



Number 154, April 2025

Arla? And Curlews?

It turns out that Bleak Bank has potential. I have come to this conclusion because everything we do is below average, including our carbon footprint.

Recently we had it measured (again) and, yet again, it was below average. Arla do the measuring and they suggested that, to lower it further, instead of taking one big cut of silage at the end of June, we take a first cut in early June and a second towards the end of July. This would mean younger, better-quality silage, and more of it. This, in turn, would allow us to increase cow numbers, meaning the farm can produce more milk from the same acreage, therefore lowering the carbon footprint. Remarkable.

My suggestion of closing our airspace to help lower the carbon footprint fell on deaf ears, as did inviting the inspector to consider our few acres of woodland in the calculation.

I explained Arla's suggestion to the curlews that live at Bleak Bank during the breeding season (theirs not mine) and their first question was "where are we going to lay our eggs and have babies if you cut the grass in early June?" Fair point.

This led to a conversation over a brew and ginger biscuit with our Arla inspector which, in turn, led to the head of Arla sustainability asking to visit Bleak Bank. I rather suspect he had heard of the ginger biscuits, and we responded positively, so the visit was arranged.

During the visit, our aim was to show what an upland farm such as ours has to offer, not just in terms of food production but also in giving nature somewhere to live. As our esteemed visitor arrived, the curlews made themselves even more friends with a perfectly timed fly-past.

We had a very constructive two hours with our visitor which included a brief farm tour taking in the cows, who were very excited and evacuated their bowels in a show of enthusiasm, as well as the curlew nesting sites, before ending in the kitchen with brew and a ginger biscuit.

Mr Arla was obviously a professional meeting goer and did quite a lot of talking without saying too much (a bit like my mother) but he also listened, asked the right questions, and clearly understood what we were explaining, and I think took it on board.

We have always believed that food production and mother nature can, and should, co-exist perfectly happily on every farm because they complement each other. We left our visitor with the thought that we would love to have a sign at the bottom of our road which read "Arla curlews live here". He wrote that down, but we won't hold our breath.

On another matter, the sheep have been enjoying the open weather of late, which has meant they do not burn as much energy

fighting off the rain and wind. It is also easier for them to visit the hay racks if the ground is drier. As we hurtle towards the dark despairing abyss of the lambing season this should be good news.

The barn is ready as a casualty clearing station and the medicine cupboard is stocked with the basic necessities required for both lambs and sheep. The shepherd's essentials usually take the form of chocolate which is kept close to hand in case an emergency intravenous hit is needed.

With a fair wind, a touch of humour and lashings of hard work we hope to see you on the other side, wish us luck...

John Dawson



Welcome to the April newsletter

A warm welcome to the latest edition of the Clapham and District newsletter - where we aim to provide our readers with useful information about the local area.

Our thanks go to all those who have contributed articles and photos to this April edition.

We are grateful to the businesses that have paid for advertisements - every penny helps to keep us in production.

It would be wonderful to find a sponsor for the colour printing of the June edition; if you think you could help - please get in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Newsletter Committee

Issues: February, April, June, August, October and December.

Next issue: **June 2025.**

Deadline: **Tuesday 20 May.**

NB. Please submit all articles promptly as the compilers of the June edition are under time pressure due to family commitments. Thank you.

Articles

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

Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

NB. 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: June 2025
Deadline: Tuesday 20 May**



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Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of **19th February 2025** and were joined by Cllr David Ireton from North Yorkshire Council (NYC), a representative from the Sustainability Group, and three members of the public.

Numerous issues with potholes and other highways-related items were raised and the Clerk took the actions to raise these all on the NYC Portal. A number had already been raised and so thanks to whoever it was who did so! Should anyone else like to gain access to the “portal”, this can be done with a “my account” on NYC Site <https://myaccount.northyorks.gov.uk/>

The Sustainability Group representative advised that the Cry of the Curlew exhibition was now at the Folly in Settle until 28th June. Whilst you may have seen it at St James’ last year, this is a bigger exhibition and well worth another look. The Give and Take event will now not be held until 18th October, but “King Sharp” will be in Clapham on 9th April – see notice below.

A statement has been sent to Julian Smith regarding the non-functioning of smart meters due to poor radio signal. Cllr Ireton also advised that all residents will be receiving an additional recycling bin to separate glass and metal from paper and cardboard.

The application for a Landmark Tree to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of The Forest of Bowland National Landscape has been unsuccessful. The proposed site in Newby Cote was just not large enough to accommodate a mature tree, whilst the overhead power lines in the Eastern Churchyard at St Matthew’s Keasden led to restrictions on placement and type of tree so the Church Council asked to withdraw the application.

Changes to the School Transport Policy have been made and a number of local schools are now looking to have the policy overturned. As such the Clerk was asked to contact each of the North Yorkshire Councillors (all 90!) expressing concern and the impact on both Settle College and Austwick Primary that this is having.

The Parish Council met on the evening of **19th March 2025**. The meeting also included the Annual Parish Meeting. Present, besides Parish Councillors, were eleven members of the public to provide and listen to the reports of the local groups.

The Chairman provided a report on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year. Reports were also received from the North Yorkshire Councillor, followed by reports from representatives of various groups and organisations active within the parish.

The groups represented in person were: The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Clapham St. James’ Church, St James’ Church Bell Ringers, The Lecture Group, The Dew Drop-In Group, Ingleborough Estate, Clapham Village Store, The Clapham Sustainability Group and Clapham & District Newsletter.

Written reports from The Friends of Clapham Station, The Cave Rescue Organisation, St Matthew’s Church Keasden and Age UK (Clapham 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 regular Parish Council meeting was held at the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting with four members of the public remaining to listen to the proceedings.

The date for the inquiry on Thwaite Lane is to be on 30th September. It is proposed that it is held in Northallerton. The Council requested that the Clerk write to the Planning Inspectorate and ask that the inquiry be held in Clapham Village Hall, as Northallerton is not local.

The Clerk reported that all 89 (rather than the suggested 90) North Yorkshire Councillors had been emailed regarding the School Transport issue raised at the previous meeting. There have been a number of responses from Councillors who have been supportive of the concerns, but changes for pupils starting in 2025 will be difficult given the number of families that have made decisions based upon the revised policy. There will be a review of the policy in due course.

There was a discussion about the Clapham churchyard footpath, as at a recent funeral one of the pallbearers had slipped on the wet surface. It had been suggested that the flags in situ be lifted to see if the underside would provide a better surface. Concern was raised regarding the potential cost of this exercise which might only find that the underside provides no better surface, given that the “best” side would have been used when the path was installed. It was suggested that grit salt be spread for funerals on wet days and people should be urged to use the handrail at other times. These ideas will be taken back to St. James’ Parochial Church Council for consideration.

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 meetings of the Parish Council will be: Wednesday 16th April and Wednesday 21st May.

