

# CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Number 159, February 2026

## Recordings

To try and increase the domestic production of rationed wartime milk, the Milk Marketing Board (MMB), with government support, introduced National Milk Recording (NMR) in 1943. It was a voluntary scheme designed to provide information to the peasant farmer which, in theory at least, would help the cows be managed more efficiently and therefore possibly more productively. “If you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it” as they say.

Each month the recorder would arrive on the farm astride the NMR motorcycle to record yields and take a sample of milk from each cow which was tested for quality. It is remarkable how two cows under the same management can have such differing levels of milk yield. Often, a cow with a slightly lower quantity of milk has a higher level of butterfat and protein which is an important part of the pricing calculation.

We have paper milk records going back many years but, as you would expect, over the years things have evolved. For instance, from that one 23ml sample of milk, as well as testing for the old favourites, it is now possible to pregnancy diagnose a cow within 28 days of her service date. That is quite a saving on arm length examination gloves. Her somatic cell count (give that a Google) is now also measured from that sample.

In an effort to reduce costs (sound familiar?) we now do the recording ourselves, which is known as DIY NMR. The boxes of samples are collected by NMR to be delivered to the laboratory with results available online within 24 hours.

Being a milk recorder is mostly a part time job. Many years ago, our recorder worked night shifts at Angus Fire in Bentham with hours that meant he could be on the farm at 6am. He recorded on many local farms effectively doing the recording after work and before heading home to bed for a well-earned sleep, insisting, "Seeing all my bad-tempered farmers early in a morning helped me sleep." He also kept pigeons and raced them to a very high standard, although as far as I know, he never beat one.

At the end of each annual lactation the cow's records are updated and she receives a certificate with just about every aspect of her life recorded.

We sell the occasional newly calved cow and if her records show that she is very close to being the world record holder for butterfat yield, it helps to take the certificate to the sale and flaunt this valuable information to prospective buyers. It makes them drool and certainly adds value.

However, if the records indicate she is less than impressive in the milking department, it is best to leave the certificate at home and say something along the lines of “nice quiet cow this, really good to manage”.

Historically, only the peasant had access to the records but nowadays our vet, our feed suppliers and, of course, our milk buyer (Arla) can all have a look and interpret them in different ways. For instance, our vet will maybe look for cows getting

pregnant relatively easily, which can demonstrate healthy cows. The feed supplier will be looking at the feed rate for litres of milk produced and Arla? Well, they probably feel they should have access.

We are part of Arla Care, (yet another Google) and, interestingly, Arla has a new vet. I could tell he was new because he said he was looking forward to the visit. I pointed out that no one ever looked forward to an Arla visit. As is the modern way, we upload all the documents that he needs to see prior to the visit. Everything from the “live” animal medicine usage record to the most recent mobility score for each cow which is carried out by an independent inspector. Our own vet is also present and comes armed with the records of any treatment they have been involved with. We produce many records which show such things as daily live weight gain of the calves. This is 0.7kg/per day. By lucky coincidence that is an Arla target, how fortunate. The afternoon was pleasant enough and involved brews and several pieces of Christmas cake.

The outcome of “no action required” meant the Christmas cake was wisely invested.

John Dawson

*Colour printing of this edition sponsored by  
Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall*

## Welcome to the February newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of 2026! We are delighted that the Village Hall has sponsored the colour printing of the February newsletter. 2026 is a special year for the Hall as it will be celebrating its centenary. Read more about this on our centre pages.

Also, we would like to thank the Farrer Family Trust for their generous donation and support of the Newsletter.

*The Newsletter Committee*

Issue dates:

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

Next issue: **April 2026.**

Deadline: **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:claphamnewsletter@gmail.com)



Next edition: April 2026  
Deadline: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

### Distribution

If the printed edition is usually delivered to your home and you haven't received a copy by 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:claphamnewsletter@gmail.com)

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

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## In memory of Ken Pearce 1937-2025

Ken was born in Bingley in 1937 to parents Tom and Mabel and had an elder brother, Mike.

Typical of most kids, Ken 'played out' near his home. It didn't always end well though, as one culvert he explored passed underneath the local Salvation Army HQ and he was hauled out and frog-marched home by the police. As a teenager, Ken joined the Scouts and developed these outdoor interests and skills. Years later he would explore Welsh mines and limestone tunnels and caves in the Dales.

Ken enjoyed watching his dad mend and make things and eventually he was allowed the use of a small room as a workshop. A door laid over a bath was his bench and his earliest passion for 'tinkering', dismantling, mending, and making things took hold. Any liberated nuts, bolts and washers were saved in case they 'might come in handy someday'; a habit that never left him.

Ken started at Loughborough Grammar School in the late 1940s. He studied hard in crafts, design and technical drawing, history, and geography. When Ken and Brenda (who had first met at Infant School) started courting, they became interested in trad jazz and went regularly to the YWCA where they would strut their stuff doing Tangos, the Veleta, Quicksteps, and the Waltz.

Ken and Brenda married in 1959, and their three boys were born between 1961 and 1966.

One of Ken's early jobs was working as a milkman in the summer holidays. His control of the electric milk float proved to be a bit poor, though, as he lost a full crate on one occasion and on another, he knocked a nun off her stepladder outside a Convent as she was cleaning the windows.

Ken's first 'proper' job was as a teacher of woodwork and crafts but after a few years he decided that people were more interesting to work with than wood. He moved on to teach Outdoor Pursuits in North Wales and during this time he received a commendation for his role in a mine rescue. Later, he worked at an Approved School. Following that, he ran a Community Education Centre in a disadvantaged mining community near Doncaster which provided much-needed advice, information, and services. His last job was running a regeneration project in another local village that, like many others near Doncaster by that time, was a pit village without a pit. These were all challenging jobs but shared a common goal of helping people, a trait which he displayed throughout his life.

In his personal life Ken again had many roles. He was a community activist, cabinet maker and craftsman, an outdoor pursuits fan, a historian, a bell ringer, Clapham's No.1 odd job man, tomato-grower, and all-round good neighbour and friend. Undoubtedly his hard-working,

dedicated, meticulous, brave, and principled approach enabled him to make a huge success in all of these.

This meticulous approach was evident at an early age in the many pieces of woodwork that he created, displaying outstanding design and craftsmanship. He wanted to be remembered for 'some of the better craftwork' he had done and there are many beautiful articles of furniture that bear

testament to his skill, such as an oak chest of drawers which he made in the Sixth Form (still in service today) and an altar rail made for a local church using traditional blacksmithing techniques.

His activism took many forms. He was involved in local politics and numerous forums in Doncaster for many years. Living in Clapham, Ken corresponded with the local MP regularly. One exchange was regarding his views on the arrangements for Margaret Thatcher's funeral, making it clear that he felt plans were getting out of hand. Other correspondence was sent to Prime Ministers on various matters. His principled nature didn't always make him popular with officialdom, but it was always motivated by trying to help others and the community.

