

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 26th March 2026
Minutes

Present:

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council: Cllrs Colin Price (Chair), John Dawson (Vice Chair), Diane Elphinstone, Steve Culver (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

NYC: Cllr David Ireton

11 Parishioners

1. Apologies: Cllr Maria Farrer, David Pickup, Sue Mann, Jessica Hart, Angela Peach, Martin Holroyd, Jill Buckler, George Greenbank, Jackie Kingsley, David Kingsley, Ann Stewart

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 19th Marc 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by Cllr Colin Price, Chairman of Clapham cum Newby Parish Council.

The details of all following reports are included in the Appendix to the minutes.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

4. Report from North Yorkshire Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority & Police

North Yorkshire Council – A report was given by Cllr David Ireton.

YDNPA – A report was read from David Pickup.

Police – A consolidated Incident report of the past year was read by the Clerk

5. Reports from Community Organisations

Clapham cum Newby Village Hall – Angie Max Martin

Craft & Chat Group – Angie Max Martin

Clapham Lecture Group – Andy Scott

Dew Drop In – Andy Scott

Clapham Newsletter Group – Andy Scott

Clapham & Austwick Brownies & Guides – Katie Hawkins

Clapham Village Shop – Harriet Naden

Age UK Clapham Group – Judith Holt

Clapham Park Association – Beatrice Farrer

Ingleborough Estate – Beatrice Farrer

The following reports were read by the Clerk as the individuals were unable to attend

St James' Church Clapham

Clapham Bell Ringers

St Matthew's Church Keasden

Cave Rescue Organisation

Clapham Sustainability Group

Friends of Clapham Station

Clapham Board Games Group

Clapham Indoor Bowls

6. Parishioners Matter Arising

There were no matters arising from the reports given.

Appendix

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting which the Parish Council is required by law to hold at some point between 1st of March and the 1st of June each year. This meeting will be followed by the regular Parish Council meeting at which all are welcome.

The Parish Council continued to meet monthly (August and November excluded) here in the Village Hall. In addition to me, the Chairman, there are now three Parish Councillors following the sad death of Cllr Ann Sheridan at the start of the month, and the Council is assisted by a clerk, Steve Culver.

The Council continues to maintain the closed churchyard of St James', Clapham. Matthew Holroyd (a Newby resident) took over this work for us in 2024 and thankfully will continue in the current year too. The Council took the decision to move to a "managed" regime with reduced mowing of parts of the churchyard during last summer, cutting back the grass at the end of the growing season to encourage more wildflowers to populate the area. We hope to see the first examples of these in the season ahead. All brambles and nettles will continue to be cleared from monuments to ensure that they are visible and can be read.

The Parish Council has not had a Parish Caretaker in post for a number of years; any work that would ordinarily be assigned to a caretaker is currently either undertaken by a willing group of local residents or considered for allocation to independent contractors as necessary, with only a limited volume of work being passed out in 2025/26.

Following many years of work by a dedicated team, the Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan went to referendum in September 2025 and received a "YES" in 91% of the votes cast to the question "Do you want North Yorkshire Council and Yorkshire Dales National Park to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Clapham cum Newby to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?". This has now past into the

At each of its meetings, the Council receives updates in relation to local initiatives in which it has an interest including the community defibrillator and emergency plan.

The Council along with Ingleton Parish Council commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VE-Day & VJ Day in 2025 with numerous events at Ingleton Community Centre and the lighting of the beacon on the top of Ingleborough for VE Day and Bowland Knotts for VJ Day. Our thanks go out to the CRO for their assistance in getting the beacons in situ on the day.

Regular reports from the police are received at Council meetings. These have been a mixture of both written and in person. The Council is also kept informed of relevant police information via the North Yorkshire Community Messaging Service. The Mobile Rural Watch Scheme continues to function and has one Parish Councillor participating. The Council owns a dash-cam for use by parishioners participating in the scheme. Should anyone wish to utilise this please contact the Clerk.

The Council makes regular requests to North Yorkshire Council for action on highways matters. These can be generated by complaints from members of the public but are often raised by Councillors themselves.

Planning applications to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and North Yorkshire Council are received by the Parish Council to enable it to make comments. This issue forms a regular and important part of the Council's business.

Representatives from the Parish Council attend meeting of many local bodies. These include Clapham Village Hall Committee, the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, the Clapham Association and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Forum.

The Council's finances are healthy, work undertaken by the Clerk managed to reduce the electricity charges for the streetlighting in Newby and Clapham by over 75%. This has enabled the Council to carry the surplus forward leading to a 5% reduction to the "Band D charge" for the Parish Council in the coming financial year following a 7.6% reduction in the current financial year.

Thank you for your attendance at this meeting. As mentioned, the regular Parish Council meeting will take place immediately after this session and anyone who wishes to stay for that is most welcome to do so.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Education

The Government has been urged to ensure that long-awaited special education reforms lead to services being fully funded amid a major rise in the need for support of children and young people in North Yorkshire.

The Department for Education has announced £5 billion in funding will be used to pay off 90 per cent of the debts built up by councils in England through supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to the end of the financial year.

Proposals to create a 120-place special school at the former Grammar School site on Grammar School Lane in Northallerton. Plans to bring this former high school back into use to "nurture, educate and create new opportunities" for more than 100 children and young people with specialist needs closer to where they live.