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

Tel: 015242 51862 or

Email: parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com



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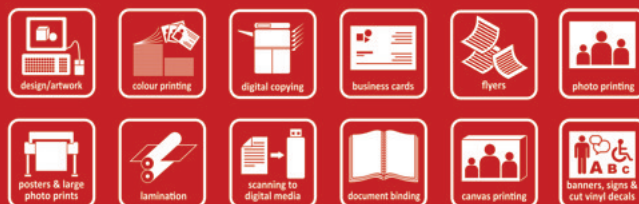
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In memory of Anne Carr (1950 – 2025)

Anne's early years were spent in Embsay where she lived with her mum, dad, and brother Graeme, making friends there that lasted a lifetime. Her heart, though, was in Austwick where she spent the school holidays with her aunties and cousins. She made more friends there too – ones who became a huge part of her life and, later, of her family's lives. Eventually, her cousin Annie married a local boy, Pat, and together they bought the farm at Jop Ridding. Anne spent a lot of time there and, when her parents both died, they took her in, and she became part of Annie and Pat's family. She took on a wide range of jobs on the farm, helping in any way she could. She also enjoyed the local area – walks in Wharfe Wood were particular favourites and she had a love of wildflowers.

She was a clever girl at school and had the option of going to Skipton Girls Grammar but, instead, decided to follow her friends and go to Keighley Technical College. From there, she joined the police and at the training school she first encountered David - the man who was to be her future husband. Posted to the same station a little later, they became romantically attached and eventually married on Anne's 21st birthday – 24th April 1971. Her first child, Sarah, had been born a few months beforehand and the family was completed when Michael was born three years later. Perhaps that would better read "almost completed" because it's important to include the dogs which were such a large part of family life.

The family settled in Clapham and became very much a part of the community. Anne had stopped work in the police beforehand to bring up her children but later went on to take up a wide variety of positions in the village and beyond. She did factory work where she made scotch eggs, became a cleaner, then she became a dinner lady at the school before being appointed as school caretaker. She worked in the accounts department at The Dalesman and then she became the housekeeper at the New Inn. All of her employers considered her as thoroughly reliable – the pub was in safe hands even when the landlord and landlady were away!

Yet through all these jobs, she always made sure she had plenty of time for her children: they were always the priority despite having a number of adolescent episodes to deal with along the way. Her final "employment" – which she loved – was as a volunteer in the village shop.

As Sarah and Michael began to spread their wings a bit, Anne and David took time to travel. They had many lovely holidays in Turkey, Cyprus and Portugal and spent several holidays staying with Auntie June and Uncle Mick in Benalmadena on the Costa del Sol. Perhaps Anne's favourite holidays, though, were to the Alps with Mr Crutchley and Lesley where she thoroughly enjoyed the flowers. She had always wanted to be Maria from the Sound of Music (she saw it eight times in the cinema as a child) and she loved the songs. She wanted nothing more than to be able to sing but she was never going to set the hills on fire. As a schoolgirl, she had been asked by the minister to mime when she joined the Embsay church choir!

Anne always considered family – and extended family – to be important. Christmases were especially so, whether

at home, on the farm, at Townhead or Pontefract, or more recently, with the addition of Martin's family at Accerhill. Ultimately, both her children and their families returned to live in the village, keeping everyone close. They still continued their association with the farm even in later life – "Divid n Anne", a bit like Tweedledum and Tweedle-dee – almost always in their wellies. Whether you visited them at the farm, or at Eggshell Lane, they always made you feel welcome and were interested in what was happening in your lives.

She was delighted when the grandchildren came along, extending her family just a bit further. She holidayed with them in Turkey (where she paraglided off a cliff with her granddaughter) and to the Dordogne (where she and her daughter took to a hot air balloon).

I found an entry in her autograph book that had been written by her father on 27th December 1960 when Anne was just ten. It read "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do to any man, let me do now, let me not defer nor regret it for I shall not pass this way again." That is how

mum lived her life: she would do anything for anyone, she will have had no regrets, she never put off doing what she could do for us, for everyone.

Sarah Carr

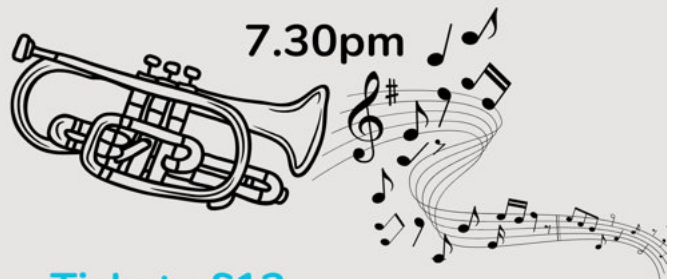
If anyone would like a copy of the full eulogy, as read out at the memorial service for Anne, then please contact the Newsletter.

Giggleswick & Settle Brass Band

St James' Church, Clapham

Saturday 26th April

7.30pm



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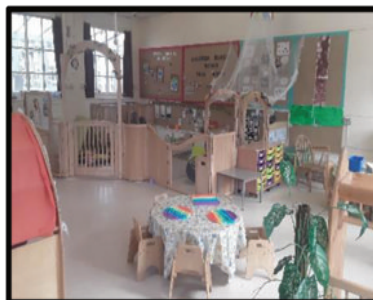
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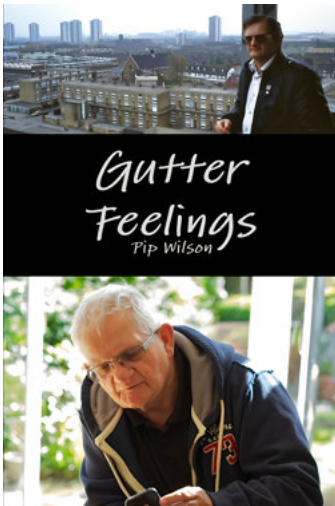
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Church News



John's Notes - Blessed are the peacemakers: sat at the kerbside empathising

Back in the day, at the youth club, trouble was brewing between two tough guys who had taken a dislike to each other. Words were exchanged, there was pushing and shoving between them and other members of their respective gangs. My friend Pip, the youth worker, knew that these young men were tooled up with knives, and that violence could erupt at any moment.

From a safe distance I watched Pip persuade one of the gang leaders to step outside with him in a bid to try to cool the situation. Pip later told me of how scared he was for his own safety as the gang followed them into the street. He was well-schooled in the use of *non-verbal communication*, body language, and the next thing I saw him do has stuck with me always. With the gang leader yelling in his face, and the others surrounding him, Pip broke the tension *by sitting down at the kerbside, at the feet of the gang...* from where he continued to talk to the young men, asking them what was troubling them that night.

