



Number 158, December 2025

Welcome winter

One of the perks of my job is enjoying the changing seasons and winter is as welcome as any of them. By December Bleak Bank is in full winter mode, grass has effectively stopped growing and the cattle are inside being waited on hand and foot by the hard pressed but devoted peasant farmer. Much like Simon Coultherd, the modern dairy cow has a very high standard of living. Housed cattle require a lot of attention, most of which involves carrying feed to the cows and carrying muck away. It is enjoyable and satisfying work, it also beats having a job.

We never buy dairy cows, relying instead on those that are born and reared at Bleak Bank. This is known as a closed herd and, in theory at least, should minimise the risk of introducing health challenges from another herd.

Occasionally, we might develop a small surplus of dairy cows depending on the number of heifer (girl) calves we have growing up. These calves have the sole intention of becoming a dairy cow and in some small, tiny, minuscule way try to repay the faith, trust, and financial input the peasant farmer has placed in her for the last two years.

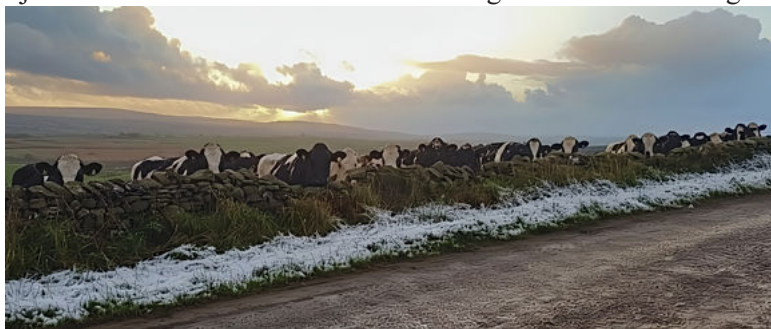
If (it's a big if) we have a surplus dairy cow to sell, we take a trip to Bentham Mart where we hope she will be sold and go on to enjoy a long and illustrious career on a proper dairy farm.

I am reminded of my great grandfather Edward who, as a staunch chapel goer, had very strict rules about observing Sunday. These involved doing only the necessary work and attending chapel in the afternoon and again in the evening.

Often, the visiting local preacher would take both Sunday services and share hospitality with a member of the congregation in between. On one occasion the preacher was a farmer and took tea with my great grandparents. He got involved with the afternoon cow milking thing and was introduced to a newly calved cow that was going to market later in the week. His ears pricked up, "if it wasn't of a

Sunday, how much would you want for her?" Edward then pricked his ears up, "well if it wasn't of a Sunday I might negotiate." This discussion went back and forth for quite a while with the upshot being that the visiting preacher came back first thing on Monday morning to collect the cow he might have bought yesterday if it "wasn't of a Sunday." I am reminded of Groucho Marx who famously said, "these are my principles and if you do not like them, I have others".

With the cattle all tucked up for winter the sheep have free reign of the farm having come down off Ingleborough



It's winter, can we come in please?

to make babies. The mating season is known as "tupping time" and has gone on for much of November under the watchful eye of the shepherd. Sheep are good at grazing after cows. A field that looks bare to a bovine still has rich pickings for an ovine because they nibble it

shorter. Not everyone knows that sheep do not like long grass, this is because it goes up their nose when they graze and makes them sneeze, much like me and too much icing sugar on chocolate cake.

They put the grass to very good use just as the pregnancy begins to get underway. Their grazing also removes much of the older grass which makes it easier for the young spring grass to do its thing when (and if) it makes an appearance. It is a similar principle to that used in burning heather, but with much less smoke.

We do not have many hedges at Bleak Bank, about half a mile, compared to ten miles of dry-stone walls. Hedges do require some maintenance, we try to "lay" some hedge every few years. Laying a hedge is a traditional skill that involves cutting stems and bending them over to create a living dense barrier. This encourages new growth from the base which helps the hedge regenerate (like Dr Who) and provide good habitat for wildlife. This is a winter project as the plant is effectively hibernating, it is also an excellent way of keeping warm, nothing like using an axe to get the blood flowing. Happy Christmas to all ...

Colour printing of this edition sponsored by

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Welcome to the December newsletter

Our thanks to Glencroft for sponsoring this edition. Our gratitude to all the businesses and organisations that have paid for advertisements and to all the individuals who have contributed by sending in their Christmas greetings. Every penny helps to keep us in print.

As we look back over the year, we would like to express our appreciation to all the volunteers who produce and distribute our Newsletter. Thank you!

If you would like to help in any way or contribute an article - please see the details below.

The Season's greetings to all our readers.

The Newsletter Committee

Issues:

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

Next issue:

February 2026.

Deadline:

Tuesday 20th January.

Articles

Articles should be around 250 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 £11. We print in colour. We would love to hear from you if you, or your business, would like to advertise with us or sponsor our 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 2026
Deadline: Tuesday 20th January

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Congratulations to Lorraine Wildman BEM



Recognising nearly 40 years of service to our local community

In the King's Birthday honours, the BEM (British Empire Medal) is awarded to individuals who have made a recognised, tangible contribution in their local area through "hands-on" local service. It is given to those who have gone above and beyond in a quest to make a significant difference to the lives of others.

Lorraine is the perfect example of a worthy recipient. She

has worked tirelessly, for nearly 40 years, in the village of Clapham. Generations of local families will remember her as the kind and committed cook and caretaker at Clapham Village School. Ian Greenhalgh (vicar at the time) wrote, "Lorraine's influence on the children was obvious: excellent behaviour, good manners and in a real way this added to the performance of the school in creating a sense of unity and family." In so many ways she was known to bring to the role far more than was required or expected.

It was at the school that she introduced the monthly Age UK lunch, bringing together the most junior and senior members of the community.

She was secretary to the WI in Clapham and Horton, spent many years on the Clapham Play Park committee and is an extremely valued volunteer at the community shop.

She continues to cook delicious meals for the Age UK meetings (now in the village hall) and for various other community events.

She does it all with a smiling enthusiasm and efficiency, a gentle sense of humour and never a moan or complaint.

When I asked her permission to write a short piece about her, she said, "Well as long as you don't make it ... well you know." I do know! Lorraine doesn't do what she does for praise or recognition. She doesn't see it as anything out of the ordinary. But she has, indeed, made a significant and positive difference to the lives of so many in our community and I am sure we would all like to offer her heartfelt thanks and congratulations.

Lorraine recently received her medal from the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire.

Maria Farrer



The Sustainability Group's Give & Take morning

18th October 2025

Casually referred to as "G&T", there was no visible Gin or Tonic at 9.45am in the Village Hall, but a team from St. James' Church was already brewing teas and coffees to support the waiting Givers and Takers. We are very grateful to that team.

Although there were many items left over at the end of the morning, we saw a significant number of 'things' taken away and, therefore, heading for a longer life. It is satisfying to hear people say, "I've been looking for one of these for years". Items at the event ranged from the Collectible to the Unclassifiable; from the Practical to the Entertaining. There were a couple of items on display with a mystery function, but they were taken away so *someone* knew their purpose or planned their adaptation.