"Investing in our children and young people and ensuring they are nurtured and educated while in school for the best start in life and new opportunities is a priority for the Council. We are always working hard to ensure children with additional needs are supported in mainstream schools, close to their homes and communities and where their friends and brothers or sisters are. We also acknowledge children and young people need specialist provision due to more complex needs and that is what is in short supply".

Adult Social Care

We have the results of the independent inspection of our adult social care services, and the official verdict is that we are 'Good' with some 'Outstanding' features. These services support many of our most vulnerable residents and have been rated as among the best in the country, following a detailed inspection by the Care Quality Commission in June last year. The score of 81 out of 100 puts us third nationally and highest in the north of England and is testament to the incredible hard work and dedication of our hundreds of staff. Close to 10,000 people in our county are supported through our adult social care services and inspectors found recipients were positive about the care they received. They also praised our staff for how closely they work with those receiving our care services. Inspectors said the support provided is well-organised

Strategy adopted to shape future of nature in North Yorkshire and York

The vast landscapes and environment of North Yorkshire are due to be given help to recover through a new strategy aimed at halting the decline of habitats and promoting nature for generations to come.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been agreed by members. Every county or combined authority area in England is required to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to address the decline of nature and to improve the environment and protect it for the future.

This strategy identifies priorities for nature recovery, such as increasing woodland cover or creating wetlands, maps the most valuable existing areas for nature, and documents specific proposals for creating and improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

North Yorkshire and York support an amazing diversity of landscapes and wildlife, from ancient woodland and chalk hills to large expanses of open moorland and beautiful historic parklands.

Highways in North Yorkshire

The realignment of Kex Gill nr Harrogate is progressing well and is on schedule for opening in June. This is an important east west connectivity in our road network, which is extremely valuable to our county. As we are all aware, the many landslips which have meant closure of the road for many weeks over many years have caused lengthy diversions and the new realignment is very welcome.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Access

A65 Austwick to Clapham Public Bridleway Improvement Project

North Yorkshire council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park have been looking at the potential of improving the current surfacing on the public bridleway linking Clapham – Austwick avoiding the A65. The decision to use an aggregate surfacing for the original project was due to the route being designated as a public bridleway, so the use of a bound tarmac surfacing would have not appropriate for horse riders. Since then, a new type of bound surfacing is on the market and seen as a good option for a multi-user route such as this, this is known as flexible porous pavement surfacing. This has been used successful across other public bridleway and most recently on the popular Cinder Track in the North York Moor National Park.

Initial comments or questions from the Parish Council regarding these proposals would be welcome. Could you please pass them onto Tom Hickey Tom.Hickey@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Funding

The [Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Fund - Yorkshire Dales National Park : Yorkshire Dales National Park](#)

- Has funded Ingleborough Estate to undertake tree planting and protecting those trees with stockproof cages.
- Has provided funding towards a Curlew Conservation Field Worker for 4 months.
- And provided funding for the Clapham Sustainability Group.

Local Plans and Policy

The National Park Local Plan is on track for adoption in June. Peter Stockton (YDNPA) will be giving an update about that at the National Park Parish Forum meetings in Grassington on the 7th May or Barbon on the 29th April at 7pm The news page will be updated shortly because we will be consulting on post hearing modifications. <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/planning-policy/local-plan-2025-40/examination/>

A new National Park design guide for development (buildings, renewable energy, landscaping, habitat enhancement etc) is being prepared and will probably be available for consultation in the summer.

The PC may be interested in the North Yorkshire Call for sites process which is starting to flag up some possible housing options that NYC will have to look at as part of their new Local Plan, outside the Park. This map may be of interest to show which sites they will be looking at. There may well be others added later in the process <https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/6i3daw3a4699>

National Planning Policy is changing again. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system> We are concerned about some of the proposed changes, and I attach our consultation response. This is probably far more detail than you may need but may be of contextual interest.

The Visitor

The Visitor 2026 magazine will be available from National Park Visitor Centres and regional TICs and on national distribution from this weekend.

Police Reports

	Road / Traffic Related	Wildlife / Animal	Concern for Welfare / Domestic	Climbers / Walkers concern	Firearms checks	Other Police Force enquiry	Suspect Drone / Package	Theft	Alarm Sounding	Civil Dispute	Attempted Burglary	Other	Detailed	Total
Apr	3	1											4	4
May	2		4	1	1	1	1						10	12
Jun	3		2		2			1					8	8
Jul	5	1	4		1			1					12	14
Aug & Sep	6	2							1				9	13
Oct	4	1	2	1		1		2					11	16
Nov & Dec	2		1	2				1		1			7	8
Jan	3			2	1		2	2			1		11	15
Feb	3		1										4	3
Mar	4		3										7	14
	35	5	17	6	5	2	3	7	1	1	1		83	107
2024-25 Total	25	7	8	5	7	5		2		1		3	63	

Village Hall Report 2026

The village hall was first opened in December 1926, so this year it is celebrating its centenary. We have put together a comprehensive series of events throughout the year to mark the occasion, following a questionnaire that we sent out last year seeking suggestions from our community.

These range from stage and music performances through to events targeted at the youngsters. The full list was published in the February edition of the newsletter. We also picked up on a number of suggestions to enhance the hall facilities and its appearance.