Long story short, now picture Pip and the gang leader a little later, sitting alongside each other in the gutter, the young man spilling out his life story - not a pretty one - and Pip all ears, empathising; the tension diffused, the gangs back together again, playing pool.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called children of God", and because I knew that Jesus was Pip's inspiration, Jesus became *my* inspiration too. I learned that peacemaking was at the heart of Jesus' teaching, and practice. Stories like the one where Jesus invites himself to the house of the money-grubbing taxman Zacchaeus, and, transformed by this surprise intervention, Zacchaeus joyfully gives half of his possessions to the poor, and pays people back four times the amount he had cheated from them.

From the Sermon on the Mount, we learn that Jesus places peacemakers not in exalted company, but among the poor, those who mourn, and the meek: in other words, among society's vulnerable, troubled, and lost souls, the victimised and the abused. In this teaching, *Peacemakers know their place* - and that is: sat at the kerbside empathising with those whose life stories are not pretty.

Empathising - then *acting* on what they hear and see. For Jesus continues by saying that 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness'. Blessed are those who see that *peacemaking is an activity* for those who are learning to see the world through the eyes of those on the receiving end of rapacious wealth and power, and who will do what they can to right the wrongs which trouble the delicate ecology of the earth, its creatures and its peoples.

Jesus taught that peacemakers can expect trouble: they'll be lied about, insulted, and persecuted. And his life shows that often the trouble comes from those you'd expect to be your allies. How often he was in conflict with the religious authorities, for instance, over the ways they'd turned the law into a burden on the poor; how he literally *upset* the unholy traders in The Temple: was this why he said that

he'd come to bring 'not peace, but a sword'? He was teaching that peacemaking is an unsettling business.

His methods clearly unsettled his own supporters, who often failed to 'get' what he was doing, giving his time to women of low repute and soldiers of the hated occupying Roman army. And it is remarkable to note how often it is a *military man* who understands who Jesus is and affirms him in his mission: the centurion whose servant Jesus heals then says 'I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith'; the soldier at the foot of the cross who is the first to realise that the crucifixion is a liberating act of God. From this I have learned to see how peacemakers come in all forms and types; over the years I've found some of the richest conversations about peacemaking in dialogues between military strategists and peace movement activists.

The beatitudes of Jesus make no sense at all to those who despair of the injustices of the world. Where is the blessing for the poor and meek? When will it ever come? How could it ever happen?

But what the beatitudes do - and what Jesus did in his life, death, and resurrection, 'is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing' (paraphrasing Raymond Williams).

However hopeless the situation may look on the surface of things, peacemakers of all faiths and none are motivated by a sure and certain hope: that though change may be a long time coming, in the words of Sam Cooke, a change is going to come.

Revd John Davies
01524 805928

john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

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

Notes from a Small Vicar: bit.ly/johndavies-talks

Pip Wilson, Gutter Feelings, is available online from Lulu.com

Anglican Services

All services led by Revd John Davies, except where stated.

April

- 6** Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth & 11.00 Clapham; Evening Easy Church: 6.30 Newby Methodist Church
- 13** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick & 11.00 Keasden
- 17** Maundy Thursday: 6.30 Eldroth Last Supper
- 18** Good Friday: 2.00 Austwick Reflections at the Cross
- 20** Easter Day: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick & Eldroth (Revd Stephen Dawson); 11.00 Clapham; 4.00 Keasden Easter Praise & Egg Hunt
- 27** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick (followed by APCM at 10.45) & 11.00 Clapham (Revd Steve Rathbone); 6.00 Keasden Spring Saunter

May

- 4** Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth & 11.00 Clapham; Evening Easy Church: 6.30 Newby Methodist Church
- 11** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick & 11.00 Keasden
- 18** 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 7.00 Keasden Lambing Service
- 25** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick & 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

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Settle Parish Church
Sat 28th June, 3.30pm
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Mendelssohn
Overture, 'Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage'

Weber
Horn Concertino
Soloist - Ewan Hudson

Schubert
Symphony No.3
Conductor - Harry Lai
Leader - Anne Heaton

This concert will be free, thanks to a generous legacy from Dorothy Wrathall, a former member of the orchestra. Donations will be welcome and will be split between Settle Orchestra and Jessie's Fund, a charity that helps children with complex needs or serious illness to communicate by using music.

jessiesfund.org.uk

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Church News *continued*

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Usual Sunday services take place:

Each week at 11am and 6.30pm

4th Sunday of the month at 6.30pm - youth service

Easter Sunday 11am and 6.30pm with Jem Hudson

Fridays:

Clapham Tots at 9.30am

Alternate Fridays:

Children's Clubs Kmotion at 6pm and Encounter at 7.30pm

3rd April & 1st May Thursday Friends at 2pm

12th April at 10am Clapham Tots Easter Special

19th April & 17th May Coffee, Cake, Chat & Foodbank drop off at 10.30am

24th April & 22nd May Coffee Evening at 7.30pm

May Day Open Day 5th May (more details to come).

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep." John 10:11

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

Catholic Church - Our Lady and St Boniface

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

Usual mass times:

Sundays: 9.15am, Wednesdays & Fridays: 10am.

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

Usual mass times:

Saturdays: Vigil: 5.30pm; Sundays: 11.15am, Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am.

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.

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/>

An organ recital

but not quite what you might expect!

Ben Saunders will be returning to fill St. James' Church once again with his incredible music. We are very fortunate! Ben has performed all over the world and has made numerous recordings. Luckily, he has a particular fondness for our Grade I listed organ and the excellent acoustics of our barrel-ceilinged church. "The Clapham organ is exquisite and untouched, and one would need to travel a long way to find any instrument its equal," he explains.



On Saturday 14th June at 7.30pm, Ben Saunders returns to St. James' Church to wow us all with his brilliance.

He also brings along his classical accordion, a 1950's instrument that is both mesmerising in its complexity and incredibly difficult to master! I can happily confirm that Ben has, without doubt, mastered it.

Previous concerts have both surprised and enthralled the audiences in Clapham, who have come to appreciate that Ben's professional brilliance and enthusiasm make for a truly wonderful event.

In his "spare time" Ben is a director of the Leeds Conservatoire, carries overall responsibility for music in the Diocese of Leeds and leads the National Schools Singing Programme.

This is an evening not to miss. Tickets will be £10, available from the Village Store (cash only) from 15th May, or from Sue Mann, or pay at the door.

Maria Farrer

Coffee Morning



Saturday 26th April
10am to 12 noon

in Clapham Village Hall

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In aid of St. Matthew's Church, Keasden

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Culture in Clapham

Over the autumn and winter St James' Church and Clapham Village Hall have worked together to bring us some great cultural offerings courtesy of Rural Arts, a charity which aims to deliver inspiring and creative opportunities to enrich lives and connect communities.



Our first offering was 'The Regalettes', presented by the Badapple Theatre Company and written by Kate Bramley with music by Jez Lowe. This took us back to the 1930s when celebrity and rural life clashed head on when a new movie was set to premiere at the tiny Regal Cinema in Bottledale.