Our group of volunteers excelled, helping the public and the community event from the preparation through to the end and beyond. Thank you all.

This year we had to cut financial corners when planning another Give and Take. We are very grateful to Clapham Village Shop's Community Fund for its grant which enabled us to perform again after a two-year gap. Donation tins on each table in the hall were for the benefit of the Cave Rescue Organisation.

Importantly, thank you Clapham and the visitors for giving and taking, and for supporting the basic principle of sharing, re-using, and adapting 'STUFF' – free. Thank-you, Sarah Wiltshire, for taking the photographs.

Ann Stewart

*on behalf of Jill Buckler and Maggie McSherry
Clapham Sustainability Group*

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"Pupils achieve well."

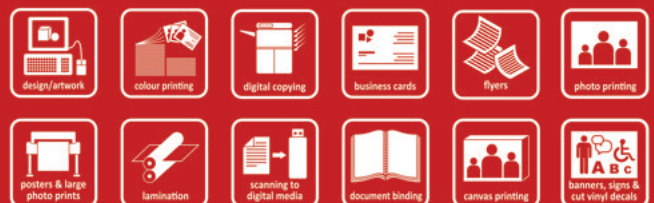
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Church News

John's Notes: The Shoot from the Stump - the weird energy of hope



new beginnings.

In the Eighth Century BC the Assyrians got busy expanding their empire with extreme ruthlessness. Where once they had used international extortion to spread their kingdom, the new mode of Assyrian conquest was to destroy the very infrastructure of the societies and cultures they invaded. Which is what they did to Israel in 722BC. And in Judah, the weak king Ahaz became a vassal of their dreaded powerful pagan enemy.

Assyrian imperial propaganda proclaimed the supremacy of their god Ashur and declared that the conquered peoples had been abandoned by their gods. And so, it seemed to the tribes of Israel, the sons and daughters of King David, the son of Jesse; they were absolutely broken. Their kings had failed them. Their cities were laid waste; like an axed-down tree stump they were cut low.

But along comes Isaiah with a remarkable vision – the vision of a shoot coming out from the stump of Jesse, the promise of a branch growing out of his roots. The promise of one who would create an alternative community of peace in a wounded world. Isaiah described one who, contrary to their occupying rulers, would “judge the poor with righteousness” and “decide with equity for the meek of the earth”; he saw “that one day all would live on God’s holy mountain without fear of hurt and destruction”.

“The wolf shall live with the lamb,” Isaiah writes, “the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them” - weird but wonderful images of a world where conflict has given way to concord.

This Advent season gives us permission to open our eyes to a different view of life, to recognise the green shoots of rebirth today. When we do, we find them everywhere. The squaddie who lost a limb in Afghanistan now competing in regional sports; the recovering addict now sponsoring someone starting out on the twelve steps; the community which lost its pub and its post office now running their own; the overworked businessman who, following a stroke, gave up his career to become a full-time foster carer; the estranged family members reconciling; the villagers rebuilding together after the floodwaters have subsided; Southport’s community gardeners winning this year’s Britain in Bloom.

The shoot from the stump, the branch growing from the roots: do we find these images relatable because they are drawn from nature? Ancient Judah’s ordinary people lived close to the land; Jesse was a farmer. Assyrian settlers had sequestered their land, imposed rents and taxes upon them; Jesse’s son David turned his back on the family’s agrarian life to occupy himself with kingship and empire-building. But within the people’s deep understanding of the natural

way of things, lay their intuition that no amount of oppression or devastation could stop the green shoots of goodness seeking a way to re-emerge slowly, almost imperceptibly, but indefatigably.

Could it be that the Animals and Insects are the AI best able to guide us into a better future? I think that our popular services of Lessons and Carols appeal because they are the rare occasions that allow

us to embrace the deeper realities within this alternative view of life; and to be empowered by them into taking part in its nurture.

“Optimists think it will all be fine without our involvement; pessimists take the opposite position; both excuse themselves from acting,” writes Rebecca Solnit in *Hope in the Dark*. But “Hope is an embrace of the unknown and knowable, an alternative to the certainty of both optimists and pessimists. Hope locates itself in the premise that we don’t know what will happen, and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is room to act.”

This is our season of believing that the force which brings life out of the dormant earth, which drives the good shoots to break through from the stump, is alive and active in the world; it is the energy through which we can live, and act, in hope.

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-wp

Anglican Services

Led by Revd John Davies, except where stated.

December

- 7 Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 11.00 Keasden (Revd Steve Rathbone)
10 (Wed) Austwick School Nativity: 2.00, 6.00
14 9.30 Austwick Shorter Holy Communion; 4.00 Austwick Carol Service; 7.00 Newby Chapel Clapham & Newby Joint Carol Service
18 (Thurs) 1.30 Austwick School Christingle Service
21 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 7.00 Eldroth Nativity & Carol Service
22 7.00 Keasden Carols around the Crib
24 **Christmas Eve:** 3.00 Austwick Crib Service, 5.00 Clapham Crib Service followed by short Holy Communion; 11.30pm Austwick Midnight Holy Communion
25 **Christmas Day:** Family Communion 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Keasden
28 10.30 Austwick Benefice Joint Holy Communion

January

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

Also, each Wednesday

At Austwick church (not 25 December & 31 December): 10:30 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer).

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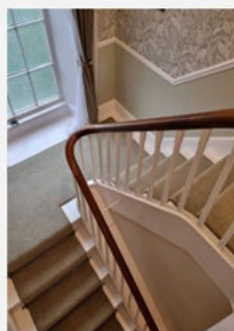
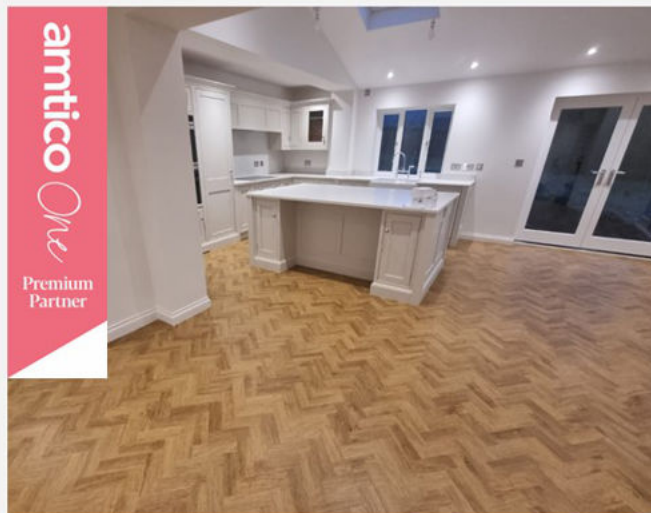
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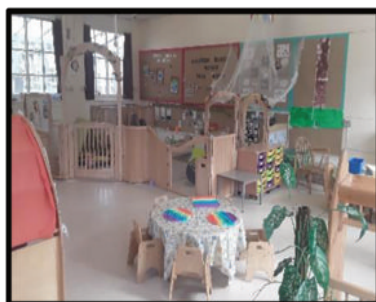
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Church News *continued*

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Sunday services at 11am & 6.30pm

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

Christmas Dinner with afternoon dinner talk

- Thursday 4th December at 12.30pm

Christmas Celebration with The Ayrtons

- Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm

Clapham Tots Christmas story time

- Wednesday 10th December at 10 am

Kmotion 6pm - Encounter 7.30pm Christmas Special

- Friday 5th December

Clapham Tots Christmas Special

- Friday 12th December at 9.30am

Sunday 21st December

- Balloon Nativity Service at 11am

- Carol Service at 6.30pm

Christmas Day Service - 25th December at 10.30am

Weekly meetings will resume in January.

