designation as the A629.

One of the new turnpikes was the Keighley to Kendal one. It was authorised by an Act of Parliament of 1753, sponsored primarily by investors living in Settle who planned to recover their investment from the tolls collected from travellers using the road. Building commenced quickly and the new road included some changes to the older routes. Mostly these changes moved the alignment of the road downhill from its previous route: for example, travelling westwards, it no longer climbed high after Long Preston only to drop into Settle from above, instead taking the current route just above the valley floor. Westward from Settle, it took the direct route over Buckhaw Brow rather than the detour via Giggleswick and Lawkland, though it still travelled via

Giggleswick, Feizor and Austwick at that time. West of Clapham, it departed from the Bentham and Lancaster alignment of Ogilby's road and, instead, took the line up Old Road towards Ingleton and onward to Kendal from there. In the latter half of the 1700's then, "our road" ran from Keighley to Kendal. Its line, along with those of many of the local connecting roads (some of which have since disappeared), is shown on Thomas Jeffreys' Map of Yorkshire of 1775.

The new turnpike wasn't completed throughout until about 1827 but was already seriously in debt. Just before then, sections of it had been re-routed yet again, and these included a new alignment for the section immediately west of Clapham. This took it westwards from Clapham along

New Road, cutting right across some of the older local tracks and bypassing the centre of Ingleton in the process. Both the old and new alignments are shown on the Thomas Moule map of 1830: Pigot's map of 1840 still only shows the older route suggesting it was based on earlier surveys.

In 1878, Parliament abolished all the turnpikes and transferred responsibility for their maintenance to the county councils who were permitted to levy a rate to pay

for their upkeep. By then, the Ordnance Survey had completed its work across the country and their maps showed all the roads, both major and minor.

In 1923, all the main roads were given numbers and "our road" became the A65. In 1936, responsibility for those roads which were deemed nationally important was given to central government – the affected roads were said to have been "trunked". This did not initially apply to the A65 west of Skipton until it was added to a new list of trunk roads created in 1946 becoming the A65T in the process. As a trunk road, the two nationally important places it connected, and thus the two ends of "our road" became Leeds and Kendal.

Under government control, improvements were considered, though the West Riding County Council had started preparatory work on these. A crawler lane had been added to Buckhaw Brow and various other "straightening

schemes" and "bridge replacement alignments" had been undertaken. Planning was underway, however, for more dramatic schemes. Clapham's bypass was the first to be built, opening in 1973, followed by the longer one around Settle and Giggleswick in 1988. Plans for bypasses around Gargrave, Conistone Cold, Long Preston and Hellifield were all proposed at one time or another but hopes for these were finally dashed by central government in 2006. Instead, the road was de-trunked and responsibility for our section was transferred back to what is now North Yorkshire Council. As a result, "our road" now runs from near Addingham, where it passes into North Yorkshire, to just beyond the track to Masongill, where it passes into Lancashire.

Andy Scott



The area around Clapham as shown on Thomas Jeffreys' map of 1775. Several place names are recognisable, though spelt differently, as is the course of the original turnpike, but some of the minor roads have strange alignments.



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Friends of the Dales events

Yorkshire Dales environmental charity Friends of Dales programme of online talks runs throughout the winter with the following now available to book via:

www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Online Talk: The Flora and Fauna of Malham Tarn National Nature Reserve - Wednesday 4 December, 5:00pm



Photo: Ann Shadrake

National Trust Property Ecologist Dr. Elizabeth Sullivan will talk about Malham Tarn National Nature Reserve and its habitats, in particular those at the Tarn – England's highest lime-rich lake and the moss, its wetland areas. She will also introduce some of the key flora and fauna at the site, providing insight into how they are monitored and managed.