Comedy, intrigue, and a very silly mystery but great fun!

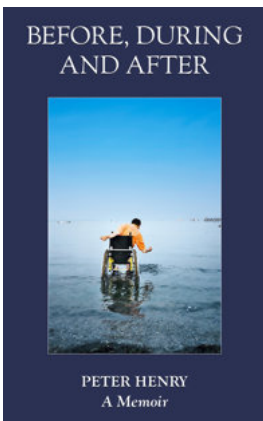
Badapple were back in the New Year with the pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty and the Beast', written and directed by Richard Kay. Three actors, two pantomimes – what could possibly go wrong? Featuring Fairy Natural and the Wicked Witch of the West (of Yorkshire), the aim was to save Belle and Beauty from their storybook fates. Needless to say, they did with songs, japes, and costume changes galore.



In February it was a complete change when Ma Bessie and her Pigfoot Band brought their Prohibition Party to Clapham. Ma Bessie combines classic blues and jazz tunes from the inter-war years with a selection of original songs and hand-picked covers from the last 50

years of popular music. What a great show with singing and dancing in the hall – not the usual Sunday night in Clapham.

Before, During and After



Much has happened in my life since I was born in 1961, including my move to Clapham in 1997. It's a small and friendly community in such a beautiful area and I would wish to live nowhere else.

People I meet often ask what happened, and they express great interest in the different phases of my life before and after my accident. A friend once said to me that I should write a book, and those words planted a seed.

Over the years, ideas came to me and made their way onto paper. My story seems to want to be told, if only because I've lived to tell the tale, and that the tale is not relentlessly mired in misery but is full of challenges and a lot of fun.

Everyone's life is unique and precious, full of the fun and games of living. Before, During and After charts some of mine. If you would like to acquire a copy, then please scan the QR code or visit my website. All donations go to BACK-UP – a spinal injuries charity that has helped me greatly.



Peter Henry

www.peterhenry.co.uk

Thanks to all who helped to put on these events here. It is great to have such things close to home. At the end of the 'season' we had covered our costs, and it was possible to make donations to both the village hall and the church. So, thanks to all of you who have supported them.

Finally, as many will know, this initiative owed much to the enthusiasm and hard work of Kathy Hall. I think that she would be very pleased!

Sue Mann

Burns Night returns

After a few years gap Burns Night was once again marked in Clapham on the 25 January when a sold-out crowd gathered for the traditional three course festive feast followed by a Ceilidh.

Liz Wake gave a great rendition of the Selkirk Grace, complete with Scottish accent. Andy Harris performed the address to the Haggis slicing it up with a Gurkha Kukri followed by a whisky toast. David Smith confessed to having no Scottish heritage during his rendition of the Immortal Memory whilst demonstrating his in-depth knowledge of the Bard. Ian Crossley and Jill Gates were an



outstanding act for the Lassies Response a fitting end to the meal. The Ceilidh led by the Batty Moss Band was very lively and an excellent conclusion to the evening.

Thanks to all those who helped especially Cathy Smith, Barbara Marshall, and Robin Harris. The general consensus was that it was a great evening and should be repeated next year! Watch this space.

Andy & Niki Harris

Park update - spring arrives



On Monday 17th March the Clapham Park Association was delighted to receive a huge donation from the Old Manor House. We'd like to say the biggest thank you possible to Elaine and Steve Booth and everyone who plays

the draw. This £1000 will be a significant help to all the repairs and maintenance work needed this year.

We were sad to see the old sycamore go in the recent tree works but understand the situation. We've had a great suggestion to get some outdoor exercise equipment, to allow a wider use of the park. We're currently looking into the feasibility and cost of this.

Meanwhile, there are repairs needed to equipment and the sandpit needs an overhaul. Look out for notices on maintenance days as the weather improves - all help is welcome!

Eleanor (Nell) Whitley
0776 608 8169

Nature notes



Look at all those 'stars' - *Sturnus Vulgaris*. Photo: Brian Christian



The unobtrusive redshank. Photo: Brian Christian

I love this time of year. Especially when we get a little bit of a warm spell. Returning curlew pairs are beginning to reacquaint themselves with their spring territories - and with each other – and their bubbling calls signal the faint possibility that the worst of the winter frosts might just be behind us. Their insistent shrill whistles tell us that oystercatchers have also made the journey inland from their winter feeding grounds on the coast and, if we look carefully, we might spot the occasional redshank, a much less demonstrative, more self-effacing returnee quietly probing the soft ground for tasty invertebrates. With any luck there might be lapwings whooshing and whirring overhead.

As well as the waders, we can also expect to hear the first chiffchaffs of the year and, if we're lucky, the much more melodic blackcap; Richard Adams, of 'Watership Down' fame, always claimed that the blackcap is the real star of the spring chorus, outdoing even the virtuoso song thrush. He considered it a very good omen if he heard one before the end of March.

There are times, though, when some of the sounds of spring may not be quite what they seem to be. There are imposters about! The song thrush is adept at incorporating a wide range of both natural and man-made tunes into his wide repertoire but the most deceptive of our avian mimics is the starling. The 'cur-lee' of the curlew? No problem. How about a few bars of 'very annoying car alarm?' Dead easy. Yappy little dog? He's got that one covered too. The starling may not be the most lyrical musician but he's definitely top of the class in the 'you hum it, I'll play it' school of music. Apparently, Mozart kept one as a pet and enjoyed hearing it singing snatches of his compositions.

There are some, though, who are less than impressed with the starling's noise. They do like to make sure you know they're around. Even when they're not regaling us with their karaoke, they can't resist non-stop clicketty-click banter with their mates. Walking under a tree full of starlings feels bit like wandering into a nineteen seventies typing pool.

Even Shakespeare, who loved his birds, only mentions the starling as a potential irritant. (Henry IV Part 1, if you're interested). Which is ironic really – because it was a lover of Shakespeare who introduced the European Starling, 'America's most hated bird' to the USA. In 1890 Eugene Scheiffelin of the American Acclimatization Society (I wonder what Trump would have made of that?) released sixty birds in Central Park as part of his project to bring every bird mentioned in the works of Shakespeare to 'the land of the free.' The North American population is now

estimated to be in excess of 200 million, about a third of the world's population. It turns out that the supremely adaptable, noisy, aggressive starling is very good at taking over the territories of less confident little songsters.

I have to say that I have a soft spot for *Sturnus Vulgaris* – the common starling. *Sturnus* and starling mean the same thing – 'little star.' The generally accepted theory is that the starling gets its name from the shape its short, triangular wings and long pointed beak give it in flight but I can't help thinking that anyone who looks closely at its spring plumage will unfailingly see thousands of little white stars in an iridescent night sky. These 'stars' are actually white feather tips that wear away during the summer months but, for a little while, surely the starling can lay claim to being the UK's very own bird of paradise? Nothing common about it at all.