Coffee, Cake, Chat & Food bank drop off - 17th January 10.30am

More details on our Facebook page or website:

www.bethelchapelclapham.org

Catholic Church - Our Lady and St Boniface St. Boniface, Robin Lane, Benthams, 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: 4.30pm; Sundays: 11.15am, Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am.

Parish Priest: Father Frank Smith

Tel: 01729 822525

Email: office.ourladyandstboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

Our usual services take place on:

1st Sunday of the month - Easy Evening Church 6.30pm.

2nd Sunday of the month at 11am, and 4th Sunday of the month at 2pm.

Sunday 14 December 7pm - United Carol Service with Clapham St James' (at Newby).

Tuesday 23 December 6.30pm - Carol singing on Newby village green.

Seasonal refreshments will be served at both events and all are welcome.

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 Benthams, and

Tuesdays: 12.15pm in Settle for 30 minutes, with soup afterwards.

For any further information - please go to the website:

<https://settlequakers.org.uk/>

Dates for your diary



Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 13 December

10.30am to 12 noon

At St Matthew's Church, Keasden

Hot drinks, cakes & bakes,
crafts & raffle

All welcome!



Carol Singing

All welcome to join in ...

Thursday 18 December 6pm

meet at St. Matthew's Church Keasden

Tuesday 23 December 6.30pm

meet at the Green Newby



New Year's Day Parish Walk

**at Keasden Head
Thursday 1 January**

By kind invitation of
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Liz Mason, 56 years in Clapham

St. James' Church hosted a lunchtime gathering at the end of October to celebrate Liz Mason's 56 years in Clapham, where friends and neighbours wished her well as she prepared to make her move to Annan.

Having spent her early years first in Low Fell near Durham, then the Swinton/Eccles area of Manchester, Liz went to a teacher training college in Wimbledon. She taught initially in London, before moving to Clapham in 1969 when she took up a teaching post at Ingleborough Hall, which was then a school for children with health issues (known at the time as 'delicate' children).

Not long after, in 1973, the School closed to become an outdoor pursuits centre and Liz was redeployed into a local West Riding school.

She joined the Clapham village badminton club which is where she met Eric. They started "courting" and got married on April 1st, 1972, in Manchester. It is said that at the time Eric was one of only two unmarried men in the village.

Later that year they moved into their first house together, a house they had had built for them - which was quite unusual in those days - and which they named "Clareson", an amalgamation of their surnames (Liz's maiden name Clare, and, of course, Mason).

Then another Clare came along - their daughter, born in 1975 and named after Liz. Liz took time out of work to

look after Clare, but when she started school, Liz went back to teaching and has taught in many local primary schools over time, including Clapham. She also taught swimming at Settle for many years. Clare says, "Mum has lived in the same house for 53 years, until she's made the bold decision to move to Scotland now, at the ripe old age of 83!"

In those 53 years Liz has given so much to the life of the community: in the schools; in church, as organist at St. James' and in other churches where help was needed, and as a faithful churchwarden; volunteering in the shop; being involved with local groups such as Age UK; fundraising for good causes, particularly Macmillan; organising musical events; and supporting other local initiatives such as the Art Group by rallying people to

help with the teas - and most of all, getting people to bring cake!

Liz has done all of this willingly, reliably, without fuss and with good humour; characteristically just getting on with things. In doing so, she has helped to strengthen our community life.

In recognition of her friendship and commitment over the years, Liz was presented with a signed card and some gifts, tokens of Clapham's good wishes to her as she begins this new stage of her life's journey.

Revd John Davies



Farewell to Clapham

"I see the new teacher has arrived" as I was spotted arriving in my little green Hillman Minx driving up to Ingleborough Hall in April 1969.

Well, that was 56 years ago. I never thought I would leave Clapham but was recently overtaken by an overwhelming feeling that I should move to be nearer my daughter and family in Scotland.

I have been lucky to find a lovely bungalow in Annan. My daughter and husband are downsizing and also moving to Annan, and we are almost back-to-back.

I will miss Clapham and the friends old and new who have supported me through many years.

St. James' church has been an important part of my life, and I shall miss playing the organ which I have done for 53 years. Clapham Primary School featured a great deal in



my life as a parent, then as a teacher and as a governor.

What would I have done without the badminton club where Eric and I met, the WI, the games club, the craft and chat, the village hall activities, Clapham Age UK, the volunteering at the village shop, the teas, coffee and cake, the Langcliffe Singers and Settle swimming pool. Will I miss begging people for cakes for the various functions -no- but I will miss the camaraderie.

I think Eric would approve of me going to be nearer Clare and I know that whilst she is sad at the thought of the ties of her childhood being broken, she is pleased that I shall be nearer to her.

Thank you to all my friends, thank you for the surprise farewell 'do' and the generous gifts.

Going on to pastures new. Never say never.

Liz Mason

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In memory of Dave Clark

A chance meeting over a sponge cake – a Victoria sandwich. This is how Dave and I met all those years ago. In those days, I was in charge of catering for the village shoot and cakes were made for the beaters. On passing the workshop I would pop in to share cakes with David too.

A description of Dave (in his own words): Defender of the realm, model aviator, paraglider pilot, cave guide and 'Jolly Nice Chap'. And a friend to many, and my goodness, there were many!

And so began our life together. First as friends, then in a long-term relationship, then as life-long partners and, more recently, as husband and wife. What a life we have had and indeed shared. I could not have been prouder. 'From quiet homes and first beginnings out to the undiscovered ends, there's nothing worth the wear of winning, but the laughter and love of friends!'

Our first home as a couple was Sawmill Cottage, an estate cottage linked to Dave's work on Ingleborough Estate, where he collaborated with Dr Farrer. Over time we built a happy home here, sharing with our ever-extended family. First, our shared and much-loved children, adventures a plenty (too many to mention) but let's start with camping / backpacking, biking, hiking, and climbing. And let's not forget model making, instilling passion/talents to the next generation and of course the fun of making/sailing model boats on the lake. ('Yes Sam, the water is cold and deep!')

And then welcoming the Grandchildren. Oh, the pleasure of little ones who we took delight in spoiling and then returning ('What happens in Grandma's house, stays in Grandma's house!') What fun those days became! Again, we had adventures a plenty and far too many to mention, but Santa visits to the cave became a family favourite. Bear hunts through the estate tracks in the land-rover, learning to ride bikes and let's not forget 'spaghetti bike!' Sam. My goodness, what treasured memories we have.