The first significant project that we have delivered was the installation of the equipment needed to show films in the hall, which was part-funded by a grant from North Yorkshire Council. This, in turn, has led us to begin to think about setting up more regular film shows, particularly in the wintertime.

We also hope to make a start on improving the exterior of the hall and are in communication with the National Park and other organisations who may be able to help fund this. Financially, we are in a good position with a reasonable level of reserves. The hall continues to remain profitable as it is well used by groups who wish to hire it, with income from lettings exceeding our normal running costs.

Craft and Chat Report 2026

Our informal drop-in group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the afternoon. The idea is to meet up with like-minded people who like to share ideas, ask for advice or just join in for a chat whilst they are crafting. Our numbers vary from around 7 – 15, and the individual crafts we bring in can vary from knitting, felting and sewing, to silver jewellery and basketry.

Over the past year, we have finished off a quilt started by one of our members and have raffled it off, raising over £500 for the British Heart Foundation. Members have also organised and run a Craft Fair, raising £2300 for St. John's Hospice and MIND. We also plan and run workshops each year where a skilled crafter comes in and runs a class for us. These are very popular within the group, and in the first one this year, we learnt about the natural dyeing of fabric and yarn. Our second class this summer (run by the same tutor) will be about botanical printing on paper.

Report from Saint James' Church, Clapham

At Saint James' Church we continue to follow what has now become an established pattern of services with Holy Communion twice a month and special services to celebrate the various church festivals. In 2025 these have included

the Carol Services and special services at Easter, Harvest and Remembrance. 'Easy Church' with its more informal approach and opportunity for discussion takes place twice a month, once in Clapham and, on the first Sunday evening in the month at Newby Chapel. Another popular joint activity with Newby Chapel is 'Church in the Pub' at The New Inn. We held a number of funeral services at St James, and two weddings.

The church building is, of course, a significant focus in whatever we do. We know that it is greatly appreciated by visitors and residents alike as being somewhere that people can find peace 7 days a week.

The general maintenance of the building is, therefore, always an important element of our work. In 2024 we had our Quinquennial Review and the architects highlighted a number of areas which we need to concentrate on. Issues with the roof were not unexpected and the necessary work is already underway. Other more minor issues highlighted are under review by the PCC and Parish Council (who are responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard)

We made an upgrade to the church's amplification system with new microphones making a notable difference to the clarity and audibility of those using them on Sundays and on other occasions such as weddings, funerals and concerts.

Over the last year we have continued to make the maximum possible use of the church building both for services and for a range of events. More formal activities have included concerts with the Settle and Giggleswick Brass Band, the Lancaster Singers, an organ concert given by Ben Saunders and an afternoon hearing the words and music linked to Thomas Hardy and Branwell Bronte (Branwell's Flute and Hardy's Hornpipe). All were well attended and 'showed off' the excellent acoustics which the church is blessed with. At the other extreme, the church and churchyard were put to the fullest possible use for the day of the Clapham and Keasden Parish Fete. As well as St James's and St Mathew's churches working together to provide stalls and activities, we were able to have representatives from other community groups including Clapham Art Group, the Park and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. As usual all was rounded off with the Duck Race – a real Clapham tradition.

We have also enjoyed our usual Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall and it has been good to work jointly with their committee to continue to host productions promoted by Yorkshire Rural Arts, notably the pantomime – this year, Jack and the Beanstalk.

We continue to maintain the Station Road cemetery and this year we have employed a contractor to take on straightforward maintenance and grass cutting. The ivy is being cut back to prevent damage to the wall and encroachment on graves. Three trees have been identified as suffering from Ash dieback and may have to be felled. Our aim is still to attempt to rewild the less visited parts of the cemetery and allow wildflowers to blossom and seed. Other areas are maintained in line with the wishes of the relatives of those buried there. The condition of the memorials has become a cause for concern. A survey of the memorials was carried out and twenty six were found to be unstable. Two have subsequently collapsed. The PCC were able to restore one of the twenty six from a legacy left for the purpose and three more were restored by the families. Action to make the others safe is being considered by the PCC.

Overall, it has been another busy year with plenty of activity. At times the challenges can feel great. However, we know that the hard work is worth it to support such a special building with so many important associations. A quick glance in the Visitors' Book shows how much this is valued by people from far beyond the boundaries of this parish:

Beautiful church. Very serene. Thank you!

Many thanks for keeping your beautiful church open.

Fabulous to visit the church so important to my ancestors. A true delight seeing where they were baptized, married and buried.

Bell Ringing Report for 2025/26 Annual Parish Council Meeting Clapham St James'

Church Bell Ringers have had a busy year. Apart from our usual Sunday Service ringing, additionally we rang for the Christmas Crib Service and rang the bells half-muffled for the Remembrance Day Sunday Service. We have provided additional ringing for one wedding, a wedding blessing, and half muffled ringing for a funeral.

We welcomed five sets of visitors this year, which includes ringers from further afield (Edinburgh Cathedral) and nearby (Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers), as well as once again hosting a practical session for ringers taking part on the North West Ringing Course. We are consolidating our own skills by visiting other towers, and our Ringing Master organised a Joint (with Lancashire Ringers) Ringing Outing.

We held our Annual Meeting in May and now have a new Treasurer. In July we once again used the bells to open the annual fete, and then hosted the Teddy Zipwire. This zipwire is much in demand and the Clapham Ringers also held a Teddy Zipwire at Settle Church Fete, supporting local ringers nearby.