As usual, if you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, please send me an email (bc.riverside28@gmail.com) 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. I also post local nature notes on @bcriverside28.bsky.social

Brian Christian

Thank you!



A huge thank you to you all for a very blessed and happy seven and a half years of living in Clapham, with especial thanks to Bethel Chapel for being able to live in Chapel House. Living in such a beautiful, friendly, and welcoming

place was exactly what I needed whilst recovering from health issues and readjusting to life back in the UK after working in Cambodia. Clapham is such a special place. I love that everywhere you go, you bump into people you know, and I miss seeing you all. Esmie misses your gardens and watching you all go past from the safety of the Chapel car park! We are now living in the 'bright lights' of Ingletton (to quote Will Dawson), so we are not too far away, and I am looking forward to popping back to the village regularly. Thank you again!

Caroline West and Esmie

In memory of Bob Jarman

Bob was best known for running Ingleborough Cave for over 60 years and, frequently, he could be found outside the shop smoking his pipe whilst recounting entertaining and adventurous tales to captivated visitors. But he also had an interesting career beforehand. Having grown up in the Bradford area, he held jobs locally at Mains Radio, Craven Electric and finally English Electric, where he was involved in the making of electric motors for nuclear submarines and for lowering control rods in and out of nuclear reactors.

He had a lifelong love for the Yorkshire Dales and first moved to Clapham expecting to continue his work at English Electric. However, when the company changed hands, he decided to move on and took a job at Rolls-Royce, commuting back and forth to their Barnoldswick site. His final employer was Lancaster University, where he started off in the Department of Engineering before being asked to join the newly formed Psychology Department as Chief Technician. He was always extremely proud of what he achieved at Lancaster University, and this was never more evident than when he reminisced about an ambitious grant-funded micro-processing project that came with a contract from the Ministry of Defence for which he was given prime responsibility. In Dad's own words "much to a lot of people's surprise, I managed to get it over the line".

Despite his career successes, the biggest reason that he remembered the university with such fondness was that it was where he met my wonderful Mum, and on 13th December 1980 they were married in Benthams, with a reception here in Clapham at The New Inn. Mum and Dad were married for over 44 years, and although he wasn't necessarily one for showing it, Dad always knew how lucky he was to have Mum. On the rare occasions that Mum went away for a day or two, you could clearly tell by Dad's behaviour and actions when she got back that he'd missed her, and that having to look after himself had provided a stark reminder of how much she did for us all.

When we were children, Mum took us away for a few days camping, and Dad was left to look after the cave. I remember it being a very real concern amongst us how he'd cope, given that we'd only ever seen him cook deep-fried fish fingers and chips in the ten years prior, and the deep fat fryer had long since been thrown away. As always, Dad had a plan, and we soon identified what this was when calling the cave to chat in the mornings. Without fail he had been at Brookhouse having Alan's finest Full English. The working day would then be spent grazing on an assortment of sweets and ice creams, before dinner at The Little Chef on the A65 at Newby, then home to the blissful tranquillity of utter silence. No shopping, no cooking, no washing up. Problem solved.

Caves played a huge part in Dad's life. What began as a hobby, both caving and cave diving as an active member

of Bradford Pothole Club, the Cave Diving Group, Keighley Sub Aqua Club and the CRO, eventually became his work. In his later years, Dad often said that he couldn't quite believe that he'd ended up doing something for money that

he'd probably have done for free. During his cave diving years with contemporaries including Bob Leakey, Mike Boon and Pete Livesey, he was involved in some notable explorations. He was also the recipient of a public commendation from a coroner after he used his diving skills to recover the body of a missing child who had drowned in the River Wenning.

So on to Dad's pride and joy, and what ended up being the majority of his life's work. Put simply, Dad loved Ingleborough Cave. He first became involved with running it in around 1959 from a small wooden hut outside, when visitors were still led through by candlelight. Amongst many other things, Dad was responsible for installing the majority of the concrete paths, for building, wiring and installing the electric lighting that allowed visitors to fully appreciate the cave's natural wonders, and for building the shop outside, which to this day serves as a haven for those in search of ice cream, a drink, some shelter and a natter.

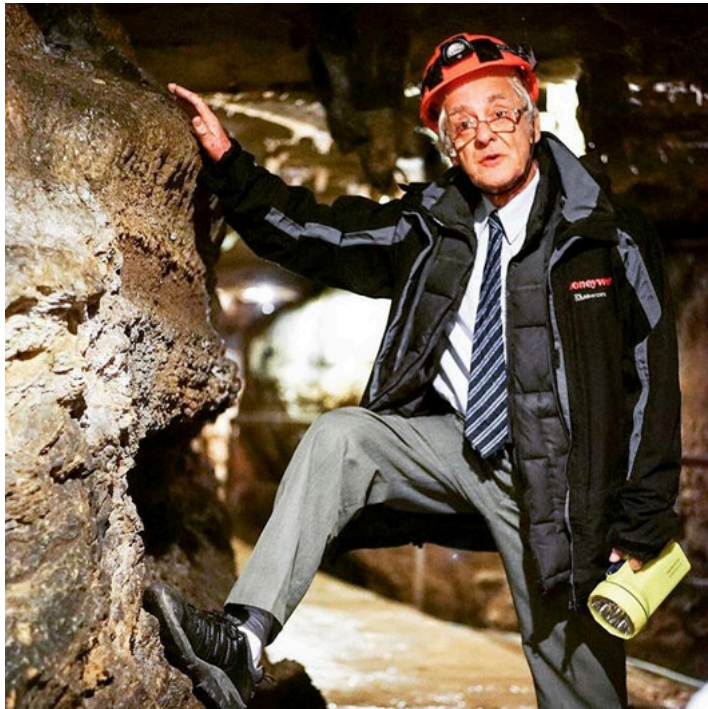
I've often thought that in a time when the public expect more and more, it's quite special how this small shop seemingly dropped in the middle of nowhere stands still in time, where people are just genuinely happy to be able to get a basic hot drink in a takeaway cup.

As a self-appointed "tight Yorkshireman", Dad did absolutely every job you could imagine at the cave. He was builder, electrician, technician, plumber, painter, tour guide and, of course, captivated families for decades as the original Father Christmas. In this role, he developed a monologue that he would deliver to groups, asking for carrots to be left for the reindeer, and a mince pie with a small dram of Glenfiddich for Father Christmas. As a result, every December we received litres and litres of Glenfiddich from returning visitors.

As Dad became less mobile with health problems that made days out tricky, he and I took to taking drives around the places that he'd had an affinity with over the years; Bradford, Lancaster University, Malham, Hawes, places that he often hadn't been to in decades. This, along with the fact that he spent a fair amount of time in and out of hospital in his later years, meant that we spent a lot of time chatting. The overwhelming sense I got from him was that he was happy and proud of the life he'd had. In many ways, he couldn't quite believe his luck - not bad for a lad from Bradford.