Together, Dave and I took to explore Yorkshire. First the hills and fells close to home and then exploring further afield with Swaledale becoming a firm favourite. The mines to explore and discover, landscape and tranquillity. It was while exploring Swinner Gill that we witnessed and facilitated a fell rescue after a man took a tumble down the Gill. What a day that was!

Early adventures started with castles: Castle Bolton, Pendragon Castle, Richmond, and Barnard Castle to name but a few! Along with waterfalls, Cautley Spout, High/Low Force and Cow Green Reservoir. Then came the long-

distance walks that were a yearly challenge. The Coast to Coast being our best achievement, going on to do Offa's Dyke. Plans for a Scottish walk had to be postponed as redundancy put a hold on our adventures while we dedicated

our time to setting up our little business Mops and Mitres.

By this point we had moved to The Green: 'The posh part of the village!' as Dave fondly described his new home. 'Have you got a passport! He would call whenever he met a fellow villager walking past the house! Ever the joker!

During this time of uncertainty, our Clapham family (as we like to address our lovely fellow villagers) really looked after us very well. From moving the contents of the workshop to the village hall yard, to providing us with work to get our business underway and supporting us as the years progressed.

Clapham has been our home and a place where Dave and I have been very settled, encased in the friendships, love, and support of all who live around us, and especially through the Covid pandemic and, more

recently, during Dave's illness. What a lovely Clapham family we have, and our thanks and appreciation are extended to you all.

It was only fitting that, what would turn out to be our last chapter was to be in our beloved Swaledale-Arkengarthdale - 'Elopement!'. What a way to end a lifetime of happiness with a celebration of our lives. The CB Inn provided us with the perfect wedding venue located in the stunning moors of Arkengarthdale. The weekend really was perfect, and we were very well looked after. They really did us proud. The registrar even made us a Victoria sandwich as a nod to our first meeting all those years ago. So, our marriage in August this year certainly made memories to treasure forever.

Sadly, shortly after our lovely, special day, Dave's health took a sudden decline, and we were 'Confined to barracks!' We shared our love in the solitude of our little home, and I dedicated the final months to caring for him. He so much wanted to remain at home and we were able to honour this wish until, sadly, he passed away. He really couldn't have fought harder nor been braver in his battle with his illness. I will be forever proud of him and extremely grateful for the wonderful life we shared together.

Treasured memories of a 'proper gentleman!', 'our Dave!'. Don't underestimate humble beginnings because, like they did for us, they turn into the greatest success story, 'our Love Story'.

Denise Clark





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No purchase necessary, to enter by post send your name, phone number, email and postal address to: Prize Draw Entry, PTA Chair, Sowerthwaite Farm, Austwick, Lancaster. LA2 8DJ. Entries must arrive by 01/12/25. Registered charity no: 1072565



News from the tower



We were delighted to be able to ring Clapham bells for a special secular occasion in November. Longtime ringers Ken and Brenda Pearce are leaving the village and the ringers wanted to give them a good send off. Ten ringers from Clapham and further afield gathered for a special ring for Ken and Brenda, and as refreshments were also available, a number of villagers were able to join the fun!

Back in 2004, Priest-in-Charge Ian Greenhalgh was keen to get the three bells at Clapham ringing once again for services and approached Jessica Hart. Together with nearby ringer Gillian Parrington and members from the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers, a recruitment drive and teaching effort began. Volunteers to learn to ring were sought, and Ken and Brenda, among others, stepped up. Ken and Brenda travelled to nearby towers to start to learn the art of ringing, whilst work was taking place in the Tower to augment the ring of three bells to a ring of six bells, which is what we have today.

Ken played a significant part in the physical side of this augmentation; he varnished all the woodwork around the ringing room and the stairs, he designed and made the excellent bird screens in place in the louvres, to keep the bells safe from marauding crows! Ken also funded, designed, and built the protective wooden case for the clock. Ken, as many of you may be aware, is a fastidious record keeper, and the stages of the augmentation are documented in detail in the Tower diaries. Ken also held the roles of Steeple Keeper and Tower Secretary up until 2022.

Both Ken and Brenda have been loyal ringers at Clapham, and even though they have 'hung up their ropes' they are still staunch supporters of the ringers. We will miss them but wish them so much happiness in Cambridgeshire. Unfortunately, there are no bells near their new house, but Ken has all the skills to pass on to get some put in...

Annabel Preston, Tower Secretary

Hard to find, hard to leave

You might think that it would be easy to find a good spot to which to retire and spend your later days in comfort. For us it was not so simple. We had lived for 30 years in the very heart of industrial England and now harboured visions of a little stone-built cottage with roses round the doorway and wonderful views in all directions.

We had travelled widely up and down most parts of this island: we thought we knew it well. But selecting a retirement spot which we could afford for the rest of our days turned out to be difficult. We concentrated our search on a broad swathe right across northern England, spending 12 months combing the beauty spots from Scarborough to Morecambe before deciding on Clapham.

Our old friends and neighbours had warned "You won't make new friends if you move late in life." In fact, nothing could have been simpler. Our new next-door neighbour rapidly drew us into the village network and introduced us to all and sundry. We soon found that Clapham is full of 'offcumbdens'. There are no 'insiders' and 'outsiders', the village throws wide its arms in welcome, with ready offers of help and support.

As a bonus there are many activities to interest a newcomer. The village hall hosts a wide variety of activities and – delight of delights – teasing out the story of Clapham's origins is a fascinating and seemingly endless detective trail for anyone with an historical bent of mind.

But the years roll by, and one loses former energies and abilities, even former good health. It is now time to move on once again, to less active fields, ending up who knows how. Thank you Clapham, for all the interest, activity, and warm friendship which you have provided over the past 21 years. We are so grateful and will long remember our enjoyable fun-filled years here.

Please come to visit!

Ken and Brenda Pearce

Thank you



Thank you to all who contributed in any way to make Newby's Harvest Coffee Morning on the 11th October such a worthwhile event. £367 has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support."

Judith Dawson

Thank you



On behalf of the Skipton Food Bank, and those who benefit from its service, we are writing to thank everyone from Clapham and the surrounding areas for their generous contributions during 2025.

Your helpful donations of food supplies and toiletries etc. are much needed and your continued support is much appreciated.

Thank you and with all good wishes.

The Bethel Chapel



Our thanks to these readers for supporting the newsletter with

Andrew, Beatrice, Rosie & Mia
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Alan & Rupert

Tim, Nicola & Crispin
Station Road

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19 Dalesview Close

Margaret, Kenny & Jake (woof)
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Neil & Debby Marshall
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The Clark Family
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Jane & Tony
Rantree Farm, Keasden

George & Ann
Keasden

Justina, Richard, Edward, Ruth
Martha & Phoebe, Fall View

Scott & Harriet
Fell Brook, Station Road

George & Diane
Hill View

Linda & Colin
The Green

Glenys, Mavis & David
Gilgen, Cross Haw Lane

Jennie & Rick
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Isobel & Flo
Bridge Cottage

Ann Stewart
Dalesview Close

John & Marilyn
Flying Horseshoe

Anne Gorner
Park House

Pat, John & Philip
Tinklers Cottage

Sheila
7 F.H.C.