Online talk: A Nature-based Approach to Flood Management - Wednesday 22 January, 5:00pm



Ousewem is an innovative flood resilience project identifying and delivering nature-based solutions (NbS) and natural flood management (NFM) to reduce flood risk in vulnerable North Yorkshire communities, spanning Yorkshire's Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse (SUNO) catchments. The project, funded by Defra is part of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes managed by the Environment Agency. The programmes will drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

Amanda Crossfield from Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust – one of Ousewem's delivery partners – will provide insights into its ongoing work using NbS and NFM techniques which aim to strengthen flood resilience in at-risk North Yorkshire communities whilst enhancing the local environment and supporting a sustainable, adaptive agriculture landscape.

All talks are free – but as a charity we always welcome a small donation.

Victoria Benn

Arts at the Old Sawmill



I'm a local artist who has been working from my printmaking workshop in Ingleton ('i' centre) and have held two exhibitions at the Old Sawmill Café / Reginald Farrer Room, most recently during November with the theme of 'Winter'. This is a favourite place to visit.

I work on-site in the Dales to produce drawings which are then transformed into prints (etchings, drypoints, screenprints), in addition to paintings and photographs. I've lectured in art and design most of my life, have exhibited widely, and host print 'workshops' in Ingleton.

My subjects are mostly landscape and away from the Dales, I extend to the Hebrides, Ireland, and the South of France. I've become more involved with places such as Ingleborough, Dentdale, Coverdale and Sunderland Point because I'm very much interested in ecology and natural history.

I've recently produced a unique edition of drypoint prints, including one entitled 'The Clapham Falls' as shown. If anyone would like one then they are for sale at £75 (unframed) or £105 (framed) – please contact me via any of the methods below.

*Brian Hindmarch,
Artist / Printmaker*

*brian.hindmarch1@btopenworld.com
facebook: Brian Hindmarch
instagram: brian_printer*



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Pioneering migrant or ill-fated vagrant?



Yellow Browed Warbler (NB that 'yellow' brow is almost white!)
Photo: Peter Christian

The autumn months are always keenly anticipated by UK bird watchers. After the late summer lull following the departure of our summer visitors, October sees the return of some old friends from northern Europe. By the middle of November fieldfares and redwings have already stripped many of the berries from the hawthorn and rowan trees around the village and the first bramblings are starting to forage in our local beech woods. You may also have noticed a sudden upsurge in the number of blackbirds rooting through the leaf mould in your gardens: many of these will be residents coming in from the fields and hedgerows, but quite a few will be Scandinavian tourists enjoying a winter break.

It is always good to welcome these regular returnees but, as you may have noticed in some recent news stories, the avian arrivals that really excite the birding community are the unexpected rarities. A little earlier this month, one bemused resident of a quiet West Yorkshire village said that the discovery of a scarlet tanager – more usually found in the forests of North America – in a neighbour's garden brought more 'strange people to this road than we've seen in the past thirty years.' Imagine waking up one morning and drawing the curtains to find two hundred zoom lenses trained on you!

Unfortunately, although these feathered superstars might initially attract a lot of attention, their fame is almost always short-lived. Blown off course by adverse weather, or misled by a malfunctioning inner compass, they generally find themselves in a hostile environment for which they are horribly ill-equipped. The story of the lonely West Yorkshire scarlet tanager is unlikely to have a happy ending. These castaways who find themselves so far from home or who deviate so spectacularly from their usual migratory routes are known as *vagrants*. They rarely manage to get themselves back on track and their chances of survival are negligible.

But miracles can happen. Vagrant birds, rarely and against all the odds, can sometimes find their way back to where they belong. And if enough of them return, and if enough of them manage to breed, and if the unfamiliar

territory they have visited is favourable enough, they might just start a new migratory trend. That's a lot of *ifs*. It doesn't happen often.

This year we might be able to claim that one of those miracle birds came to Clapham. The yellow browed warbler is a strikingly beautiful little bird related to the chiff chaff. It breeds in the Taiga forests of Siberia and spends the winter in the warmer climes of south-east Asia. Its traditional migratory route should take it nowhere near the UK and fifty years ago sightings were extremely rare. In nine years between 1958 and 1966 a total of only 147 birds were recorded. Then, in 1967, there were 128 recorded sightings, all of them on the east coast; a sudden influx described at the time as an invasion. These days we might expect thousands and every autumn they seem to spread further inland.