We'll miss you Dad, but we certainly won't forget you. Thank you for everything.

Andrew & Sue Jarman





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Then and Now



Our “then” image this time is an old 1920’s Matthews of Bradford postcard entitled the “Clapham-Bentham Road”. It was taken from near Green Close and depicts the view towards our village. A highly rural scene, with barely a dwelling in sight, you might imagine that nothing would change.

Yet almost every one of the compositional elements of the scene that the original photographer chose to use has



now gone – the trees, the field barn at the corner of the lane to Newby, even the stonework of the bridge over the Ingleton Branch of the railway in the foreground – all have now vanished.

One can only wonder what further changes the next 100 years will bring!

Andy Scott

New book



Following on from my book 'Hill Farming in the North of England', which came out in November 2023, I will have a new title available from April, entitled 'The Settle to Carlisle Line'. This was commissioned by my publishers following the success of the earlier title which featured pictures of many Dales landscapes and local farmers.

The new book is a photographic study of the Settle-Carlisle railway line as it is today, looking at the landscape setting, the architecture of the railway, folk involved with the line (such as volunteers), the various rail traffic and, of course, some of the steam specials on the line.

However, I was keen to make it more than just a collection of train pictures. A few of my photographs from the 1980s are also included. I've also had two of the images of *Flying Scotsman* used on Royal Mail stamps commemorating the centenary of the famous steam locomotive in February 2023.

'The Settle to Carlisle Line' is published by Amberley on 15th April and is available from all good bookshops and on-line retailers. The book is 128 pages, size 168mm x246mm and is priced £19.99.

I will be doing a book-signing session at The Folly in Settle on 14th April, but please first check for updated details on The Folly website/Facebook page.

John Bentley

Hospice donation



Angela Emms from St. John’s Hospice came to meet members of Clapham-cum-Newby Craft and Chat group. The final sum of monies raised at the pre-Christmas art and craft sale - £2135.92 - were presented to the charity.

Chris Horsewill

Over the rainbow



Photo: Angie Martin

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Steam update



*The grand-daddy of "new builds", no. 60163 Tornado approaches Clapham on Friday March 7th 2025 as it returns to the main line for the first time since 2021.
Photo: Andy Scott*

Many of our regular readers will know that I follow the progress of the "new build" steam locomotives – the ones built from scratch rather than rescued from a scrap yard and then restored. The most famous of these is no. 60163 *Tornado* – an LNER class 'A1' loco which made its mainline debut back in 2009.

More recently, *Tornado* has been joined by two other "new builds" – GWR Grange-class no. 6880 *Betton Grange* and LBSCR 'H2' class no. 32424 *Beachy Head* which were both first steamed in 2024. These two locos tell a different story from that of *Tornado* though. Whereas the latter was built from scratch, the Grange was built using a mix of spare parts from other scrapped GWR engines as well as some newly manufactured items. Even so, it still took some twenty six years and a spend of over £1.3 million to complete. A similar process was adopted for the 'H2', with some of the major components starting to be gathered from 1987 onwards including a discarded boiler fortuitously found in a joiner's premises in Essex. "New builds" are certainly not a quick or cheap way to get a steam loco up and running!

Yet they do have appeal since they provide the opportunity to recreate engines of classes which were

scrapped in their entirety, sometimes well before the end of steam on British Railways. As a result, there are some twenty other new build projects currently underway, along with another handful or two that were started but subsequently abandoned. And they are not confined to steam – even old and now defunct classes of diesels are getting attention. Of the steam locos, five are "tank engines" – the smaller locos that were used in industrial or shunting environments – but ten (plus an eleventh in Northern Ireland) are the larger tender locomotives. They include examples from the 19th century as well as those that date closer to the end of the steam era. Some are being built purely for use on heritage lines; others are, it is hoped, destined for main line operation (and all that that entails in terms of modern standards for safe operation).

Amongst these is an LNER class 'P2' locomotive which is being built by the same group that built and delivered *Tornado*. The original 'P2's were, on paper at least, the most powerful steam locos ever built for use in Britain, but the originals never achieved their full potential. Their design was well ahead of its time and, rather than rectify this, the decision was made to rebuild them to a lower specification.

Consequently, none of these locos survived. We hope that will be rectified in the years ahead when 'P2' no. 2007 *Prince Of Wales* steams again.

Yet, just like the true steam-era locos, even "new builds" have to be taken out of service from time to time for inspection and thorough overhaul. *Tornado* reached that point in early 2022 and was withdrawn for a process expected to take some six months, but which just dragged on and on because of problems with the boiler. On the plus side, this provided an opportunity to fit the very latest signalling system – the first steam loco to be so equipped.

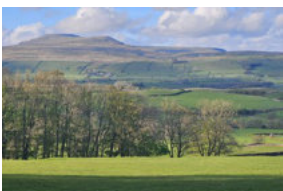
After a period of running in on the Nene Valley heritage line, the refurbished loco made its first test run on the mainline on March 7th 2025 and – by a stroke of luck – its journey from there to Carnforth (where it is expected to be re-painted) took it through Clapham.

Andy Scott

Keasden spring events



**Easter Praise
followed by
an Easter Egg Hunt
4pm Sunday 20th April**



**Spring Saunter
A short, circular walk led by
Graham Taylor
6pm Sunday 27th April**



**Lambing Service
7pm Sunday 18th May**

All are very welcome to join with us at St. Matthew's Church, Keasden. Refreshments will be served at each event.

Keasden rainfall report

	2024	2025
January	9.75" or 24.76cm	6.85" or 17.4cm
February	8" or 20.32cm	2.4" or 6.1cm

Men's Forum

The Settle & District Men's Forum

Every second and fourth Monday in the month, apart from holiday periods, a group of men from the Settle area meet at the Friends Meeting House in Settle, 2pm to 4pm. Members with varied interests take turns to give or organise a talk (about once a year) on a wide range of subjects. Good companionship and mental stimulation on offer. Contact 01729 823205.

The history of the group, which has its 50th anniversary this year, can be found at:
www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk reference CTP/021.

Michael Slater




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It's that time of year! Please come and join in the legendary annual village litter pick.

Last year a strong, enthusiastic and adventurous team gathered for a very satisfying, sometimes surprising and highly amusing clean-up of the village.

Everyone is welcome and you can choose between "easy pickings, notoriously bad area pickings and challenging/crazy pickings".

Or you can just come and observe and encourage! It's a big team effort.

Please bring litter pickers if you have them. We will have spare for people to borrow along with gloves, rubbish bags and probably chocolate.

Hope to see you there

Ackersden Fight

The newly formed West Craven Wargames Club had its inaugural meeting at Clapham Village Hall last month. To celebrate the occasion, we decided to replay a local, but little known, encounter from the 14th Century.