Further work has taken place up the tower to ensure security for the bell ropes and stuff in the ringing room, with a new bolt and padlock on the gate. This was accomplished by the Steeple Keeper without any damage to the existing woodwork. The Ringing Master has obtained two second hand ropes from Settle, which have now been fitted to the 2nd and the Tenor. He is in conversation with the Tower Captain regarding obtaining a full set of new ropes.

The Swift Boxes in the tower had one or two prospecting Swifts visit after nesting and fledgling season. The boxes are currently closed up until spring 2026.

We were very saddened by the death of longstanding ringer Ken Pearce, but were honoured to ring open bells at the time of his interment. This was rung by members of the local band as well as ringers from local towers who knew Ken.

Lecture Group

Lecture Group meets each Autumn Term for a series of 10 talks, mostly presented by professional speakers, and covering a variety of topics. In 2025, we presented a mix of local and natural history, introductions to the activities of some local organisations, and tales of local life. The lectures are held here in the hall, on Tuesday evenings, and starting at 7pm. In addition, we have our AGM during the summer months – again with a short lecture – and the group goes on a field trip to further explore one of the topics introduced in the previous series. This year, the plan is to visit the Tan Hill Inn following the talk we had by Neil Hanson who is a former landlord of “Britain’s Highest Inn” and a respected author.

Attendees can either subscribe to the full series or pay a slightly inflated “on the night” fee. For last season, the average attendance was unchanged at around 22; we were slightly down on last year with “on the night fee” payers; and fees paid to speakers were slightly up, overall resulting in a small loss over the year after hall hire, expenses etc. Nevertheless, we are still financially sound and have sufficient funds to pre-book lecturers for the year ahead with confidence. Our upcoming AGM will be on 12th May and all are welcome to attend.

DEW Drop In

Clapham’s “Digital Equipment Workshop – Drop In” service continues to operate, though it has changed its format over the last year. Whilst still offering the surgery service (either by coming to one of our sessions or by requesting a home visit) the regular meetings have been reduced in number so that we can concentrate on bigger, and wider-issue, topics. We simply weren’t getting the numbers at the monthly events that would allow us to cover costs.

Major topics covered over the last year included “The demise of Windows 10”, “Using online methods for accessing health services” & “Spotting and avoiding scams”. The next session will be in May where we will be revisiting “The end of the analogue landline” issue given that a countrywide, January 2027, date for this has now been announced.

If anyone needs any help or guidance on technical matters, then we urge them to try us first.

Clapham & District Newsletter

The newsletter group continues to provide a vehicle for spreading information and news within and across the local community, as well as to visitors and further afield. Every other month, its team collates articles and submissions, edits and lays out the content, arranges the printing, and then delivers the finished product to households across the community.

Each issue is paid for by selling advertising space, though we always try to balance that with textual content: we're not averse to saying "no" to new advertisers if we thought the balance would suffer. We also welcome requests to sponsor individual issues – the April 2026 issue, for example, is being sponsored by the Bethel Chapel.

We're grateful to all who contribute in any way – supplying content, advertising, sponsoring the occasional issue: even paying for Xmas Greetings, attending fundraisers or helping with the distribution. We're particularly grateful to those who donate to our funds since it allows us to continue to print in full colour across 24 or, occasionally, 28 pages. The team might look like a well-oiled machine but there is a lot going on behind the scenes.

We're in a healthy place financially, so we are confident that we could keep going for a year or two even if advertising revenues began to dry up. But we always need more volunteers to help keep it all marching forwards.

St. Matthew's Church, Keasden

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, St. Matthew's Church continues to be active within the Keasden community.

With the administration of the church conducted by our Church Council and our services conducted by the Revd John Davies during 2025 we offered 12 Holy Communion services (including Family

Communion on Christmas Day), and a variety of other special community church services including: Pancake Praise, Getting ready for Mother's Day, Easter Praise, Lambing Service, Beer & Hymns, Harvest Festival, 'Saints, Sausages & Sparklers', Remembrance, Advent (Follow the star & travelling crib launch), and Carols around the Crib.

We were privileged to conduct a wedding service and were saddened to hold the funeral for a young member of the Keasden community.

Our Quinquennial inspection took place in May. During 2026 we will be continuing the maintenance work required to our building and this will necessitate further fundraising.

Our other parish activities included:

- contributing to the **Keasden Community Facebook** page,
- a **New Year's Day walk**,
- an **Easter Egg Hunt** in the churchyard,
- a **Coffee Morning** in Clapham Village Hall,
- a **Spring Saunter**,
- mustering a good number for the **Morecambe Bay walk**,
- participating in the **Parish Fete**,
- a **Walk & Barbecue** at Keasden Head,
- a **Summer Walk**,
- the distribution of **Harvest produce**,
- a **Domino Drive** at Eldroth Village Hall,
- a **Christmas Coffee Morning**,
- the **Travelling Crib**,
- a **wandering star**,
- the distribution of **Christmas cards**, and
- **carol singing**.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from the wider community and hope that St. Matthew's Church remains at the heart of Keasden for many years to come.