Norma & Michael Stephenson
Jack Beck House

Grace & Paddy
The Pens, The Green

The Old Sawmill Café
and Cave Team

Ian, Suzanne & Archie
Barn Cottage

Nick, Linda & Noodle
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Eddie & Xander, 3 Gildersbank

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Then and Now



This issue, we're grateful to Colin Price for supplying the images. Unusually they are not all that far apart date-wise, but what a difference forty odd years makes in terms of tree growth, Colin continues...

The 'Then' picture was taken in early 1984 and shows the Railway Cottages just after they had been made into one house. The extension has been built on the back where there used to be two backyards, each with a shed and outside toilet. Behind, in the station, a train bound for Morecambe is in the old down platform. It's a 2-car first generation DMU (diesel multiple unit). At that time, the two platforms were opposite one another and stretched out over and beyond the road bridge.

The new extension included a garage and was built out of recycled stone from the recently demolished platform shelter near the footbridge. This was similar to the waiting shelter still there on the up platform today.

The Dixons lived there at this time, and he had dug some of the embankment out to accommodate the extension. This may have led to a bit of movement and, when the station was revamped in 2000, the down platform was re-sited to its present position where the ground was a bit more stable.

The now picture speaks for itself!

*Colin Price and
Andy Scott*

Used medicinal blister packs

Recycling now available

The Sustainability Group has long aspired to offer the community a dedicated facility for recycling used blister packs. Now, with funding from the Farrer Family Trust (FFT), and a location offered by Paul Pedals – Bikes & Coffee – you are able to do exactly that. The configuration of blister packs can be confusing! Particularly the foil coated variety concealing a plastic underbelly, meaning they cannot be placed in the blue recycling bin.

Used blister packs can now be deposited in the recycling box located just outside Paul Pedals, Becks Barn, Church Avenue, Clapham. The recycling box will be available during the cafe's winter opening times.

Monday to Wednesday – Closed

Thursday 10.00 – 15.30, Friday 10.00 – 15.30

Saturday 9.30 – 15.30, Sunday 9.30 – 15.30

Globally, over 36 million tons of blister packs are produced each year. While convenient, the packs are a composite of mixed materials which complicates recycling efforts as the fused materials need to be separated. Without specialist machinery this cannot be achieved and blister packs go into landfill or for incineration. The provider of Clapham's recycling facility is a company called MYGroup who have installed a specialised machinery line in their Hull recycling facility to deal with the composite materials.

Sadly, blister pack recycling comes with a cost. The Clapham Sustainability Group is very grateful to FFT who have provided funding for the purchase of our first two blister pack recycling boxes. Should the scheme prove successful, we hope we can find a way to continue providing this much needed recycling service.

Jill Buckler

The Board Games Club

(or as my husband likes to call it - Adult Games Club)



We are a group of folks who enjoy getting together and playing Board Games. Probably most of you will have indulged in this enjoyable pastime at some time in your lives.

We get together once a fortnight on a Friday afternoon and for 3 hours we have a chat a giggle and play games, interspersed with a nice cup of tea or coffee. Usually there are about 6 - 10 of us, as this works well in the Supper Room at the Village Hall.

Some of our regular members will soon be leaving the area, so that means for the first time since our start we are encouraging new folks to join us, not that we ever turned anyone away before.

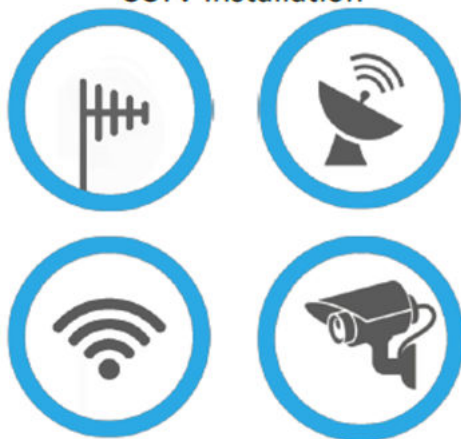
There is no age or geographical restriction, and we have members from areas all around Clapham, Austwick, Ingleton, and even Settle. We have accumulated over three large storage boxes of games, all nicely stored at the hall. Some even bring personal favourites from home, so all tastes are catered for.

We would particularly like to invite any newcomers to the village as this is a good way to get to know a wider section of your new neighbours. If you'd like to find out more, my contact details are in the "Village hall regular events" column on p27.

Jackie Kingsley

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Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of **15th October 2025** and were joined by the Clapham Sustainability Group representative and two members of the public.

The police report noted seventeen “incidents” between 16th September and 14th October. These included:

- an abandoned call,
- an alarm sounding,
- an animal concern (a cow on the A65),
- highways issues (a sign in the road and a tree down),
- a domestic incident,
- a concern for safety/welfare (joint partnership working),
- a cave rescue,
- the theft of a number plate,
- a broken down vehicle,
- an enquiry from another police force,
- a road offence (speeding on the A65),
- an abandoned vehicle on Old Road,
- the theft of 24 sheep and 14 lambs from Keasden Moor (over the summer period), and
- the theft of portable toilet from the A65.

The Clapham Sustainability Group representative advised the Council of the following:

- Curlew Cluster - meeting to be held on 22nd October for farmers and surveyors to review the season. Still awaiting responses to grant submissions.
- The Give & Take event will take place on Saturday 18th October.
- Blister Pack recycling – the first two boxes have been funded by the Farrer Family Trust and the first is now available to use at Paul Pedals.

The Clerk advised that the new email address has now been adopted (details at the end of this report) to ensure full compliance with required governance standards, and this will hopefully result in a fully clear audit report next April. As the Council’s laptop is unable to update to Windows 11, the Council authorised the Clerk to purchase a new laptop and the necessary software. The Council’s request to Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Planning Department for an officer to attend a future Parish Council meeting to explain the policy on solar panels has been declined.

With regard to the “Newby Bonfire”, residents are reminded that only combustible garden waste should be taken to the area. It has been requested that anyone taking material to the site should burn it themselves at the time, rather than creating a large bonfire for someone else to deal with later. Full details have been posted on the Newby noticeboard.

Parish Council meetings are usually 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 Thursday 11th December and provisionally Wednesday 21st January 2026 (2026 dates to be confirmed).

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

Tel: 015242 51862 or

Email: clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk

Protecting birds of prey

Inside the Work of UK Wildlife Crime Policing

Following its **Eyes on the Skies** campaign launched in October (may be viewed at:

<https://bit.ly/FriendsDales>), Friends of the Dales next campaign event will be an online talk on **Tuesday, 27 January, 5:30pm – 7:00pm:**



Short eared owl.
Photo: Dave Dimmock

Join Detective Inspector Mark Harrison of the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit for insight into the real-world challenges of protecting vulnerable and endangered birds of prey in North Yorkshire.

In this exclusive online talk, Mark will share true stories from the frontline of wildlife crime policing, revealing the realities,

challenges and successes faced by officers working to safeguard some of our most at-risk species.