The skirmish – the Ackersden Fight – is well documented but, until recently, no one knew exactly where it had happened. Some recent work by Scottish Historian Professor Angus McFadyen has changed that – his studies of the movements of the opposing forces in the days leading up to the encounter have suggested that Ackersden is actually Keasden, and the two war parties must have faced each other on the moor to the north of the Church.

After the defeat of Edward II at Bannockburn in June 1314, King Robert ("The Bruce") of Scotland wished to recapture all of England north of the Roman Wall and return it to Scottish rule. To disguise his intentions, he ordered raids by the Border Rievers deep into English territory. Edward II appointed Ralph de Clare as Lord Warden of the Marches, and to him fell the task of dealing with the raids.

The following March, a raid by about five hundred Scots (mostly Elliots and Armstrongs) crossed the Wall near Brampton and headed south.

Although they were supposed just to keep the English guessing, they had their own agenda too and were raiding cattle as they advanced. Every so often, they detached part of their forces to drive home the beasts they had already rounded up.

By the time they reached Appleby, some 200 head had been taken; a further 150 by the time they reached Sedbergh. Meantime, news had reached de Clare who set off from Skipton Castle to intercept them.

On the night of 29th March 1315, the Scots raiders camped overnight near Black Burton (now Burton-in-Lonsdale), but they had been spotted by The Lord Warden's scouts. The news reached de Clare when he was at Kirkby Malham, so he ordered his troops to march through the night in order to intercept.

The following day, the Scots broke camp on a damp and foggy morning, seemingly unaware that they had already been spotted. The weather slowed their progress, and this was made worse by the large herd that they had accumulated. In the late afternoon, they suddenly realised that a large English force was in front of them, but the thick mist meant that they couldn't see either its strength or the nature of its deployment.

They were in a good position, on a rise in the land with a river below them to protect their flank, so they decided to make camp. Their horses and beasts were led down to the pastures by the river to graze whilst the men sought out higher and drier ground for their tents.

Ahead of them, through breaks in the mist, they could see the fires of the English camp, perhaps half a mile distant. They settled in to wait but their night was not easy, as the English sent small raiding parties out at all hours to disturb them.

By the time the sun rose, the cloud had lifted slightly. Looking towards the English camp, they could see the remnants of the fires. But there were no tents. It dawned on them that it had been a sham. They quickly realised that the English were already fully deployed, in line of battle, to their rear. Worse, their horses and captured cattle had all been spirited away in the night.

It was 1st April, and they had been completely fooled – a bit like you dear reader.

Rab Scallion



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jmfunerals@gmail.com

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MUSEUMS + HERITAGE AWARDS
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Find us on Victoria St in Settle
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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

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 available

72nd Annual Art Exhibition



It's almost unbelievable that the Clapham Art Group started in 1949 and is still flourishing today. It was formed by Peggy McDonald and Cyril Harrington, originally for people living in the village to foster and encourage the practice of drawing and painting amongst like-minded people. This is still the fundamental guiding principle of the Group today, but now membership is open to local artists from around the Clapham area. No formal teaching is offered, only encouragement.

Today we have members who joined as young people in the 1970s. They have stayed with the Group, being instrumental in its development. We also have several new members who are becoming actively involved in various activities. In the early days it was usual to work in watercolour and create landscapes of The Dales. Now, although Dales landscapes are still popular, the range of topics is much wider and modern painting materials are used. Since its inception the Group has met in various locations before its present home in the Village Hall, including Reginald Farrer's potting shed and the old Manor House which today is The Old Manor House Bar. As with many groups, Covid had an impact but the artists shared inspiration and practice online.

Our longest standing members, Linda Clemence and Margaret Blackburne, have had many roles within the Group over the years. However, in this past year, they have decided to take a step back and hand the reins over. Our new leader, Kairen Bradley, is already inspiring the Group and taking us forward into a new era.

Our annual art exhibition has a preview evening on Friday 23 May at 8pm. You are all welcome to come along and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine. We then open daily from 10am on Saturday 24 May, until 5pm on Wednesday 28 May. The exhibition is a celebration of the recent work of our members and provides an opportunity for art lovers to view and enjoy the talented artists from the local area. There will be a range of media, styles, and genres for you to enjoy, from traditional landscape watercolours to contemporary abstracts. Whilst we are happy when visitors decide to buy our work, we love it when people come along just to see what we have created. We are delighted to announce that this year we will be showcasing the work of the established local artist, Penny Hunt, from Horton in Ribblesdale.

Delicious home-made cakes, tea and coffee are available; sold in aid of St. James' Church, Clapham.

Dates: Saturday 24 to Wednesday 28 May 10am to 5pm,
Location: Clapham Village Hall, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham.
LA2 8DZ.

Entrance: adults £1.00, children free.

Amanda Jones

January was a bit draughty ...

As usual, we had our fair share of weather events over the winter just gone.

Two of the named storms; Eowyn and Herminia, occurred within a few days of each other towards the end of January. We were without power in Newby for about 16 hours at one point, thanks to the resulting gales.

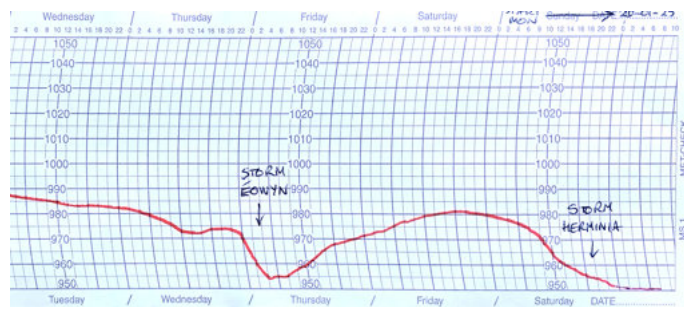
The cause of such high winds typically involves a sudden fall in atmospheric pressure, with isobars packed closely together on the weather maps. I caught both of the above-named storms on a single week's barograph chart (shown below).

Storms Eowyn and Herminia both involved a *very* rapid drop in atmospheric pressure. It made me glad I wasn't trying to sleep in a tent.

By the time you read this we should be starting to get some spring sunshine and the warm summer months will not be long in coming.

So, look forward to the good days ahead (even if it does mean having to cut that grass again!).

John Cordingley



CLAPHAM ART GROUP EXHIBITION 2025



OPEN DAILY
SATURDAY 24th MAY
TO
WEDNESDAY 28th MAY
10 TO 5



PREVIEW
FRIDAY 23RD MAY AT
8PM
ALL WELCOME



CLAPHAM VILLAGE
HALL
(LA2 8DZ)
ADMISSION £1
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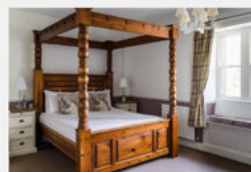
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This 18th-century coaching inn is in the quiet village of Clapham, within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It has 17 en-suite rooms, free parking, a restaurant and 2 bar areas.