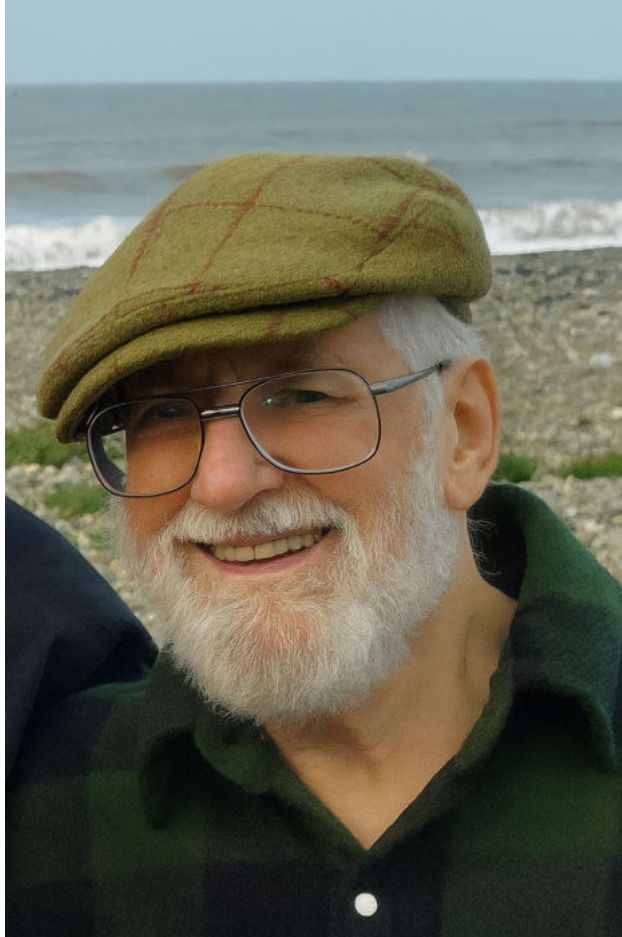
Once Ken retired, he and Brenda showed their shared curiosity by travelling widely, most notably circumnavigating the globe for four months on a cargo ship, the MV Arunbank. They also enjoyed holidays to

Indonesia and Central Asia. The Scottish islands were a favourite that they visited repeatedly.

When Ken and Brenda arrived in Clapham, they got involved in everything. A couple of Ken's high points were the work done in the Church tower related to the bells and the clock, and much research into the history of Clapham, most of which has been published in the Newsletter and elsewhere. In recent years he produced an excellent booklet called "CLAPHAM ANSWERS THE CALL TO ARMS". In it, Ken documented many previously unrecorded Clapham men who went to war in 1914-18 so that the stories of those who died, those who lived to return home, and those who were conscientious objectors are all now recorded for posterity. He was a vital contributor to a local history exhibition held at Keasden Church on its 150th anniversary and to a series of leaflets and a Churchyard Trail which visitors to Clapham Church can now enjoy following.

Ken and Brenda moved to Cambourne in Cambridgeshire in November 2025 to be closer to family, but unfortunately Ken died only a few days later on the 25th November. He will be sorely missed, and the family would like to thank Clapham for providing a home for him and Brenda for the last 21 years; they both loved the place and the people a great deal.

*The Pearce Family*



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## News from Brownies and Guides

Clapham and Austwick Brownies and Guides have enjoyed a very busy and successful term. One Guide has achieved her Bronze Award and is already well on her way towards completing her Silver Award, a fantastic achievement.



The units explored local history by discovering witches' marks during a visit to The Folly in Settle, spent an interesting evening at the Hoffmann Lime Kiln, and took part in festive activities including sewing mini stockings, decorating candles, and making chocolate logs. The Brownies and Guides also joined Settle Brownies for an exciting camp day, where the girls developed key outdoor and teamwork skills. Activities included putting up tents, making pizzas using camp ovens, and the Guides, trying their hand at wood whittling. It was a fun hands-on day that helped build confidence and independence.

The units also visited Settle Railway Station, taking part in activities to complete elements of the Railway Challenge, learning about the local railway and safety on the line. The girls proudly attended the Remembrance Parade, where we also paraded our two new unit flags for the first time, making it a special and memorable occasion. The unit was also pleased to support the Settle Light Switch On event.



A big thank you goes to Clapham Village Store, The Three Peaks Singers, and the Farrer Family Trust for their generous donations, which have enabled the girls to explore and try a range of new and adventurous activities. Adult volunteers and helpers are always welcome and make a huge difference to what the girls can achieve. To register interest or find out more, visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk).

*Jill Crowson*

## Art and Craft Sale 2025



I would like to thank all involved in the Art and Craft sale in November... the people who helped to swiftly set up the event in about 2 hours, those who spent many hours creating their contributions (art, craft and cakes), those who looked after the café and raffle and, finally, the people who came along and purchased those wonderful contributions!

We made a fantastic £2300 which has been split between two very worthy charities, St Johns Hospice and MIND.

*Chris Horsewill*

## Clapham Park Association news



The play park is kicking off 2026 with a spring maintenance day. We'd love to get as many volunteers as possible from the village to come by and help. We will be working through a list of jobs including painting the fence, fixing the gates, weeding and various other things to prepare for the spring and summer. If the weather is against us, we will just do what's feasible on the day. If we get the list done, we'll finish early!

If you are willing and able, come by between 10am and 4pm and we'll give you a job. If you have questions or want to offer a particular skill, please email us. We'll provide drinks and cakes to keep us going. Thank you for any time you can give!

Alongside this, we'll be spending the year developing plans for longer-term improvements at the park, shaped by what's most needed and what's achievable.

*Nell Whitley*

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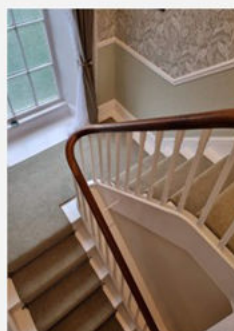
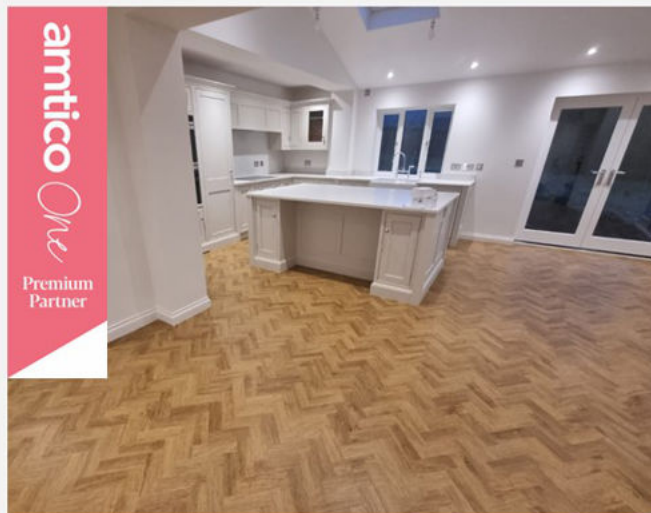
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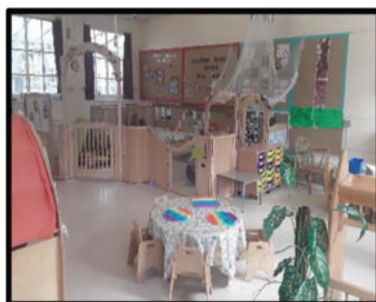
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## Church News

### John's Notes: clockmakers and Magi: the wisdom of blessed hobbyists

John Burnell is one of the few traditional clockmakers left - not just where he lives in Wavertree, Liverpool (a previous parish of mine), but in the world. He says that fewer than forty people worldwide now practice the complicated art of mending old-fashioned mantel and grandfather clocks.

We had a good chat about John at a recent *Easy Church* at St James, having read a feature about him in Liverpool paper *The Post*\*. In this, John described how his passion for the intricate mechanics of clocks and watches began as a boy who "always liked taking things to bits," disassembling his Christmas presents, from toy cars to Meccano sets; how as a teenager he was less interested in football, music and girls, and more in the collection of clocks and watches locked away in his bedroom. "In retrospect, I was probably quite odd," he told *The Post*, "but in a way I liked that: it was my secret kind of thing."

In 2015 the onset of leukaemia meant John had to give up his day job as an electrical inspector. He felt this was "a sign from the universe", and after thankfully recovering from a long intensive course of treatment John turned his little shed into a properly kitted-out workshop, and his hobby turned into a full-time occupation. Having set up in business in 2017, now John and his assistant, Steve, repair on average one and a half clocks a week, using traditional methods, "sympathetic restoration," as he puts it. These clocks, while often worth very little, are brought to John often as "a last chance saloon". "You've got to understand that this isn't just about the money, for me or for the customers. This is their prized possession," he says.