He will also address common misconceptions on the role of policing in tackling birds of prey persecution. Expect an honest and informative discussion about:

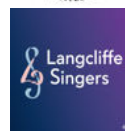
- The key challenges in investigating bird of prey crimes.
- What’s working well and where improvements are needed.
- Future plans, strategies, and innovative policing tactics.
- And a look at a few fascinating real-life cases.

Book your free place here: <https://bit.ly/FODEvents>

You can also sign up to Friends of the Dales monthly e-newsletter on its website homepage to be kept up to date with all Eyes on the Skies campaign developments and future events.

Victoria Benn

Spring Concert Series 2026



Settle Orchestra and Langcliffe Singers join forces this spring for an inspiring programme of choral and orchestral masterworks filled with drama and emotion.

Beethoven’s *Egmont Overture* opens the concert with heroic intensity, followed by Mendelssohn’s moving chorale *O Haupt voll Blut*. The performance culminates in Beethoven’s magnificent *Mass in C* – a work of profound beauty and spirit.

Audiences can enjoy this exceptional collaboration on:

Saturday 21st March, 3.30pm

Settle Parish Church

Sunday 29th March, time tbc

Christ Church, Skipton

Please note this is a Sunday performance). See further details in our poster on p.22.

Join us to experience the power of live music performed by two of the region’s leading ensembles, celebrating the richness of our local musical community.

For more information, visit www.settleorchestra.org.uk or follow Settle Orchestra on social media for updates.

Jill Gates

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Special Meeting
Wednesday 3rd December
7pm
Clapham Village Hall

Using technology to access NHS services

We are increasingly being asked to use technology to access NHS services – for appointments with the doctor, for ordering prescriptions, getting test results, hospital visits etc. But what do you do if you don't have the technology or, perhaps, are uncomfortable using it?

For this DEW Drop In session we will be joined by representatives from both Townhead Surgery and Bentham Surgery to explain what is happening, listen to concerns and, hopefully, put minds at rest.

Refreshments will be provided

a donation of £3 per person is requested to cover costs

Nature notes

Beatrix Potter may have something to do with it, but I suspect that even if she had never given us the *Tale of Squirrel Nutkin*, the charismatic red squirrel would still consistently top the polls in any survey to identify the UK's favourite wild creature. Its bright bushy tail, tufted ears and scampering, mischievous behaviour guarantee it a place high up on the cuteness charts. No wonder then, that it became the fluffy standard bearer for one of the world's most successful road safety campaigns for children. I feel sure that those of us of a certain age will recall the *Tuftie Club*. At its peak in the late sixties and early seventies it could boast a membership in excess of two million – although very few of them would ever have come across a real *Tuftie*.

Estimates vary, but it seems likely that there are fewer than 150,000 red squirrels in the wild in the UK, with the Scottish population accounting for approximately 75% of the total. Lost from most parts of the country, it is telling that almost every area where they can still be found requires constant conservation efforts to avoid local extinction. Our sole native squirrel species, they can only thrive where there are substantial areas of suitable woodland for them to occupy. Unfortunately, the dual threats of habitat loss and competition from non-native Eastern Grey Squirrels, introduced from America in the Victorian era, have had a devastating effect. Today there are 2.5 million greys. Not only are these voracious interlopers bigger, stronger, and more prolific breeders, they are also carriers of the squirrel pox virus, which is deadly to our native reds.

Which makes it all the more exciting to report that, after several years of apparent absence, we might just have a small number of reds moving into the local area.

On October 12th, John Elphinstone reported seeing an unusual and very welcome visitor to his bird feeders. He didn't spot it again over the course of the next few days, but nuts continued to disappear from his bird table at an alarming rate. It wasn't until the 23rd that he could confirm the identity of the culprit – this time with photographic evidence. The red squirrel was back!

Around the same time, Philip Farrer was delighted to discover that at least one more red was visiting his squirrel feeders in an area of woodland where, over the years, he has been working hard to keep down the number of greys and maintain the right habitat for their native cousins. Again, photographic evidence confirmed that his efforts had been rewarded.

Red squirrels are typically solitary, territorial animals but for the first three months of their lives they are highly dependent on their mothers. The next stage of their young lives is all about preparation for independence: now fully weaned, they are encouraged to hone the foraging and caching skills that will help them to survive their first winter and, in keeping with their reputation as inquisitive little creatures, they begin to explore the area around their natal nest. They may even attempt to build simple nests - or *dreys*

– of their own. At six months they have to be ready to fend for themselves.

It is at this point, usually in mid-autumn, that they must set out to establish new territories where they don't have to face up to fully mature competitors. Often, they are forced to travel quite significant distances to find suitable safe habitats, using hedgerows as corridors and small copses as stopping off points. The timing of the recent sightings in our local area suggests that the newcomers might well be juveniles doing exactly this. We can only hope that they have found what they are looking for and decide to stay.

Winter is a good time to look out for evidence of red squirrels. Although they may be less active in periods of very cold weather, they work doubly hard to find and cache food in milder spells and, of course, both the squirrels themselves and their football-sized dreys are more visible high up in the bare branches of deciduous trees.

Remember, if you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area you can 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 you send in to me. I also post local nature notes on @bcriverside28.bsky.social

Brian Christian



This is the photo of the red squirrel that John Elphinstone took. It has visited his garden on at least two occasions and almost certainly more often than that.

Kathy's quilt



The amount raised from the raffle of Kathy's Quilt came to an amazing £571 with the proceeds going to the British Heart Foundation. The raffle was drawn at the newsletter coffee morning, with George Mansfield the lucky winner of this beautiful item, pictured with Kathy's daughter Zoe and Jane Mellers.

Many thanks to our Craft and Chat members Mari Roberts, Jane Mellers, and Sally Howorth for taking on this project, carefully putting together the many squares that Kathy had started. The task of completing the quilt would not have been finished without their dedication and expertise.

Angie Martin

It was a cold, dark, winter's night in February and something was afoot in the cosy village hall... a crowd of locals gathered for a **winter-warming supper** before settling down to listen to comic tales told by a master...



7.00pm, Sunday, 8th February 2026

**Tickets from Clapham Village Store
£15 including supper**



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BEETHOVEN

with Beethoven's
Egmont Overture

Bibi Heal
Soprano

Sophie Clarke
Alto

Oliver Heath
Tenor

Rob Gildon
Bass

**O Haupt voll Blut
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Conductor
Andre Chan

Leader
Anne Heaton

Sat 21st March, 3.30pm
Settle Parish Church

Sun 29th March, time TBC
Christ Church, Skipton

Tickets £15; Students and benefits claimants £7.50; 18 and under Free; Essential carers of the disabled: Free. See settleorchestra.org.uk for details of free tickets through our 'Buy One Donate One' scheme. Tickets available from Forage and Feast, Settle; settleorchestra.org.uk; langcliffesingers.org.uk; from orchestra members; or on the door. Cash or card payment.