1st Clapham & Austwick Brownies and Guides

Annual Report 2025–2026

The past year has been a very active and exciting one for **1st Clapham & Austwick Brownies and Guides**, full of new experiences, learning opportunities and community activities for our girls.

Turtle Challenge – Easter 2025

Around Easter 2025 the girls took part in a **Turtle Challenge**, focusing on the important issue of **plastic pollution in our oceans**. Throughout the challenge the girls enjoyed creating and designing a wide range of **turtle-themed crafts and activities** while learning about how plastics impact marine life.

One of the highlights of the challenge was a **Turtle Trail around Clapham**. The girls painted stones with turtle designs and hid them around the village for others to find. Each stone carried an inspiring environmental message, helping to spread awareness about protecting our oceans. It was wonderful to see the community discovering the stones and sharing the girls' messages via facebook posts.

Leadership Changes

June brought a significant change for the unit when **Karen stepped down as Leader in Charge** after many years of dedicated service. Karen originally set up and led **1st Clapham & Austwick Brownies and Guides**, and her commitment has made a lasting difference to the unit and to many girls over the years.

Having supported the unit for several years and after **over 43 years of leadership in Guiding**, it felt right for me to step into the role of Leader in Charge and continue building on the strong foundations already in place.

We are also very grateful for the continued enthusiasm and support of **Katie, our Leader in Training**, who has been instrumental in helping to provide the girls with as many new opportunities and experiences as possible. We are also please to say we also now have a parent helper to support our ever increasing unit.

Railway Challenge – September

In September we took part in the **North East England Region Railway Challenge**, which allowed the girls to explore the history and safety of rail travel.

With the valued support of the **Friends of the Settle–Carlisle**, the girls discovered fascinating information about the famous **Settle–Carlisle Railway** and learned about the importance of railway safety.

Leeds Monopoly Challenge – October

In October a small group travelled by train to **Leeds** to take part in the Region's **Leeds Monopoly Challenge**. The girls worked in teams to navigate the city, solving clues and visiting key locations while developing teamwork and problem-solving skills. Travelling by train added to the adventure and linked perfectly with our railway theme.

Halloween and Local History

We held a memorable **Halloween evening at the Hoffman Lime Kilns**, enjoying games and activities in a unique historic setting. The girls also visited **The Folly Museum of North Craven Life**, where they learned about historic **witches' marks** and local folklore. It made for a fascinating and slightly spooky evening!

Christmas Activities

During the run-up to Christmas the girls took part in a range of festive activities, including crafts and learning new practical skills. One particularly popular activity was **sewing mini Christmas stockings**, which many girls were very proud to take home.

Awards and Achievements

After Christmas we focused strongly on progressing through the **Girlguiding programme**, enabling girls to work towards new badges and awards. We are delighted that several girls have already achieved **Bronze and Silver Awards**, and a few are now very close to reaching the **Gold Award**, which is a fantastic achievement.

World Thinking Day – A Voyage Under the Stars

In february, Clapham Brownies and Guides joined with 1st **Settle Brownies** to celebrate **100 years of World Thinking Day**.

A group of **22 girls and 3 leaders** took part in the **North West England Region online Thinking Day event, “A Voyage Under the Stars.”** We watched prerecorded activity clips including baking cookies, joining a virtual campfire, learning relaxation techniques, and renewing our Girlguiding promises.

The girls particularly enjoyed a **Tai Chi demonstration**, followed by breathing exercises before settling down with hot chocolate. While not everyone managed a full night’s sleep, it was a fun and memorable experience for all involved.

Litter Awareness Campaign

We have also started a **litter awareness campaign**. The girls have been learning about the impact of litter on our environment and why it is important to **take rubbish home or recycle it properly**.

During our discussions we discovered that **a plastic bottle can take around 500 years to decompose if it is not recycled**. The girls have begun **designing posters** and planning ways to expand the campaign to help raise awareness within the local community.

Charity Tea Afternoon

One of the girls’ ideas has led to the planning of a **Charity Tea Afternoon** to raise funds for **Yorkshire Cancer Research**.

Sunday 14th June

The girls will be **baking in the morning** and **servng guests in the afternoon**, and we hope the community will come along to support them and this very worthwhile cause.

Thank you

We would also like to thank local community supporter for donations and grants we have recieved making more oppourtunies for the girls to take part in activities and experiences.

Stay Connected

To keep up to date with everything the girls are doing, please follow **Clapham and Austwick Brownies and Guides on Facebook**, where we regularly share photos, news and upcoming events.

It has been a fantastic year full of learning, creativity, adventure and community spirit, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Clapham CRO

The team once again had a busy year with 96 incidents which was slightly higher than previous years. This equated to over 3,500 volunteer hours to attend these incidents and does not take into account the hours to keep the organisation running.

Type	Number
Mountain	66
Cave	9
Local assist	14
Animal	7
TOTALS	96

Additionally, the team had 16 'Alerts' where the team was initially asked to assist but stood down without deployment.

The vast majority of incidents are to slips, trips and falls by walkers resulting in lower limb injuries. There has also been an increase in the number of 'medical' incidents.

Despite the name the team fortunately does not respond to many underground incidents, however such incidents do account for a significant percentage of volunteer hours. The team provided assistance to the Upper Wharfedal Fell Rescue Association for an underground incident in October which accounted for almost a 1000 of the volunteer hours.

Team members also continue to work hard with fundraising activities such as the CRO challenge which takes place in May and is a major fundraising event.