John's story got us talking about hobbyists we know, whose passion for their particular interest on the one hand consumes them, sets them apart, maybe makes them (sometimes by their own admission) seem a little odd to those who don't 'get it'; but on the other hand spills out wonderfully into the world. Their artistic creations bring beauty into the lives of others. Their sporting achievements generate thrills and awe. Their ability to mend and re-shape old, damaged, but precious items can be incredibly healing – on the BBC's *The Repair Shop* you see the joy and happy tears provoked by the revelation of a skilled restoration of an item which a family cherishes but which had seen better days before it was entrusted into the hands of the show's skilful artisans.

Hobbyists are a blessing! And, because at *Easy Church* we were in the season of Epiphany, with its story of the gift-bearing visitors to a child in a Bethlehem cradle, I suggested that the Magi were blessed hobbyists too. Hobbyists who'd made stargazing their full-time occupation. In ancient times stargazing embraced both science and mysticism, combining what we now call astronomy and astrology. People saw no division between the physical world and the unseen world. And they believed deeply that at the heart of all things was a creator, an originator who kept life growing and who, if you praised him, would bless your crops, bring beneficial weather, make your land fertile, so that your people could endure.

These wise ancients studied the stars and the heavens for what they revealed about weather patterns, about changing tides and seasons; and their ability to read these natural signs meant that the people knew when they should plant and when they should reap, when they ought to rest and when they ought to move on. They saw all life as belonging in a divinely ordered universe, in which they had

a place together on an equal footing with the other creatures and the stars themselves, all of whom are made to praise their maker together. As Psalm 19 says: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands," or as Sydney Carter wrote in a song familiar to some from schooldays: "Every star shall sing a carol, Every creature high and low. Come and praise the King of Heaven, By whatever name you know."

Today there is a turn towards seeking in the patterns of nature, ways to live more gently on this earth. Because we know that our present resource-devouring lifestyles cannot be sustained, it's increasingly clear that this natural wisdom is not naive, because it's based on the ancient understandings and tried and tested ways of folks who have thrived like that for centuries. The wisdom of the magi, like the wisdom of the shepherds, is the kind of wisdom that gives hobbyists like John Burnell satisfaction in their work.

Revd John Davies

01524 805928, [john.davies@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:john.davies@leeds.anglican.org)

Churches website: [bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick](http://bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick)

Notes from a Small Vicar: [bit.ly/johndavies-wp](http://bit.ly/johndavies-wp)

\* Abi Whistance, The clockmaker of Wavertree, *The Post*, Liverpool, 17 January 2026.

### Anglican Services

Led by Revd John Davies, except where stated.

#### February

- 1** Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church  
**8** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden  
**15** 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 3.00 Eldroth Evening Prayer  
**18** Ash Wednesday Holy Communion: 10.30 Austwick  
**22** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 4.00 Keasden Pancake Praise

#### March

- 1** Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church  
**8** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden  
**15** 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Taize Service  
**22** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 7.00 Keasden Community Church  
**29** Benefice Holy Communion: 10.30 Clapham; 7.00 Church in the Pub - The New Inn, Clapham

Also, each Wednesday

At The Church of the Epiphany, Austwick:

10:30 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer).

Bowland and Ewecross Deanery Lent Series 2026

#### "Music of our Hearts"

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Wednesdays 25 February, 4, 11, 18, 25 March

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## Church News *continued*

### **Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham**

Sunday services at 11am & 6.30pm

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month - youth service at 6.30pm

Thursday Friends - 5<sup>th</sup> February & 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm

Pottery Workshop - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 10am - 12noon

Coffee, Cake, Chat & Food Bank Drop off - Saturdays 21<sup>st</sup> February & 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am

Story Time - Wednesdays 11<sup>th</sup> February & 11<sup>th</sup> March at 10am

Bethel Chapel 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 7.30pm & Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 11am & 6.30pm

Clapham Tots - Fridays at 9.30am

Kmotion - 6pm & Encounter - 7.30pm alternate Fridays

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March - A Cooking Event with Grace Holland (more details nearer the time)

Christianity Explored Course - for details contact: Matthew Fawcett 07939 159808

More details on our Facebook page or website:

[www.bethelchapelclapham.org](http://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: 4.30pm; Sundays: 11.15am, Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am.

**Parish Priest: Father Frank Smith**

Tel: 01729 822525

Email: [office.ourladyandstboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.ourladyandstboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Website: [www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk](http://www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk)

### **Methodist Church, The Green, Newby**

Our usual services take place on:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month - Easy Evening Church 6.30pm.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11am, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 2pm.

Thanks to all who came to the Carol service, it was good to see the Church full and was a terrific community event, well done to all who made it happen.

For further information contact:

Revd Tim Broughton, Tel: 01729 554006 or

Email: [tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk](mailto:tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk)

### **Religious Society of Friends - Quakers**

Worship in the manner of Friends:

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

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

Tuesdays: 12.15-12.45pm in Settle, with soup afterwards.

Settle Quakers are hosting a photographic exhibition 'Kehillah', by Nudrat Afza. A Muslim woman's poignant, elegiac record of Bradford's Jewish community.

15<sup>th</sup> February - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 c.9am-5pm. There may be 1-3 hour closures of one of the exhibition rooms while in use by local groups. Preview 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 12 noon, all welcome.

For any further information - please go to the website:

<https://settlequakers.org.uk>

## Carol singing in Newby



It was a starry night on the Tuesday before Christmas when the residents of Newby (and some welcome visitors) gathered on the Green outside the Chapel to join the annual Community Carol Singing. Before COVID we used to go round to every house, whatever the weather, and bellow out carols with sufficient force that we could be heard however much competition there was from the TV. COVID put a stop to that and when we reconvened, we agreed that it was much nicer to bring our small community together to enjoy their favourite carols, catch up with friends and neighbours and to hear about everyone's Christmas plans.

So, guided not by a star but by a fiery beacon, they found their way to the appointed spot on the Green and worked their way through their favourite carols, including that particular Newby favourite - 'While Shepherds Watched' (there were shepherds present of course) to three different tunes - the traditional one, On Ilkley Moor Baht'at and Supercalifrajilisticexpealidocious (they do work - promise!). Such was the enthusiasm that built up (and perhaps aided by a sip or two of mulled wine) there was even an attempt at the descant on 'O Come All Ye Faithful'.

Having sung their hearts out the sixty 'choristers' made their way into the chapel for tea, coffee, and festive snacks. Many thanks to all who came and contributed not only with their voices but to the refreshments. See you in December!

*Sue Mann*

St Matthew's Church Keasden invites you to

# Pancake Praise!

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Enjoy conversation!

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## Two manors

Whilst Clapham-cum-Newby is nowadays a single parish, in the past it comprised two distinct manors and their histories are very different. That of Clapham is perhaps the better known.

At the time of the Norman Conquest, the manor of Clapham was in the ownership of a Dane called Thorfin of Ravensworth, near Richmond, and formed part of a large holding which stretched from Austwick down to Caton and beyond Lupton to Mansergh. By the time of the Domesday Book, all this land is recorded as uninhabited (possibly laid waste during the Harrying of the North) and was owned directly by the crown. In the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, King Henry I granted the Manor of Clapham to Roger de Mowbray who took title when he reached his majority in 1138. This grant was just one of many and included lands in Normandy - including Montbray, from which he took his title - as well as in Yorkshire and Leicestershire. These last included Melton, which thus became the Melton Mowbray of pork-pie fame.