Langcliffe Singers reg. charity 1007885

Settle Orchestra reg. charity 1025554

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sales@southlakeshousing.co.uk

Pant Lane, Austwick, LA2 8FE

*Price for a 50% share, with 25% to 75% share amounts available



Steam update

We missed a bit of a steam-lover's treat down here at the Station a few weeks back. Newly overhauled, and unique locomotive, 71000 Duke of Gloucester, was booked to pass through on a celebratory tour for those who had helped with the long refurbishment at Crewe. The plan was to travel, steam-hauled, from Crewe up to Carlisle but with the insertion of a Carnforth-Hellifield-Blackburn-Preston loop to increase the length and interest of the trip. Unfortunately, the engine suffered a valve failure at Carnforth and could not proceed any further. Although the tour itself continued with a diesel at the front, the loop part past Clapham had to be dropped. The next tour up to Carlisle was planned for 6th November but, this time, the loop was omitted altogether.

71000 Duke of Gloucester was the prototype of what could have been the most modern class of steam engines, the "Standard Class 8". It was designed by Robert Riddles, a former LMS man who had been appointed to lead the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Department of the newly nationalised British Railways in 1948. Riddles was keen on "standardisation" and the wide range of new locomotives he designed for British Railways used many interchangeable parts making them more economic to manufacture and maintain.

The new Class 8 was designed for high-speed passenger use, its need arising from the destruction of 46202 Princess

Anne in the Harrow and Wealdstone accident of 1952 and the resulting shortage of sufficiently powerful locomotives to work the West Coast Mainline services. As a prototype, it would have been surprising if the Duke – which had been built by 1954 – had run perfectly at the first attempt.



In practise, it was discovered that it suffered from a number of design and manufacturing defects. Those defects could have been addressed but, in the end, the wish to drive through the Modernisation Plan – the move from steam to diesels – meant that work was focussed elsewhere. In the end, the Duke had a short life, being withdrawn for scrapping after a working life of just eight years.

In 1974, it was rescued from the scrapyard by a group of enthusiasts who began a project of restoration which was to last for thirteen years. During that time, the opportunity was taken to address some of the main defects in the original design, and what emerged was the truly powerful beast that Riddles had originally intended. In 1995, the engine took part in some trials over Shap on the West Coast mainline which demonstrated that it was considerably more powerful than the diesel locomotive classes that had replaced it. Its boiler certificate expired in 2012, and it returned to Crewe works for the heavy overhaul from which it has just emerged. But did we get to see it pass Clapham – no!

Andy Scott

Support our local school

Austwick Primary School PTA invite you to enter our Autumn Grand Prize Draw - see our advert on p.12.

Our children receive a very special education going to school in such a beautiful rural location, but it makes our trips expensive. With ever higher transport costs and some families in difficult financial situations we want to make sure the children can still access trips to support their learning.

We have some brilliant prizes, generously donated by local businesses including:

- Champagne Afternoon Tea for 2 at The Traddock
- Luxurious 100% Wool Blanket from Glencroft
- Steak Night Dinner for 2 at The Game Cock
- Fine cheese hamper from The Courtyard Dairy
- Family tickets for Ingleborough Cave, Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway & Crazy Golf at the Flower Bowl
- Bottle of Fizz & Voucher for Lekker Wines
- Coffee & cake for 2 at Pauls Pedals
- Plus many more

Tickets are just £1 each, and you can buy them easily online at: <https://bit.ly/AustwickDraw> or open the link via the QR code shown here.



If you would rather buy tickets with cash do get in touch using the details below.

We will be drawing the winners at our **Christmas Fair (3.30-5.30, Friday 5th December)**.

All are welcome to join us for this festive event, or we will notify winners by email/phone.

We are the only small village school left in our area and we are now the local school for children in Austwick, Clapham, Horton and Stainforth.

Our lovely school is thriving, with over 50 children on the register and a recent good Ofsted report.

Thank you for your support!

Austwick Primary School PTA
austwickpta@gmail.com
Sarah Brownlee
0797 657 4909

Pantomime wordsearch

It's that time of the year again when we all want to hunker down in front of a fire, but we do still need to keep our brains active. Well, some of us anyway! So have a go at this wordsearch puzzle. There are 45 pantomime-related answers to find. They can go up, down, left, right or diagonally. The smallest are just four letters, whilst the longest are over 15 letters long, and they can be single words or phrases.

Panto titles, characters, or important objects are all in there but, be careful, because it might be a case of "*it's behind you*"! As usual, there are no prizes other than the kudos of winning, and if you let us know how you got on then your name may well appear in lights in the next issue.

Happy searching!

The Newsletter Team

U	I	P	H	G	W	B	F	G	N	I	M	R	A	H	C	E	C	N	I	R	P	Z	B	U
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G	P	I	E	D	P	I	P	E	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	E	D	W	A	R	D	Z	U	S



Explore your local area with the Clapham Walking Group



Located in the heart of one of England's most picturesque regions, the **Clapham Walking Group** is a relaxed and welcoming community of walkers who share a love for the outdoors, friendly conversation, and the natural beauty of the Dales and surrounding area.

Whether you're a seasoned hiker or just starting out, this group is open to all ages and fitness levels. The emphasis is on enjoyment, not endurance – making it the perfect way to stay active, meet new people, and soak in the stunning local scenery at your own pace.

When we meet

The group meets twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings. Each walk is thoughtfully planned and varies in location and terrain, offering something for everyone – from gentle countryside strolls to longer more adventurous walks – typically covering 4 to 8 miles. We also try to keep travel manageable, with walk locations within 25 miles of Clapham.

What to expect

- A friendly, inclusive atmosphere – no pressure, just great company, and beautiful views.
- A variety of local walks, showcasing the best of the local area and Yorkshire Dales.
- Dog-friendly options – some routes are free of stiles and suitable for canine companions.
- Accessibility considered – where possible, we include walks that may be suitable for people with disabilities.
- Casual chats and good laughs – because walking is better when shared!
- Sometimes a hot drink and cake – in a local café at the end.

Interested in joining?

We're always happy to welcome new faces – no joining fees! If you'd like to come along, please get in touch with Angela (07711 698961), Ngairi (07908 293117) or Anne (07472 165429) for more details. Whether you're looking for fresh air, new friends, or just a break from the everyday, the Clapham Walking Group might be just what you're looking for.

Come and join us – step by step, together.

Ngairi Mettam

Park Association update

We're pleased to report that the park has been awarded a grant of £5000 from the Northern Community Improvement Fund. We proposed some ideas to create more opportunities for a wider age group to use the Park and these should start to take shape in the spring.

After more than 5 years, Amanda North has decided to step down from the Park Association committee at the end of this year. We'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Amanda for all the fundraising, work as Treasurer, maintenance, and other contributions she has made over the years.

We're very keen to recruit more hands, old or young, to help. If you're able to help, or just interested to know more, send us an email.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has supported the upkeep of the park this year, either financially or with their time.

Eleanor (Nell) Whitley

07766088169

claphamparkassociation@outlook.com

Keasden rainfall report

	2024	2025
September	3.8" or 9.6cm	11.8" or 30.1cm
October	6.9" or 17.6cm	5.3" or 13.4cm

Village Store - Community Fund



Deadline extended until 31 December 2025

We have £353 in the shop Community Fund, and we are seeking applications from local groups for a share of this. Qualifying projects should have a social, environmental or charitable purpose that would benefit the community of Clapham-cum-Newby and Keasden.