Excited to welcome you to our restaurant where our chef is ready to delight your taste buds with his exquisite creations!

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Cantores Salicium & Camerata Salicium

Spring Concert

Sunday May 11th 2025 at 4.30 pm

Christ Church Skipton, BD23 2AH

Mozart Requiem

Beethoven Romance in F for violin & orchestra

Works for unaccompanied choir

Leader & soloist: Christopher Karwacinski Conductor: Lindy Williams

Soloists: Jennie Marsden, Sophie Clarke, Oliver Heath, Jonny Hill

Tickets £15. Students and benefits claimants £7.50. 18 and under free.

Reserve via choir website or from choir members or on the door.

Image: Mozart circa 1780,
Posthumous painting by Barbara
Krafft 1819 (Public domain)

www.cantores-salicium.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1194200



Village hall news



We were thrilled to welcome local shanty-men “The Scrimshankers” to our hall on March 8th, having sold all the tickets quite a long time in advance. The evening was a great success with us all joining in with many of the choruses. Thank you to all who supported this great fundraiser, with the hall benefiting by well over £500 from the occasion. We’ve already been told – in no uncertain terms – that we’ve to try to get them back again!

That concert brings our winter programme to a close, but we’ll start planning for future events at our next committee meeting in April.

Looking further ahead, it will be the hall’s 100th anniversary next year so we are hoping to hold a variety of events throughout 2026. This will of course require a certain amount of planning so we will be setting up a working party to get the wheels in motion. Part of this will be to take on suggestions from you, our wonderful community, so we’re planning a free (yes, free!) coffee morning to get things rolling.

We hope the celebratory events will cover all ages and involve as many of the community’s other clubs/groups as we can. We’re planning the coffee morning for the middle of the year and as soon as we have a date then we’ll let everyone know. (And did I mention the free coffee and cakes?).

Finally, in the last issue of the newsletter, we let you know that there are updated fire safety regulations which the hall will have to comply with. We’ve now had our first visit by the certified fire risk assessor. He has carried out a detailed inspection of the hall and sent us his report. This has highlighted several issues that we need to get sorted, some of which need urgent attention. For these, we’ve had to get them underway immediately. Other necessary changes offer us alternative options as to how we can proceed, so we will discuss these at our next committee meeting prior to putting them in place. Some will affect the way the committee operates, but others will need to be implemented by those hiring the hall.

By autumn, the changes we need to make should be in place, but we will keep you informed of these as we go along. There will also have to be some new rules governing the way in which the hall is used.

We will explain all this in the months ahead, giving as much notice as possible.

*Angie Martin
Hall Secretary*

Village hall regular events

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 2pm to 4pm
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)
Andy Scott
015242 51749
claphamdewdropin@gmail.com

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council

Usually 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm
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

Uncover Bowland's beauty



The Forest of Bowland National Landscape team is excited to announce the launch of its 2025 'Discover Bowland' Guide. This guide is perfect for anyone looking to make the most of their time in Bowland. It's "pocket-friendly" and designed for those who want to explore on foot or by bike with routes which encourage you to slow down, embrace nature's gentle rhythms and uncover Bowland's hidden gems. Enjoy the changing seasons, savour delicious local food, engage in invigorating activities and relax in outstanding accommodation.

Festival Bowland started in February with the Dark Skies Festival. With events scheduled throughout the year, the Festival Bowland programme celebrates nature, landscape, culture, and heritage, offering something for everyone. Learn about projects that connect the arts with health and well-being, read inspiring farming stories, and discover how all the family can enjoy Bowland's wonders year-round.

The guide will be available at tourist information centres, hospitality and accommodation providers and other outlets across the Forest of Bowland National Landscape. A digital version will be available on our website.

The Guide is free, but donations are welcome to Champion Bowland, the charity supporting sustainable tourism, environment, and community projects across the protected area.

Sandra Silk
www.forestofbowland.com

Austwick School news



"A small, friendly school" where "pupils thrive in the family atmosphere". Ofsted 2025.

We're delighted that our recent Ofsted inspection and the subsequent report confirm that Austwick School maintains its grade as a **good** school where pupils achieve well. The school *"makes good use of its beautiful surroundings to enhance the broad and interesting curriculum, helping pupils to rise to the school's high expectations."*

So far, this term, we've had DT week, a science fair, weekly forest school for Class 2 and swimming lessons for Class 1. We've had sports competitions, including inter-school rugby and a swimming gala and have recently taken delivery of our new IT equipment and musical instruments. We do, indeed, have a broad and interesting curriculum, and children enjoy supporting their learning with our recently refurbished and restocked reference library.

Ofsted also notes that, *"The school makes sure that pupils learn about the world beyond the local area."* In a small rural school this is important, and pupils are looking forward to educational visits which this term include a caving trip and a visit to York.

As spring approaches, we appreciate how lucky we are to have such a good small school with so much space to play and learn. Every day is an open day and we'd love to show you around.

Beth McHardy (headteacher)
015242 51366
Headteacher@austwick.n-yorks.sch.uk

HOMES FOR DALES HOUSE BIRDS

INTRODUCTORY TALK

CLAPHAM VILLAGE HALL
7PM-8:30PM, TUES 15TH APRIL

Join us at this introductory evening talk, to a new community project: Homes for Dales House Birds.

Find out how you could help improve habitats and monitor house bird numbers in your community so that we can support local populations of at risk, red listed birds. We'll talk about the importance of house nesting birds and opportunities for training and volunteering!

Scan the QR code to visit the YDMT website for more information.






WALK, TALK & WATCH

CLAPHAM VILLAGE HALL
10AM-12:30PM, SAT 31ST MAY

Scan the QR code to register your interest for the walk. Or go to <https://forms.office.com/e/gGlvhA3uAJ>

Join us on this bird watching walk through Clapham to spot house nesting birds including House Sparrows, House Martins, Swifts and Starlings. The walk will be under 1hr or 5km on gentle terrain.

You'll have the chance to chat to an RSPB advisor and help us find new homes for nest boxes in your community.









Austwick C.E. (VA) Primary School

Our lovely village school welcomes children from Austwick, Clapham, Horton, Stainforth & surrounding areas




- ✓ Around 50 children in small classes with experienced teachers & TA support
- ✓ Before & after school care
- ✓ Clubs & sports
- ✓ Outdoor activities & Forest School

Our recent inspection (2024)

"Pupils thrive in ... this small, friendly school."

"The school makes good use of its beautiful surroundings to enhance the broad & interesting curriculum. This helps pupils to rise to the school's high expectations..."

"Pupils achieve well."

'Every day is an open day - we'd love to show you round'

Beth McHardy (headteacher) 015242 51366 for our latest 

headteacher@austwick.n-yorks.sch.uk news see Facebook