De Mowbray sold the manor of Clapham in 1170 to one William, who then became known as William de Clapham, and it stayed in that family for the next 400 years. In 1335, his descendant, also William, was High Sheriff of Lancaster. During the reign of Elizabeth I it passed to the Ingleby family. Anne Clapham had married John Ingleby (of Lawkland Hall, and brother of William Ingleby of Ripley Castle) in about 1562 so perhaps it was part of her marriage settlement? The Ingleby's subsequently sold the lordship to the Morleys, of Hornby Castle, in 1698.

Meanwhile, although they no longer owned the title, the Claphams still held some of the property in the village, including the Manor House, and lived there.

In 1718 William Clapham died and the family moved to Slaidburn but they still retained their Clapham properties until 1742 when they were sold to the Heaton. Later still, they were bought by Oliver "Penny Bun" Farrer who, with his nephews James and another Oliver, were in the process of building up what was to become the Ingleborough Estate. Ultimately, in 1856, the Morleys also sold the Farrers the lordship of the manor of Clapham itself.

But what of Newby?

Newby is not mentioned in the Domesday Book. Perhaps it had belonged to Thorfin, or perhaps it was directly owned by his overlord, Earl Tosti, as was Ingleton. Either way, by 1086 it was uninhabited or it would have been mentioned. Within 100 years, however, it had become the property of Robert de Boivill through his wife, Margaret, daughter of Waldeve, as part of her marriage portion. The de Boivills, in turn, granted it to the Abbey at Furness on condition that they, and their children, might be buried in the monks' cemetery. The Cistercians, ever enterprising, built Newby into a monastic grange where it became the centre of a huge sheep-farming estate. This stretched from Burn Moor, beyond Keasden, over to Whernside, thence across to Horton and to Crummack.

As well as farming the land, the monks also received income from those renting land from them. The list of tenants included a peasant farmer "*Richard Proctour of Blakebank*" who was to pay "*for 1 tenement and 24 acres by Newbycote: 20 shillings*" each Whitsuntide and Martinmas.

The abbey continued to hold the title until it was dissolved on the orders of Henry VIII on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1537, the first of the "greater" monasteries to be destroyed. All its properties passed to the crown where they were annexed into the Duchy of Lancaster.

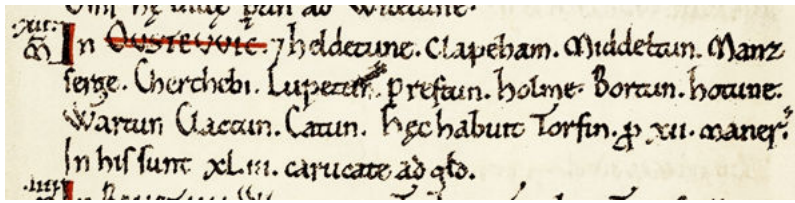
From there, the Newby lands may have passed through several owners but by 1683 the Lordship of the Manor was held by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham who commissioned a more accurate survey of the boundaries of his acquisition. However, in 1687 George died and Newby passed (possibly indirectly) to the Montagu family who

were becoming ever more influential in the kingdom. John Montagu, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Montagu, was Lord of the Manor of Newby but died without male issue in 1749 so it passed jointly to his daughters Isabella, Dowager Duchess of Manchester and Mary, Countess of Cardigan. By 1796, the Lordship was jointly owned by Henry, Duke of Buccleuch, through his marriage to Elizabeth, Mary's daughter and Edward, Earl of Beaulieu, through his marriage to Isabella.

The likelihood is that all the above were simply absent landlords, renting out the properties and land to tenants who, in the main, would farm them.

In 1810, two years after Oliver "Penny Bun" Farrer's death, his nephews John and Oliver Farrer bought the Manor of Newby from the Duke of Buccleuch, having already purchased that of Austwick in 1782. It was added to by the purchase of that of Clapham, as already noted, in 1856.

*Andy Scott*



## Wordsearch answers

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

Here are the answers to the Wordsearch we printed in the December issue...

Aladdin, Beanstalk, Beauty And The Beast, Buttons, Captain Hook, Carabosse, Cinderella, Dame Trott, Dick Whittington, Fairy Fortuna, Fairy Godmother, Fairy Queen, Giant, Goldilocks, Hamelin, Its Behind You, Jack, Lamp, Little Mermaid, Maid Marion, Mother Goose, Muddles, Myrtle The Mermaid, Nurse Nelly, Peter Pan, Pied Piper, Prince Charming, Prince Edward, Princess Aurora, Rapunzel, Robin Hood, Seven Dwarves, Simple Simon, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Three Bears, Treasure Island, Ugly Sisters, Wendy, Puss In Boots, Wicked Witch, Widow Twankey, Will Scarlet, Wizard of Oz.

## Keasden rainfall report

	2024	2025
<b>November</b>	2.28" or 5.79cm	8.5" or 21.5cm
<b>December</b>	5.16" or 13.11cm	8.03" or 20.4cm
<b>Annual total</b>	69.74" or 1.77m	59.21" or 1.50m

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Wed of month)  
Judith Holt  
015242 51817  
jmh061@btinternet.com

### Clapham DEW Drop-In

Digital Equipment Workshop PC support group  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays (Sept, Nov, Mar, May) at 7pm  
Extra session 4<sup>th</sup> February – see notice  
Andy Scott  
015242 51749  
claphamdewdropin@gmail.com

### Clapham cum Newby Parish Council

Usually, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of month)  
Angie Martin  
015242 51749  
angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk

### Reconnect to Nature

Selected Thursdays 7pm  
\*\* 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**

## Village hall news

As you can see from the opposite page, we have quite a busy year ahead as the hall celebrates it's 100th birthday. We greatly appreciate all the suggestions that were put forward last year in response to the centenary questionnaire. However, we're sorry that it will not be possible to act on every idea, especially those proposals that involve activities taking place away from the village hall itself. Unfortunately, our capacity is limited by the number of volunteers and committee members available, and we simply do not have the manpower required to organise events off-site. We hope for your understanding and continued support as we focus on delivering a varied and exciting programme of centenary celebrations within the hall.

Nevertheless, we do take on board the desire and necessity to improve the outside of the building. We hope to make a start on this when the weather improves. The first step will be to expose some of the underlying stonework so that we can work out the best way to waterproof and smarten the building. We'd also like to do some planting to cheer up the area, but we may need to limit this to flower tubs this year, as workmen will need easy access to the outside walls.

Many of you will have already noticed that our new ceiling-mounted projector, screen and accompanying audio equipment have now been installed thanks to grant funding from NYC. Operation of the equipment will be limited to those who have had full instruction on its use, so do come along to the next DEW Drop session on 4<sup>th</sup> February to find out more. If anyone is interested in setting up and running a Film Club, then do get in touch. This was a popular request from the feedback we received from the questionnaires, so we hope that there is someone out there with the enthusiasm to pick this one up and make a go of it for our community.

Having now installed more energy efficient lighting in many areas of the hall, we will be looking at other ways we can improve our facilities during the months ahead. At the moment, we are in the very early stages of looking to see how we can make our kitchen more user-friendly and economical to run, but with so much happening this year, we may need to hold our horses and wait until 2027 before we embark on this next project!

Finally, we were all saddened to hear of the passing of Ken Pearce. He was a committee member for many years and a regular attendee at events but, more than that he did a huge amount of work in the background – fixing, sorting, and providing good advice to us all.

*Angie Martin  
Secretary*



**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

**7pm, Village Hall**

**Using the Village Hall's  
new ceiling-mounted projector**

Thanks to grant funding, the hall has now installed an overhead projector and wide-format projection screen, linked into the pre-existing loudspeaker system.

These will allow us to show films in the hall, as well as making it easier to do presentations, hold lectures and expand the other facilities available to hirers at their meetings.