This year the team will be replacing one of the Landrovers which will be a significant expenditure for the organisation.

The team was pleased to be able to assist with the Parish activities to commemorate VE day and VJ day by transporting the beacon to Ingleborough summit and Bowland Knotts.

As always the team is grateful to the residents and landowners of Clapham cum Newby parish for access to the land and tolerating the activities at the depot particularly the late night incidents.

Residents are always welcome to visit the depot particularly on the second Saturday of the month when maintenance activities take place at the depot.

Clapham Community Shop Ltd

This month marks our 11th birthday! Thank you to everyone in the parish who continues to support us. And to those who are less frequent visitors, please come in and take a look around – if there are things that will make you more likely to use us then please let us know.

To mark our 10th birthday last year we had balloons and cake in the shop and then on the Friday that week we held a party for all the shop staff and volunteers, past and present. It was absolutely lovely to welcome back so many old friends and a good time was definitely had by all. To mark our 10th year we had some specially branded biscuits and fudge on sale, with the fudge featuring Mark Nelson and his sheep outside the shop. Unsurprisingly, these all sold extremely well.

The shop continues to keep its head above water. Getting the balance right is sometimes challenging as prices continue to rise, but we do try to remain as competitively priced as possible, and have used any small surpluses to support local causes such as baking material for the brownies at Christmas.

We are always on the lookout for new things to try in the shop with an emphasis on supporting local suppliers wherever possible. We've had new ranges of cards on display that have proved popular, as have our Xmas, Mother's day and Easter gifts. And I'd like to emphasise that on top of what is available in the shop, you can place orders for fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and dairy products so you can be sure we have what you want, when you want it.

We currently have 40+ volunteers – so fairly steady state. As always, the precise number fluctuates a bit as people move away or join up. We're always keen to hear from new people – especially as we head into the busy summer season.

CLAPHAM SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL

MARCH 2025 to MARCH 2026

Clapham Curlew Cluster Project. The project, working in partnership with the RSPB, who provide training and some equipment, has now been running for 4years. Currently we work with 17 local farms and have 25 survey volunteers. The project works to reverse the decline of the 'red listed'

Eurasian Curlew population. In the 2025 survey season 16 curlew broods were monitored weekly from hatching until the outcome was known and nine were deemed to have fledged one or more chicks. Curlew need to raise approx. 0.5 chicks per pair per year to maintain a stable population.

Wildlife Corridors. Following on from the Clapham Neighbourhood Plan's reference to a green infrastructure between Clapham, Newby and Keasden we will be meeting with the YDNP to discuss the possibility of creating a wildlife corridor between these locations to link and extend populations of pollinators, birds, animals etc. YDNP will be managing the Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Funding for this initiative.

Smart Meters. We joined with other local groups to tackle the problem of malfunctioning smart meters found to be persistent in the north of England and Scotland. Julian Smith our local MP became very active at government level on our behalf and Octopus Energy ran a pilot scheme to try and deal with the issues. As a consequence of our combined persistence a number of local residents managed to have their smart meter communication hubs replaced with one using a cellular signal. But there is still a lot to do.

Give and Take. We held our 9th 'Give and Take' on the 18th October in the village hall. A great 'recycling' success with left-over items relocated to charity shops and jumble sales. Donation boxes located on each table raised the sum of £128.32 for the Cave Rescue Organisation.

Film. We gave a public viewing of the film 'Six Inches Of Soil' spotlighting farmers during their first year of regenerative farming practices, transforming the way food is produced.

Blister Packs. Thanks to the Farrer Family Trust who provided the funding, and Paul Pedals Café the location, we were able to install a collection facility in Clapham Village for used medicinal blister packs. We were very grateful to receive this help from both the Farrer Family Trust and Paul Pedals Cafe.

KingSharp. We secured the services of KingSharp to be located in Clapham for the morning of 9th April. Stuart Fogden parked his van beside Clapham beck, where he provided his knife sharpening help to a constant stream of customers.

Church Fete. We were invited by St. James Church to have a stall at the Church Fete held on 26th July.

Swift Project. More Swift boxes were to be installed in the community.

North Yorkshire Council Allerton Waste Recovery Park. A group visit to this facility is being planned for later in the year.

Government Warm Home Plan. Information was circulated on the latest government initiative to help householders to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce bills

AGE UK Clapham

The Group was formed about 25 years ago under the umbrella of Age UK with the aim of providing a social meeting point in the Village Hall for older members of the community. People meet once a month to have a friendly chat over tea and coffee and to listen to a speaker, talks often being illustrated with the use of the Hall's projector.

Some years after the Group's formation, Clapham Primary School invited Group members to join the children for lunch in the school, but when the school closed, provision of lunches was transferred to the Village Hall and now are cooked and served from the Hall's kitchen.

Another facility for the Group is a monthly Age UK mini-bus trip to places of interest in the local area and further afield.

The numbers of attendees at the monthly meetings varies a little but is usually between 15 to 18.

Friends of Clapham Station

We continue to maintain the planting and leaflets on Clapham Railway Station and liaise with Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users Group (LASRUG).

Each season the six half barrel displays are refreshed with appropriate seasonal planting, spring bulbs and perennials and bedding plants in the summer. The hoppers are filled with Information leaflets and the defibrillator monitored. We also speak to LASRUG about issues affecting the Station and the Bentham Line in general.