No one is really sure why this is happening. Are these all doomed vagrant birds, increasingly bamboozled by the climate emergency and changing weather patterns? Some species, especially songbirds, rely on a genetic program inherited from their parents that will guide them on their first migration; perhaps their misguided vagrancy is the result of a flaw in their genes that drives them to migrate in the opposite direction from the one they are supposed to take. Or are they descendants of successful pioneering migrants, deliberately forging a different path in order to establish new winter territories in southern Europe or northern Africa?

Whatever the reason, in early October at least one *YBW* spent a week or two in the orchard next to Clapham station where it was first spotted and photographed by Tim Hutchinson. If the current trend continues, it certainly won't be the last.

As ever, if you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, send me an email, 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.

Merry Xmas and best wishes for 2025!

Brian Christian
(bc.riverside28@gmail.com)

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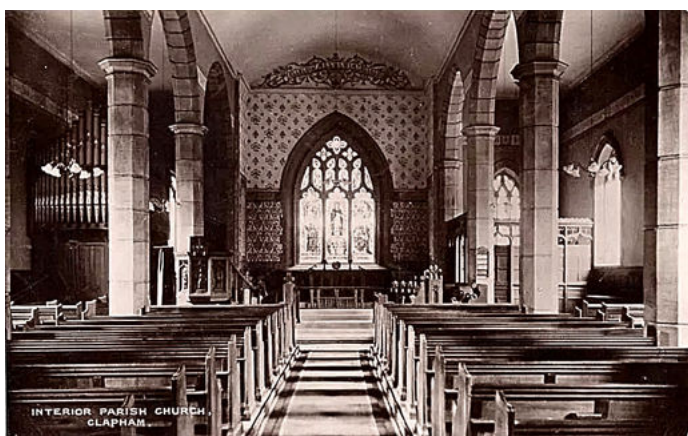
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Then and Now



One might have thought, perhaps, that the interior of a building so old and so venerated as a church might change very little over the years. But not so, as these two images show. The postcard from the early 1900's shows the east end of St. James' to have been beautifully decorated at that time, with painted geometric patterns on the lower walls and what looks like a motto high above in the arch of the ceiling.

Closer inspection suggests that decoration may have continued round the walls of the two aisles too, as what looks like a frieze is evident above the windows. Can any reader remember the church when it was like this? Does anyone remember the wording of the motto? Does anyone know when it was redecorated to its current colour scheme? Too many questions perhaps!

Andy Scott

Harvest of creativity



A huge thank you to all the talented people who contributed to the Harvest display of arts and crafts in St. James' Church on 5th and 6th October. Wrought with sewing and knitting needles, brushes, cameras and imagination, the quality of work on show was so high that several visitors wanted to buy it (perhaps we missed an opportunity there)! The contributors are an extremely modest bunch, so it was a joy to see what they do and to share it with visitors and friends.

Congratulations must also go to the fabulous flower arrangers for making the church look so lovely for Harvest Festival.

Thanks to the whole team for making the show a success with a particular shout-out to Liz Mason and Judith Holt whose hard work on the refreshments stall raised an amazing £322.46 in donations.

Liz Wake

Saints, Sausages & Sparklers



As the clocks went back and the half term holidays began, folks gathered at St. Matthew's Church, Keasden to enjoy an informal service followed by sausages and sparklers around the fire pit.

Thanks to Ann Sheridan for the photos.

Angela Peach

From days gone by

The newsletter team was delighted to receive a call from former resident Margaret Staveley, who wondered if we might find a use for some old publications and papers about the area that had been collected many, many years ago by her family. Margaret is now in her 90s and living in Wray, but spent much of her early life in Keasden where the family farmed at Heigh Head – “the highest farm up the hill!” as she recalls it. She has happy memories of her teenage years when, with her friend, she would cycle down to the village to take part in events in the hall. She remembered that fateful dance in 1952 when Roland Farrer collapsed and died, though had left to return home earlier and only learnt about it the following morning. Many thanks to Margaret for thinking of us.