This session, run jointly by the hall and DEW Drop, will show you how it works and provide the training needed so that hirers can use it for themselves. We'll also do a quick reminder on the other hall audio/music system and cover manual control of the hall's heating system.

Refreshments provided: £3 donations please to cover costs.



## Village hall centenary celebrations

As this is our Centenary Year, Clapham cum Newby Village Hall Committee felt that it was only right that we should sponsor the first newsletter of the year. We're really grateful to the Newsletter team for their assistance with promoting our hall activities, whether they are the individual community events such as shows and quizzes, or the more regular activities of the various clubs and societies that use the space we provide, so it's only proper that we support them too.

We would also like to thank all our supporters and users over the past years for making this community space such a great success.

Although the hall first opened in December 1926, its history really began a little over four years earlier than that, with a public meeting called by Dr Lovett. The idea of having a community facility for things like dances attracted wide support so the first village hall committee was formed to take the idea forward.

More of this later since it is proposed to provide a short history of the hall in a future edition of the newsletter!

In preparing for the celebrations for the coming year, our thanks go to the Events Team, consisting of representatives from both the hall and St. James' Church, for putting such a comprehensive programme together. In particular, we would like to thank Liz Wake for her tireless input, chasing up some of the Rural Arts touring productions, running the pantomime, and sourcing material for our 1920's-themed Murder Mystery later this year.

The idea was to have some sort of event every month in the year. Unfortunately, the planned evening of fun in February had to be postponed for reasons beyond our control, though on the plus side, we do have two events occurring in April to make up the numbers.

As you can see, our event in March is our very first film night, and to mark the occasion, it was unanimously decided that the film just had to be Alan Bennett's latest, *The Choral*. Tickets will be on sale shortly, see the poster on page 17, and we feel that we may well sell out quickly.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis with payment by cash on the day, and to make it fairer they cannot be reserved.

Lastly, to mark the Centenary at the end of the year, we would like to display a photo gallery of all our usual weekly/monthly pursuits in the hall. It is hoped that this will form a permanent record of the types of activities that have taken place by our user groups – something that future generations can look back on.

If you have any photos that you feel would be ideal to add to the gallery, then please get in touch via the email address below.

Angie Martin,  
Secretary

[claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com)

<p><b>Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> <p>Film Show <b>THE CHORAL</b> £5</p> <p>Bring your own drinks and nibbles</p>	<p><b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>"EYES DOWN"</b> A comedy thriller £12.50</p> <p>Bar (Joint Event with St James' Church)</p>	<p><b>Wed 29<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>"CRUMBS"</b> Bad Apple Theatre Comedy £12.50 (but see Special Deal)</p> <p>Bar (Joint Event with St James' Church)</p>	<p><b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p>By popular request! <b>THE SCRIMSHANKERS</b> Sea shanty singalong £12.50</p> <p>Bar &amp; Supper</p>
<p><b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June</b></p> <p>Midsummer Ceilidh <b>BATTY MOSS CEILIDH BAND</b> £17.50 (under 16s £10)</p> <p>Bar &amp; Supper (Hog Roast)</p>	<p><b>Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> <p>Children's Event Watch this space!</p>	<p><b>Sat 15<sup>th</sup> August</b></p> <p><b>TALENT SHOW &amp; OPEN MIC NIGHT</b> Hosted by Kevin McSherry Entry Free</p> <p>Bar &amp; Nibbles</p>	<p><b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> September</b></p> <p><b>QUIZ NIGHT</b> With Stuart Marshall £12.50</p> <p>Bar &amp; Supper</p>
<p><b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup> October</b></p> <p>1920's-themed <b>MURDER MYSTERY</b> 3-course dinner £25 (tbc)</p> <p>Dress the part! Bring your own drinks</p>	<p><b>November</b></p> <p>Watch this space!</p> <p>(Joint Event with St James' Church)</p>	<p><b>Sat 12<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p><b>CENTENARY PARTY</b> Further details nearer the time</p>	<p><b>Centenary Special deals:</b> Ticket price for Crumbs reduced to £10 if bought at the same time as Eyes Down.</p> <p><b>Centenary Loyalty Card:</b> Pick up a card with your first ticket purchased and get it stamped each time you attend a centenary event: get 8 stamps to collect a prize!</p>



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**Langcliffe  
Singers**

# BEETHOVEN

## Mass in C minor

Egmont Overture

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Soprano

**Sophie Clarke**  
Alto

**Oliver Heath**  
Tenor

**Rob Gildon**  
Bass

Conductor  
**Andre Chan**  
Leader  
**Anne Heaton**

Sat 21st March, 3.30pm  
Settle Parish Church

Sun 29th March, 3.30pm  
Christ Church, Skipton

# O Haupt voll Blut MENDELSSOHN

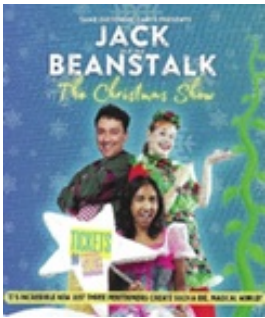
Tickets £15; Students and benefits claimants £7.50; 18 and under Free;  
Essential carers of the disabled: Free. See [settleorchestra.org.uk](http://settleorchestra.org.uk) for details of  
free tickets through our 'Buy One Donate One' scheme. Tickets available from  
Forage and Feast, Settle; [settleorchestra.org.uk](http://settleorchestra.org.uk);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

Settle Orchestra reg. charity 1025554

Langcliffe Singers reg. charity 1007885



## Rural Arts in Clapham



The 2026 programme got off to a rousing start with a panto from the *Same Difference* company on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. There were shrinking cows, a beanstalk that unravelled from a backpack, a green giant (behind you!) who turned out to be kind and vegan (hurrah!?) and, of course, Jack, his mother and their magic-making friend 'Fairy-nough' (cue appropriate groan), all intent

on foiling the wicked mayor (boo!) The highlight came when two young members of the audience completely upstaged Jack (much to his amusement and some great *ad-libs*) with their frenetic and joyfully barmy dancing. All good fun and it was lovely to see so many small children enjoying the show.

### Coming soon...

Regrettably, After Supper Ghost Stories due on 8<sup>th</sup> February has had to be postponed BUT please put Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April in your diaries now for **Eyes Down**, an interactive comedy thriller by *Just Some Theatre* promising "Mayhem, murder and real games of Bingo with real prizes!" Intrigued? Then, on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April we have a bonus Bad Apple Theatre show **Crumbs**, "One Woman, One Oven" and, I'm led to believe, live baking and biscuits for the audience. What's not to like? See the full programme of events in the hall – including the Rural Arts ones which are run jointly by the Village Hall Committee and St James' Church - on page 13.

Liz Wake

## Goodbye ... not!



For a third of my life, I've lived in Newby. I have many friends in the parish and couldn't have wanted for better neighbours. I've worked in Clapham throughout and shopped there weekly since helping to set up the village store over a decade ago. I delivered food orders from there to vulnerable people throughout the Covid pandemic, a great opportunity to get to know folks. You could say my roots had been firmly put down.

And yet, the house in Newby wasn't laid out as I really wanted. Some time ago it began to dawn on me that, one day, I might decide to move. Nothing suitable came on the market in our parish, then a chance arose to buy a house just right for me in Settle. I agonised over leaving Newby but eventually decided it was for the best. Lots of you made a point of wishing me well but the big day came along just before Christmas and I went with huge regret.

But I still work at Clapham, I'll be visiting friends from time to time, and I'll certainly continue to be a customer in our precious local shop. (On that latter point I'm especially grateful to Helen and everyone else who makes it all happen.) So, this note is just a thank you to all the great people who have made me feel at home in the parish over the years. You'll still see me about, so this is definitely *not* "Goodbye". The folk who bought my house are looking forward to getting to know everybody and I'm sure you'll look after them just like you have with me. Cheerio for now; see you all soon.