Bentham Line and Railway 200 celebrations continue through to this summer.

In 2026, the Leeds-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership will be having its 20th anniversary and it is the tenth anniversary of the Dementia and Community Rail project.

The latest passenger figures, from the Office of Road and Rail show continued increases in passenger numbers at all Bentham Line stations. The footfall for Clapham was recorded as 9,690. The most popular destination of passengers starting their journey at Clapham was Leeds.

The stations between Carnforth and Skipton, inclusive have all exceeded pre-Covid passenger numbers, Clapham has shown an increase of 14%. The present timetable contains: 8 trains each way Monday to Saturday and 5 each way on Sunday.

Again this year, we were able to speak to the surveyor conducting the annual inspection of the Station. His attention was drawn to the state of the overbridge, the peeling paint and the condition of the steps. He informed us that there is a medium term plan to replace the overbridge, so no short term improvements are anticipated.

Additional and replacement flower barrels have been provided by LASRUG. The Lancaster platform has been repaired as have the supports of the platform shelter. The emergency telephone has been removed from the stone platform shelter on Platform 1.

The condition of the overbridge, lack of disabled access to the Lancaster platform and the use of the waste sack by dog walkers to dump poo bags remains an issue. Also last year, the water butt was drained and used to dump beer cans, by vandals. Northern considered removing the water butt as it was a potential Health and Safety risk. Following discussions with LASRUG, Northern decided to allow us to retain the water butt.

Clapham Park Association – Parish Council Update March 2026

This report provides a short update on progress at the Clapham Park, including current priorities, funding position, and next steps.

1. Overview

Since the last update, the committee has continued to focus on maintaining a safe and functional play space, while balancing limited funds against a growing list of maintenance and improvement needs.

The park remains well used by both residents and visitors, and continues to be an important shared community asset.

Alongside this, the committee has recently been selected to work with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust on their Wild Little Spaces (Village Green) initiative. We have been asked to keep this confidential until the programme is formally launched later this month, but we wanted to share this with the Parish Council at this stage as a key stakeholder.

This represents an important opportunity to develop a more nature-led, landscape-based approach to the playpark. Further details will be shared publicly once the programme is announced.

2. Association membership update

Amanda North recently stepped down as Treasurer, and we would like to thank her for her valuable contribution to the Association.

We are currently in the process of transitioning financial responsibilities (along with formalised roles) to the current committee. The current members of the Playpark Association are:

- Tim Lane- Acting Treasurer
- Jeni Lane
- Nell (Eleanor) Whitley- Acting Chair
- Beatrice Farrer

As the playpark moves into its next phase of development, the committee recognises the importance of having a broader mix of skills and experience within the Association. We will therefore be reviewing our governance structure and identifying any gaps, with a view to strengthening the group over time.

We have continued to informally invite the broader community to join the Park Association as members, but intend to more formally invite expressions of interest from the community to actively commit following the maintenance day at the end of March.

3. Key Developments

ROSPA & Safety

The most recent ROSPA inspection identified no high-risk (red) issues. Ongoing repairs and maintenance are being addressed on a rolling basis, prioritised according to safety and wear.

Northern Rail Grant

The Park Association has now received the £5000 Northern Rail Grant successfully applied for in 2025. The funded programme of work is intended to create spaces for a broader range of the community to use. The intention is to couple the Northern grant to the Little Wild Spaces investment to maximise the resources.

Wild Little Spaces

We cannot yet share full details, but anticipate that this partnership will be a significant step forward that will enable us to:

- Introduce more nature-rich, informal play elements
- Enhance biodiversity within the playpark
- Create a space that supports both play and environmental learning
- Create a space that will encourage a wider range of community members and visitors to use the playpark for relaxation, informal exercise, and engagement with nature.

4. Current Priorities

Interim Maintenance

In the short term, essential maintenance and safety works will continue, including:

- Bark replacement where required Minor repairs and wood protection touch-ups identified through inspection
- Ongoing monitoring of equipment condition

A maintenance day is scheduled for 28th March. Volunteers have been invited to join and specific requirements have been shared with the community. We've had a great response and a good general awareness of the day - fingers crossed the rain stays away! YDMT will also attend to gather feedback and perspectives from the community to help inform the landscape plan.

The forthcoming landscape plan will inform larger decisions regarding groundworks, equipment lifespan, and potential replacement.

5. Financial Position

The current financial position remains tight. Annual baseline costs are approximately £4,500, but the Association believes that smaller, local fundraising initiatives and donations can continue to support the ongoing operation of the park.

The annual insurance premium has been significantly reduced through a shift to a community insurance provider. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind donation of £200 last year, which made a meaningful contribution towards this cost.

The previous request for support towards a new bench remains under consideration, but will now be reviewed as part of the wider landscape plan to ensure it aligns with the overall design and priorities.

Available funds remain limited relative to anticipated works, and grant funding will be essential to support the delivery of wider improvements under the Northern and Wild Little Spaces project(s). We will update the Council on our funding approach in due course.

6. Strategic Direction

The committee is taking a phased and proportional approach, based on:

- Extending the life of existing equipment where viable
- Introducing lower-cost, nature-based play features
- Positioning the park for future larger grant applications

Some larger grant funding opportunities require a constituted body to act as the applicant. The

Association has therefore explored potential partnerships, including with the Parish Council

(with thanks to the Clerk for early discussions) and the FFT. On balance, it was agreed that the FFT is currently the most appropriate route.