HOW TO APPLY: The full policy and an application form are available to download from the shop website. If you would like to discuss your project with a member of the Management Committee before applying, please contact the secretary at cosec.cvs@gmail.com or ask in the shop. Application forms should be submitted by 31 December 2025

Harriet Naden

Coffee morning success

We held our coffee morning on Saturday 1st November and were delighted to see so many coming along. Its reassuring that we have so much support. The sales of cakes and coffee, books, and raffle tickets – together with the opportunity for so many of you to hand in your Christmas Greetings for publication, plus some generous donations – brought in a much-appreciated sum of a little over £750 on the day.

Each issue we print makes a small loss so the income from this fundraiser stops us sliding into the red and buys us the security we need to keep going. So, thank you to everyone for coming along. Thanks also to those who helped on the day.

The Newsletter Committee



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Village hall news

The Village Hall held its AGM in September electing a new committee to serve as trustees for the year ahead. We are happy to welcome Norman Lee, who will be our new vice chair, and Sarah Smith, as the new representative of Clapham Sustainability Group.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Judith Dawson, Liz Mason, and Gerald Kay, all of whom have stepped down, for their many years of service on the hall committee. Likewise, we'd like to thank our volunteers - our cleaners, Lorraine Wildman and Sheila Maywood, and our caretaker, Rick Newton - their work and dedication is truly appreciated.

Many thanks to Stuart and Barbara Marshall for running another superb Quiz Night on 11th October, which was a complete sell-out at a very early stage. Stuart has kindly agreed to run another one in 2026. Watch this space!

2026 is, of course, our Centenary Year and we asked for your ideas as to how we should celebrate it. There were lots of suggestions and, as a result, we are hoping to host something every month next year, covering as many different themes and age groups as we can manage.

We will be kicking off with our Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, in January and with an After Dinner Ghost Stories evening in February.

Please note that, following some issues, we will no longer accept ticket reservations or release them for later payment. Instead, they will be available on a strictly first-come-with-the-cash, first-served basis. Hopefully, everyone will see that this is a fairer method of handling ticketing. For details of all our centenary year events, please look out for the programme in the next issue of the newsletter.

There were several suggestions regarding improving the hall and we hope to bring you news of these in the next issue but one item we can report already. We were asked if we could show films and, back in September, we had an opportunity to apply for grant funding to enhance our facilities. We put the two together and luckily our bid was successful!

We will be installing a ceiling-mounted projector, a new screen, and the accompanying audio equipment. The work should be done in early in December, but we will need to wait until we have acquired the appropriate licences before it can be fully used. This will have to wait until after Christmas, but it does mean that if anyone is interested in setting up and running a Film Club, then do get in touch.

Finally, some of you may have noticed that we now have a trolley table to help transport some of the heavier tables around the building.

We are always on the lookout to improve the hall facilities and are happy to discuss these at our meetings. If you have any suggestions that you think will make the hall better – it is your hall after all! – do contact us via email to claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com

On behalf of the committee, do have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Angie Martin
Hall Secretary



Village hall regular events

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 1.30pm to 4pm
David & Jackie Kingsley
07711 730819

Clapham & Austwick Guides & Brownies

Mondays 6pm to 7pm
Jill Crowson
01729 860595
claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com

Age UK

Wednesdays 10.30am (1st Wed of month)
Judith Holt
015242 51817
jmh061@btinternet.com

Clapham DEW Drop-In

Digital Equipment Workshop PC support group
1st Wednesdays (Sept, Nov, Mar, May) at 7pm
Extra special session 3rd December – see notice p20
Andy Scott
015242 51749
claphamdewdropin@gmail.com

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council

Usually, 3rd Wednesday of month at 7.30pm
Steve Culver
015242 51862
clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk

Tai Chi

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

Craft & Chat

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

Reconnect to Nature

Thursdays 7pm (2nd & 4th Thurs of 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 7pm
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



Glencroft is once again proud to sponsor the village newsletter. Hopefully, some of our hats, gloves, and jumpers are keeping you warm!

This year, we continued to make a new range of products from our local Clapdale Wool. We took the remaining 100kg of Dalesbred yarn which we had spun in 2022, and wove more tweed cloth to our own designs at a 162-year-old Yorkshire mill - Mallalieu of Delph.

We then worked with one of our UK manufacturers to create three new tweed bags from the popular 'tote' bag to a small pouch bag.



Looking ahead, we are also exploring how to run the project sustainably again in 2026. We're planning out the wool processing, costing up options, and also investigating products that can be made directly from "wool tops" to avoid or reduce the costly spinning stage - it's all about finding clever ways to keep turning local wool into lovely products!

I've had the chance to speak to over ten groups this past year about the "farm to yarn" Clapdale Wool journey, from local WIs to the Yarnale exhibition. The aim is to give an insight into how wool is processed and encourage more

ideas about how we can use local wool.

Thank you all for your continued support of Glencroft!

The Team at Glencroft

Growing With Grace - 25 years on

On November 8th, one of our local businesses celebrated its 25th anniversary. Growing With Grace have been quietly producing organic vegetables and fruits under two and a half acres of glass greenhouses for a quarter of a century. The farm shop, once awarded Best Small Organic Shop, offers a wide choice of organic foods and ethical products. Growing With Grace also delivers to customers within a fifty-mile radius and have established themselves as the principal supplier of organic food in the North West.

The business was established in 2000 when five Quakers took over the glasshouses, which had previously housed an intensive plant nursery. The soil was in a very poor condition, and it took two years of planting grasses and clovers to reintroduce fertility. The initial hard work paid off in 2001 when the Soil Association granted Growing With Grace fully organic status.

Over the following quarter of a century Growing With Grace has built a reputation for providing excellent food, combined with very attentive and personalised customer care. Growing With Grace is unique but is also a working model for future food sustainability. If every village had a Growing With Grace, the need for transporting food across great distances wouldn't be so essential. This has obvious implications for the environment, and also for the time from soil to plate.



The past twenty-five years have not always been easy for Growing With Grace, having had to weather the Credit Crunch, Covid, and also storms damaging the greenhouses. It's a testament to the commitment and resilience of those who work there, and to their very loyal customer base, that

Growing With Grace continues to be an inspiring co-operative, much loved by the community.

On Saturday 8th November, Growing With Grace employees, volunteers, and customers – both past and present – gathered at the village hall to celebrate overcoming all those challenges to still be standing 25 years on. "To be able to eat, drink and dance with those who have supported us over the years as well as hear

stories from even before my time here makes all the hard work worth it" says Tom, one of the business' long-standing employees.

Looking ahead, Growing With Grace is currently working on becoming even more friendly to the environment, with plans to install solar panels, heat pumps, EV charging points, and replace their vans with electric vehicles. They also have plans to supply the meadows of the Yorkshire Dales with wildflowers through a new project in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, as well as propagating trees for local planting.

Here's to the next 25 years.

Growing With Grace