John Cordingley

## The Sustainability Group



Our November meeting was delighted to host a talk by Edward Sexton from Glencroft 'From Farm to Yarn in 50 miles'. His talk was about their Clapdale Wool project, where they have taken wool from seven local farms and turned it into yarn, tweed, blankets, and knitwear. This wool is traceable and sustainable. The Project gives farmers a share of the profits of everything made from their wool.

We followed the journey of the wool from the shearing, through scouring (cleaning to carding, combing, and gilling). Up to 50% of the raw wool is lost during this process. We also learnt the word 'noil' – the shorter wool fibres dropped during carding which are sold for felting and stuffing! The wool is now ready to be spun into finer worsted yarn in hanks and cones suitable for clothing, and woollen spun, a coarser yarn, for items like blankets.

The next process for some of the wool is dyeing. Edward is investigating using natural dye but currently most dyes are petrochemical based. Glencroft try to make everything as locally as they can with about 80% of it still made in the UK mostly in Yorkshire. The Yorkshire tweed was created with a woven textiles designer and produced in a 150-year-old mill in Delph on the edge of Saddleworth Moor.

Clapdale Wool has also appeared at the heady heights of London Fashion Week made into a jumper by the fashion designer Edward Crutchley who's worked with Louis Vuitton, Pringle, Dior, and Fendi and is from Clapham.

The main challenge for the three tonnes of fleece collected during the 2022 project is the very long time frames as it takes a minimum of a year to get from shearing a sheep to a hank of spun yarn.

There are also significant upfront costs which were an eye opener for the Group. A fleece costs about £1 per kilogram - so about £3 a fleece - but by the time Glencroft have a kilo of woollen spun yarn it will have cost c£25 and for worsted yarn c£45. And that's without transport costs, dyeing and making cloth and garments and running a shop.

Jane Jolliffe & Maggie McSherry  
Clapham Sustainability Group  
csgcommittee@outlook.com



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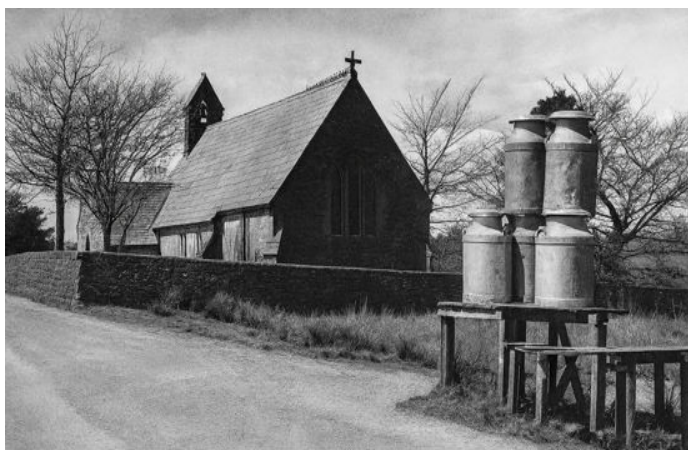
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## Then and Now



Step back in time with these two evocative images adjacent to St. Matthew's Church, Keasden. Though likely taken just fifty years apart, they capture a world of change – and yet, the sight of milk kits perched on their stand instantly conjures memories of a bygone era.

In the North, these sturdy containers are affectionately known as “kits,” but travel across the UK and you’ll discover a patchwork of local names: “churns” in the south of England, “tankards” in the Welsh Marches, and “cans” in Northern Ireland.

Even the stands themselves have their own regional character, with names like “milk stoops” and the delightfully rustic “cow’s nests.”



Each term is a reminder of the rich tapestry of rural life and the traditions that once shaped daily routines.

All of these began to go as dairies used tankers for milk collection, and the last kits fell out of use in about 1979.

Although the wooden stands have mostly been lost, there are still plenty of the stone or block-work ones to be seen as we travel around the countryside.

Sometimes these stands are well away from the current line of the road and show just how much work has gone into straightening and levelling our byways.

Nowadays, the scene is dominated by our modern roadside offering - the ubiquitous wheelie bin.

*Andy Scott*

**Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

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## News from the Old Manor House



The regulars at the Old Manor House bar have yet again raised money for a local charity. Just recently they have handed over a cheque for £500 to Craven Wildlife Rescue.

This local Rescue group cares for many poorly and injured animals, most of which are red-listed such as hedgehogs. They also take in rabbits, hares, owls and raptors such as kestrels and buzzards. There is a pressing need for them to expand their facilities and help train their volunteers who often go out to other centres, and do medical training.

*Elaine Booth*



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## Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of **11<sup>th</sup> December 2025** and were joined by Cllr David Ireton (NYC) the Sustainability Group Representative and one member of the public.

The Police report identified nine incidents reported between 15<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> December. They included a broken-down vehicle on the A65, a civil dispute, a domestic incident and We Care Scheme record, a concern for safety of a person walking on A65, a single-vehicle road traffic collision at Green Close Bridge, the theft of portable toilet from the A65, and an incident to which Cave Rescue Organisation had been asked to assist.

The Sustainability Group representative advised the Council that Paul Pedals is supporting the blister pack recycling drive by housing the recycling box and that funding has been secured to finance a Curlew Cluster Field Officer full time for 4 months next season.

The Council finalised next year's precept to be included in the Council Tax bills for all households. Whilst expenditure is forecast to increase (principally due to inflation and the unexpected increase in electricity costs this year) to £8,976, the Council has resolved to actually reduce the levy on all households by 5%, with the balance of expenditure being met by decreasing reserves that have grown in the past couple of years.

It was resolved to adopt the following timetable for Parish Council meetings in 2026:

- 21<sup>st</sup> January,
- 18<sup>th</sup> February,
- 18<sup>th</sup> March (combined with the Annual Parish Meeting),
- No meeting in April,
- 20<sup>th</sup> May (the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council),
- 17<sup>th</sup> June,
- 15<sup>th</sup> July,
- No meeting in August,
- 16<sup>th</sup> September,
- 21<sup>st</sup> October,
- No meeting in November, and
- 9<sup>th</sup> December.

The issue of some rubbish that was left behind on the Old Road near the A65 junction was raised and the Clerk was actioned to report the matter to NYC. (For information, this is something that any resident can do at: <https://bit.ly/NYCFLyTip>).

The Parish Council met on the evening of **21<sup>st</sup> January 2026** and were joined by the Sustainability Group Representative, two representatives from the local Police and six members of the public.

PCSO Jayne Grace gave the Police report to the meeting, identifying sixteen incidents that had been dealt with between 6<sup>th</sup> December and 19<sup>th</sup> January. They included a suspect package, a road-related offence (manner of driving),

black ice on the A65, concern for the safety/welfare of a male walking on the A65, the theft of sheep between August and October from Clapham Common, theft from a vehicle in the Station area, a suspected hunt, abandoned vehicles on the A65, and an attempted burglary in the Station area.

The Sustainability Group representative advised the Council that, following the notification of potential funding from the Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment fund, an approach had been made to confirm that funding would be available for potential wildlife corridors. This was confirmed and the matter will now be discussed at the next meeting. Also, that the Curlew Cluster Field Officer had been appointed for the coming season.

The responses from the Newby Street Lighting review were presented to the meeting (47% response rate and 68% in favour of repairing the two lights currently not working). A representation was made by a Newby resident who was not in favour of the lights being repaired and the Council will now defer deciding on the matter for a couple of months to allow any further representations to be made.

If you wish to make your comments known, but are unable to make the next meeting, please forward them to the Parish Clerk, details below, who will present them to the meeting on your behalf.