A full replacement of the playpark remains a longer-term ambition, but is not currently realistic without significant external funding.

7. Next Steps

Over the coming months, the focus will be to:

- Define the Wild Little Spaces project scope and phased approach
- Deliver improvements under the Northern grant scheme, within the broader context of the Little Wild Spaces project.
- Address priority maintenance items (edging, signage, safety repairs)
- Explore larger grant opportunities for future redevelopment
- Strengthen local community engagement with the project and secure further volunteer involvement to support ongoing upkeep and project implementation (including expanding the committee).
- Update the Association governance framework
- Plan a fundraising event for later in the year to ensure maintenance cash flow.

8. Support and Collaboration

We would welcome continued dialogue with the Parish Council, particularly in relation to:

- Alignment with wider village priorities
- Potential support for specific capital items
- Opportunities to link the playpark with broader community and environmental initiatives

9. Closing Note

The playpark continues to rely heavily on volunteer time and careful financial management. While we acknowledge that progress can feel incremental, the direction of travel is towards a more sustainable, nature-rich, and community-supported space.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Ingleborough Estate Update

Property

The vast majority of residential and commercial properties are currently occupied and there continues to be a high demand for rental cottages in the village.

- South View became vacant in Summer and following a full refurbishment, the property is now let to a family who will be moving in early April.
- Nick from Badger in the Wall Art Gallery, gave notice, having been there for two years, vacating in March. The building has been relet as a manufacturing and retail space for boutique artisan chocolate, including chocolate tasting workshops. The Estate are excited about the new venture and feel it will bring something different into the village.
- The Estate continues to invest in property repairs and renovations. We await further government updates in relation to the changes to the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards, ahead of making where possible investments into energy improvement upgrades on cottages. New projects are being discussed and planned for 2026.

Environmental and Woodland

- Following a tree survey completed by Bowland Tree Consultancy last year on all trees lying adjacent to public rights of way, roads and properties, a number of trees suffering disease and ash die back were identified and require removal for health and safety reasons. Works are complete and with approval from the National Parks, replacement trees will be planted in various locations across the Estate.
- Required thinning work and felling of diseased trees in the Estate's main woodlands including Twenty Acre and Clapdale Wood will take place later in the spring/early summer. The works are a requirement as part of the Estate's woodland management plan, approved by the Forestry Commission, and are aimed at creating healthy and sustainable woodland.
- Following the thinning of Rayside and Lodge Bank Shelter belt last summer, a replanting program is currently underway.
- The Estate Management Team continue to have a good relationship with Natural England and the National Parks. The Estate provides access to support a variety of environmental surveys run by the Soil Association, Forestry Commission and in particular curlew surveys being led by Clapham Curlew Cluster in conjunction with the RSPB.
- The current governmental approach to land management and agri-environmental schemes continues to be challenging, but we continue to work closely with farmers and graziers and support them in taking opportunities that arise.

Farrer Family Trust - Charitable Donations

- This financial year the Estate's charitable trust has donated to many local charities, including: Bethal Chapel, Cave Rescue Organization, the YDMT tree nursery project, Clapham Age UK Group, Yorkshire Ramblers Club, Austwick School, Clapham Church, Clapham and Austwick Brownies, the Village Hall as well as larger organizations including River Ribble Trust, St Johns Hospice, and Northwest Air Ambulance.

Recreation, Tourism and Access

Mimpish Squimbies Family Trail

- Following its launch in Summer 2025, the Squimbie trail has become an established part of the Estate's family-focused visitor offer, using a simple map, illustrated characters and rhymes to guide visitors along existing paths.
- A series of small, nature-inspired 'Squimbie homes' encourages exploration and closer engagement with the landscape, particularly for younger visitors.
- Early feedback has been encouraging, with a noticeable increase in family visitors to the Nature Trail.
- The Estate will continue to develop Nature Trail activities over time, with a focus on strengthening engagement with the landscape and promoting awareness of conservation and biodiversity for both children and adults.

Old Sawmill Cafe

- The cafe continues to grow from strength to strength, employing a large number of local adults and children, maintaining a high staff retention. The building provides a friendly hub for local community and visitors and this is partially due to the local support from villagers for which we are grateful.

Recreational activities

- The Estate continues to provide access for recreational activities including, Potholing Clubs and organized events such as Austwick Amble Fell Race, Three Peaks Fell Race and CycloCross, orienteering competitions and charity walks.

BOWLS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL

Clapham Bowls Club continues to thrive, we have 16 members on our roll plus a small waiting list. Indoor bowling or to use its correct name 'Short Mat indoor Bowling' takes place in the village hall every Monday Afternoon during the off bowling season from October through till April. We have one mat that fills the hall and a selection of club bowls to borrow, most of the members have their own bowls. We charge a modest weekly subscription that covers refreshments and two celebratory knock out competitions and afternoon tea's.

CLAPHAM BOARD GAMES CLUB, REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL

We are at present a group of six members with a varied selection of board games. We meet fortnightly on Friday afternoons from 2-5pm in the supper room. We are a friendly lot and not over competitive, everyone would be welcome.