Andy Scott




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Wordsearch

Our puzzle to keep you busy this Christmas, is to find 50 words in the Wordsearch below. The first 45 are the names of hostelries – pubs, bars, inns – all within a 17km radius of Clapham (that's 10½ miles in old money) and that are thought to be still open and trading. The remaining 5 words are a bonus – the names of a handful of more local establishments that have been long closed.

Each hostelry name is a minimum of 6 letters long and these can be found vertically, horizontally, or on the diagonal, reading either forwards or backwards. In general, I've omitted any leading "The"s (as in "THE Feathers")

and, in most cases, any trailing descriptors such as "Inn", "Bar" or "Hotel": the exception being when one of these is needed to bring it up to the magic 6 letters. I think I've found all the establishments in the area that are within the radius and have been around for any length of time: any new establishments (mostly micros) that I'm yet to visit may have been missed and my apologies if I've missed anyone else out!

As usual, there's no prize – just the kudos of a win and your name in the next issue.

Andy Scott



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

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Craven Life is closed until Easter 2024
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Reconnect to Nature with Rosie Johnson

These sessions are an invitation to connect more deeply with nature and with yourself. You will deepen your knowledge and apply the wisdom you gain to your everyday life through:

- Connecting directly to nature
- Meeting and working with your spirit guides
- Guided meditations
- Using shamanic practices and the Medicine Wheel
- Experiencing the healing powers of the drum and of community

Venue: Clapham Village Hall, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham, LA2 8DZ

Cost: £15/session

Sessions will be held on: 9th & 23 Jan, 6th & 20th Feb,
6th & 20th March, 3rd April, 1st & 15th May
7-9 pm

I have over 12 years' experience as a shamanic practitioner after completing a 2 year training with shamanic teachers- Jayne Johnson and Robyn Fell. I trained in Metatron colour healing in levels 1 & 2 with Amanda Ellis and in shamanic healing massage with Georgien Wybenga. For over 8 years I have facilitated art sessions.



To book or for more information please
contact on
healingpathofthedragonfly@gmail.com

Booking is essential as limited places



Village Hall news

The Village Hall held its AGM on 9th October, in the process electing a new committee to serve as trustees for the year ahead. We were delighted to have two new community groups represented for the first time: Clapham Art Group and Clapham Association. Prior to the meeting, Judith Dawson had indicated her wish to step down as Chair, having served for two years, and she was thanked for her sterling work in the role by all present. At the Committee Meeting which followed, Margery Dowling was elected Chair, having served as Vice-chair under Judith, and Libby Morrison was elected to the position thus vacated. The remaining officers – Anne Lawler (Treasurer), Andy Scott (Bookings Secretary), and I (Secretary) – had each offered to stay on and were re-elected. Contact details for all the above are displayed on the notice boards inside and outside the hall should anyone need to get in touch on any matter.

One thing that the new committee has had to do already is to revisit our hire charges. These had not increased for the last two years. Rising costs, particularly around energy and licensing, mean that we will have to make a modest increase for 2025. Hire rates for the three main rooms are each to go up by £1 per session from 1st January. On the plus side, we have extended the scheme for our discounted rate so that it now includes whole hall hires and whole day hires. We will also honour the existing prices for bookings already in the system before 31st December. All our customers have already been contacted and the new charges explained. The new rates can also be found on our web-based bookings system and on the notice boards at the hall.