The formal closure of the Neighbourhood Plan project and the disbanding of the Steering Group was advised to the Council. Thanks were expressed to all concerned for their efforts in seeing the plan through to completion. Should anyone wish to reference the plan at any point, details of how to do so can be found at the end of the article.

The Village Hall Committee has requested that photographs be provided of all regular groups using the facility and to that end the Parish Council will be taking a photo of the Annual Parish Meeting in March.

Following a proposal to move Clapham cum Newby into the Settle division for local council elections, the Council received the following from North Yorkshire Council:

"During consultation, we received evidence from the Council, the Conservatives, Councillor Staveley, Clapham cum Newby Parish Council and a local resident which demonstrated that the parish shares stronger links with communities in the proposed Bentham and Ingleton division than with those in Settle division.

We have therefore decided to include Clapham cum Newby parish in a Bentham and Ingleton division in our final recommendations. We are satisfied that doing so will provide a better balance of our statutory criteria."

### Neighbourhood Plan

A paper copy of the neighbourhood plan is available for review from the Parish Clerk, or an electronic copy can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/ClaphamNP>

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

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February** and **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** (this meeting will also include the Annual Parish Meeting).

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

Tel: 015242 51862 or

Email: [clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk)

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## Nature notes

*All Creatures Great and Small.* Even if you haven't sung the hymn, you will probably have read James Herriot's books or, perhaps more likely, watched one of the popular TV series. This month's *Nature Notes* certainly play on the theme.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> December Tim Hutchinson was watching two Goldcrests flitting quickly through the trees and bushes below the railway viaduct near the station when he spotted a similarly diminutive but much more infrequent visitor to the area: a Firecrest. This was just Tim's fourth local sighting in thirty years – quite a Christmas present! It's almost forty years since I had my first and only sighting of this dazzling little jewel of a bird and that was much further south in rural Gloucestershire.

Goldcrests and Firecrests can each lay claim to be the UK's smallest breeding bird. At 9-10 centimetres, the Firecrest is just a little longer and very slightly heavier than the Goldcrest, but sleeker and more streamlined than its rounder cousin, it can appear to be the smaller of the two. Although both birds have olive-green backs and buff-white underparts, the Firecrest is much the brighter of the two birds. The male has a fiery orange crown and both male and female have very distinctive, black-bordered, white eye stripes. Hardly surprising then that its scientific name has a royal ring to it: *regulus ignicapilla* can be roughly translated as *fire-capped little king*.

Although they can be difficult to spot, Goldcrests are relatively common throughout England and Wales and can be found in and around the village throughout the year. Firecrests, on the other hand, tend to keep to warmer southern territories. The first breeding pair was recorded in Hampshire in 1962, and they seem to have been reluctant to venture further north. Tim's bird was probably a winter migrant from Scandinavia, blown in on cold north-easterly winds; despite being such tiny creatures, significant numbers cross the North Sea each year and are regularly seen foraging among flocks of other small birds near our coasts.

...*Great and Small.* At the other end of today's avian scale here in the UK there are again two contenders, both of them eagles. After its reintroduction, the White-tailed Eagle is one of our biggest breeding birds, but hot on its eponymous tail is its glorious golden relative. The former is significantly heavier and, with its broad wings, it's easy to see why it's sometimes called a 'flying barn door.'

In contrast, the Golden Eagle's almost equally long wings are more slender and, together with its longer tail, suggest an easy grace and elegance in flight.

If it is rare to see a Firecrest around here, a close encounter with a Golden Eagle is even more unlikely. Unlikely but not impossible. This time the lucky spotter was another Tim, local gamekeeper Tim Pickup. He was working on the edge of Home Wood, near Long Lane when a huge bird flew low over his head, close enough to make him duck. Despite the low sun, he got a good view of it and, helpfully, noticed a much smaller buzzard quickly making itself scarce. The size difference was obvious.

If almost anyone else had told me they had seen a Golden Eagle so close to the village, I would have taken it

with a pinch of salt, but Tim knows his stuff. He noticed the white patch under each wing and the white band on its tail – both suggesting that this might be a young bird. Mature Golden Eagles tend to stick to their territories but younger ones, up to five or six years old, are much more inclined to explore further afield. Where had this one come from?

I contacted Doctor Catherine Barlow at the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project. (Further information: <https://www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk/>) She was intrigued by the sighting, but she was sure that all their (tagged and closely monitored) eagles could be accounted

for. So, we have a mystery. Where does this wanderer call home? If it is tagged, we might still find out – but these magnificent birds can travel vast distances when they want to, so we may never know.

Finally, if you contributed to the *Big Garden Birdwatch* this year, thank you. I hope you were able to record lots of different visitors. Many familiar birds are experiencing challenging times and the information that the RSPB gleans from this long-running annual survey is invaluable in helping to monitor what is happening.

As usual, if you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, please send me an email, or drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply stop and chat if you see me around the village.

Photographs are always welcome and I will do my best to use any that are sent in to me.

I also post news of recent local sightings here: [@bcriverside28.bsky.social](https://www.bcriverside28.bsky.social)

Brian Christian  
[bc.riverside28@gmail.com](mailto:bc.riverside28@gmail.com)

---

## Panto season is upon us again

Bentham Theatre Group invites you to a production for the whole family. This year's offering will whisk our stars from the panto village of Bentham across the sea to far-off and exotic lands. An enchantress' spell, endangered cabbages, incredible contraptions, explosions and a whole lot of monkey business!

A 'golden era of cinema' twist on the classic French novel "Beauty and the Beast" with songs and characters you'll know (and some you won't)!

Will Belle get her nose out of her book? Is her inventive dad's do-dah a dud? Are Gaston and Lafoo up to no good? Is there space at The Hub for some fairly unusual furniture? Can our plucky troupe save the day and let their inner beauty shine? And what is that in the trees?... and what on earth is that coming out of the trees!!

Performances of "Beauty &" are at 7pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a matinee at 2.30pm and a show at 6pm. Tickets can be purchased online at:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/bentham-theatre-group](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bentham-theatre-group).

For enquiries, please call 015242 98251 and leave a message.

Jack Sankey





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## Eyes on the skies



### Protecting birds of prey

Friends of the Dales has spent more than four decades campaigning on the big issues affecting the Yorkshire Dales. Its new campaign is no different, speaking out against the criminal persecution of birds of prey, despite these majestic species having been protected in law for over 70 years.

To learn more about justice for birds of prey, sign up for these free online talks:

**Saving Our Precious Sky Dancers** – with Indy Kiemel Greene & Adrian Rowe from Hen Harrier Action

**Wednesday 18 February, 5.30pm – 7.00pm**

Indy – familiar from *Springwatch*, *8 Out of 10 Bats*, and the HHA Skydancer Day – will introduce the iconic, red-listed hen harrier: how to recognise it, its key behaviours, and why it's a vital indicator of upland ecosystem health. Adrian will then reveal how satellite tagging helps monitor raptors and exposes illegal persecution, and how the charity is funding both tags and specialised wildlife crime detection dogs to strengthen protection efforts.

**Talking Raptor Persecution** – with Dr Ruth Tingay

**Wednesday 18 March, 5.30pm – 7.00pm**

Hear from wildlife conservationist Dr Ruth Tingay, who has worked in the field of raptor research and conservation for more than 30 years. A former President of the international Raptor Research Foundation, Ruth now focuses on campaigning against the illegal killing of birds of prey in the UK through the blog Raptor Persecution UK. She is also a co-director of the hard-hitting wildlife conservation organisation Wild Justice with Chris Packham. Book for these free talks at:

[www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events)

All talks can also be viewed later via:

[www.youtube.com/@friendsofthedales](http://www.youtube.com/@friendsofthedales)

Victoria Benn

## The future of home heating

### Respond by 10<sup>th</sup> February

The government is consulting on how homes will be heated in the future, and this is your chance to be heard. The government's view is that low temperature heat pumps will be the primary low carbon technology for decarbonising most homes, but it recognises they may not be suitable for everyone. This is particularly true for homes off the gas grid that rely on oil heating.