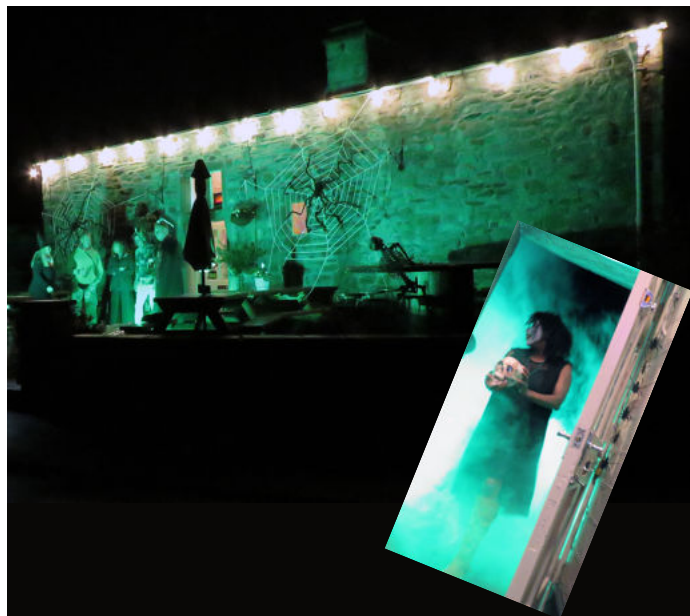
Looking ahead to what we have coming up, we have the Rural Arts Panto – *Sleeping Beauty and the Beast* – on Friday 3rd Jan (tickets already on sale!). Further ahead, we have the Hall's own fundraising *Domino Drive* on 8th February. Meantime, the committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Angie Martin
Secretary

Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall

Halloween

Halloween celebrations at The Old Manor House. Photos supplied by Tim Hutchinson.



Village hall regular events

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 2pm to 4pm (except Dec 23rd and 30th)
David & Jackie Kingsley
07711 730819

Clapham & Austwick Guides & Brownies

Mondays 6 - 7pm
Karen Fielding
07748 164409
claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com

Age UK

Wednesdays 10.30am (1st Wed of the month)
Brenda Pearce
015242 51816
kenpearcela2@gmail.com

Clapham DEW Drop-In

Digital Equipment Workshop PC support group
Usually Wednesdays 7pm (1st Wed of the month)
December meeting - see advert on p.18 thereafter
1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm - restarting in February
Andy Scott
015242 51749
claphamdewdropin@gmail.com

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council

December meeting Wednesday 11th at 7.30pm,
thereafter Wednesdays 7.30pm (usually 3rd Wed of the month)
Steve Culver
015242 51862
parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com

Tai Chi

Thursdays 9 - 10.30am
Tony Bennet
taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com

Craft & Chat

Thursdays 2 - 4pm (1st & 3rd Thurs of the month)
Angie Martin
015242 51749
angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk

Reconnect to Nature

Thursdays 7.00pm (2nd & 4th Thurs of the month)
** Booking essential **
Rosie Johnson
healingpathofthedragonfly@gmail.com

Board Games Group

Fortnightly on Fridays 2pm - 5pm,
see Hall website calendar or call Jackie Kingsley
015242 51240
jackieanddavid@yahoo.com

Cuban Salsa Dancing

Fridays 7.00pm
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

News from Glencroft



Thanks to Anne Lawler (and Lulu!) for modelling our new 'Phoebe' British Wool sheep jumper! Photograph: Becki Dakin



Above and below examples of recent marketing graphics commissioned by Glencroft with an illustration of a Dalesbred sheep.

Glencroft is proud to sponsor our village newsletter once again. We're the family business based in the cow barn opposite the pub, bursting at the seams with wool and sheepskin.

This time of year sees us working frantically trying to get as many woolly jumpers, lambskin gloves, sheepskin rugs and other winter-wear out of the door to retail shops we supply up and down the country, as well as sending out orders placed by individuals on our website. Not to mention planning new designs for 2025.

For a business that makes things from sheep, September to November is often our busiest time and we really notice it when the temperature drops as glove sales will usually go up. Well, that's what we hope for anyway...

Our Clapdale Wool project is ongoing and uses wool from seven farms around Clapham. In the past year we've finally finished processing the last of the wool we purchased in 2022 into woven blankets and tweed cloth. This is in addition to hand knit yarn, jumpers, and hats.

We've been getting the Clapdale Wool word out there this year at the Yarnsdale show in Skipton, a pop-up shop in Knaresborough, a few brand collaborations, and a series of evening talks to local groups about what makes this fully traceable wool special.

We hope we can continue to sell the yarn and products we've made from it so we can then invest in purchasing more wool from farmers in 2025 to start the 'farm to yarn and jumper' cycle once again.

Edward Sexton