The consultation seeks views on alternatives. The problem with the majority of these is that it involves replacing your existing heating system, and this can be costly. The data in the consultation suggests these alternatives are no cheaper than existing oil heating systems.

However, the consultation also says that liquid biofuels may play a role. The advantage of this approach is that homeowners using oil do not need to change their heating system – the renewable liquid fuel can be used in any existing or new oil heating system. The industry is ready to introduce this option but needs the support of government to make this happen.

It's crucial that households have access to a range of viable choices. Sharing your views via the consultation can ensure this happens. The Future Ready Fuel campaign has created an automated platform to enable you to submit a pre-prepared response. To respond, visit the Future Ready Fuel website ([futurereadyfuel.info/consultation/](http://futurereadyfuel.info/consultation/)), add your details and press send.

If you would like to edit the response first, you can download a copy here:

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[alternativecleanheatsolutions@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:alternativecleanheatsolutions@energysecurity.gov.uk)

Details of the consultation can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/463TCzB>

Malcolm Farrow

Director of Marketing & External Affairs, OFTEC

## New Year, New Voice

On 18 September 2025, the Clapham-cum-Newby electorate voted overwhelmingly in favour of adopting the parish's "Neighbourhood Plan". 153 people voted "yes" to the question on the ballot paper which read "Do you want North Yorkshire Council and Yorkshire Dales National Park to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Clapham-cum-Newby to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

The North Yorkshire Council has now "made" the Plan (that is, they have brought it into legal force), which means it's part of the statutory development plan for the Clapham-cum-Newby designated neighbourhood area until at least 2030. This means we in the community have a voice. If you wish, you can inspect a printed version of the plan, and other supporting documents, by contacting our Parish Clerk, Steve Culver - email: [clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk), or telephone 015242 51862. Alternatively, you can view it online via The North Yorkshire Council Craven District Council website at: [Neighbourhoodplanning/NorthYorkshireCouncil](http://Neighbourhoodplanning/NorthYorkshireCouncil) or via The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

website at: [Clapham Neighbourhood Plan - Yorkshire Dales National Park:Yorkshire Dales National Park](http://ClaphamNeighbourhoodPlan-YorkshireDalesNationalPark).

We are grateful to everyone who came out to vote,



Clapham Neighbourhood Plan

despite the weather on the day. The Neighbourhood Plan, built on the 2008 Parish Plan, will help guide planning decisions in the Clapham-cum-Newby Neighbourhood Area. John Dawson, Parish Councillor, explained "People do want to have a say in planning. We don't want the unique character of this parish spoiled with houses in the wrong place or built in the wrong style.

We want to attract employment that adds to the community." Colin Price added: "Thanks to Ann, Anne-Marie, James, Jill, Ken and Robert for seeing it through and also to Adrienne and Denise for their earlier contributions."

Andrew Fagg, Yorkshire Dales National Park Media Officer, published an article about the plan *Referendum sees "community taking charge"* which also appeared in the Craven Herald.

Anne-Marie Bond

## Extension of the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

At the Oxford Farming Conference on 8 January 2025, Environment Secretary Emma Reynolds MP announced a series of measures to support farmers in England, focusing on clarity, partnership and growth. Among these was the extension of the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme.

The FiPL programme, which has been running in the Forest of Bowland National Landscape since July 2021, helps farmers and land managers deliver projects that:

- Support nature recovery.
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Provide opportunities for people to enjoy and understand landscapes and cultural heritage.
- Strengthen nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.



than 5,500 projects and helping to establish around 100 farm cluster groups. In the Forest of Bowland National Landscape alone, within the first four years, FiPL has supported over 163 projects—ranging from planting and restoring hedgerows, creating wildlife-rich habitats, and improving soil health to enhancing footpaths, providing accessible amenities and hosting educational farm visits—to name just a few. It has also supported farmers in starting or progressing their transition to more regenerative farming practices.



Colin Price, Chair of the Forest of Bowland National Landscape Local Assessment Panel, said: "This programme has had a significant impact in our area. It's not just about funding projects - it's about building relationships and

Defra – the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs – has confirmed that FiPL will be extended for a further three years, running from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029, with £30 million in funding allocated for next year. In her announcement, Emma Reynolds highlighted that partnership is at the heart of FiPL, bringing together farmers, protected landscape organisations and local communities to achieve change at a scale no single holding could deliver alone. This extension will enable more farmers to create meaningful benefits for nature, climate and communities across England's National Parks and National Landscapes.

Since its launch, FiPL has supported over 11,000 farmers across 44 protected landscapes nationwide, funding more

creating a shared vision for sustainable farming and thriving landscapes. This extension gives us the opportunity to continue that momentum and deliver even greater benefits for farmers, nature and local communities."

FiPL forms part of the government's wider commitment to improving the natural environment, alongside the revised Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) published in December. Details of the extended funding for the Forest of Bowland National Landscape will be announced soon. Current funding (ending March 2026) is fully allocated, but we encourage interested farmers and landowners to submit an expression of interest via:

[www.forestofbowland.com/farming-protected-landscapes](http://www.forestofbowland.com/farming-protected-landscapes)

Sandra Silk

## Curlew Cluster

The Clapham Curlew Cluster began in 2022 with 12 farms and 15 volunteers and has since grown to 17 farms and 26 volunteers. We carry out RSPB wader surveys and, in agreement with farmers, we fence nests as a form of ground predator control and place a camera which gives us vital information. Based on data, the fenced nests increase hatching success.

We are the only organisation in the UK who pays "Nest and Chick Protection Payments" to farmers in recognition of the key role they play. The last two years the monies have come through a grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) in Clapham. For next season, 2026, we have been successful in our application for a grant from another grass roots organisation, "North Craven Heritage Trust". However, this is not government money but local people who are supporting what we are doing together to help the Curlew survive. Ingleborough Estate kindly offer the same funding to their tenant farms.

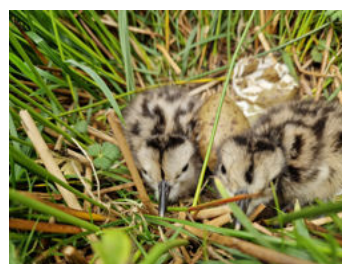
In 2026, we will have a Seasonal Curlew Conservation Field Worker (this is being funded jointly between YDMT and the Quarry Fund) for the period April to July – one season only. Their role, but only with farmers' agreement, will be to find more nests in order that we can fence them. We will also have our own fencing equipment stored up at Bleak Bank Farm.

The work of the Curlew Conservation Field Worker is beyond what could be expected of volunteers and will build a stronger knowledge base within the community. This role is replicated from the success of the South Lakeland Curlew Project who contracted a Field Worker in 2024.

John Marriott (ex-local vet) has kindly agreed to be the farm liaison person for the cluster, and we have a number of new volunteers. If there is anyone else interested in joining as a volunteer or as a supporting farm, please do get in touch.

We are grateful for sponsorship from: Howsons, B & W Funerals, Dalehead Vets, Adam Carr Builders, Jacky Hickson Bookkeeping and the Courtyard Dairy.

Sarah Smith  
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2025 appeared to be a more successful year for our breeding curlew. As a subset of the breeding pairs monitored by the RSPB in the Forest of Bowland, they had breeding productivity of 0.5 chicks per pair. This success rate is what is needed for a stable population.

Photo: Hilary McGuire RSPB