



Number 161, June 2026

## Nature notes

*Glorious, stirring sight! The poetry of motion! The real way to travel! The only way to travel! Here today – in next week tomorrow! Villages skipped, towns and cities jumped – always somebody else’s horizon! Bliss!*

A recent chance encounter on a stony track gave me an inkling as to why Kenneth Grahame might have imagined *Mr Toad* could become so besotted with the motorcar. Unlike its agile cousin, the common frog, the toad is an ungainly, lumbering creature – certainly not built for hopping from lily pad to lily pad. Sturdy and squat, it tends to crawl along slowly and deliberately: more turgid prose than poetry in motion. And therein lies its downfall.

When (if?) the weather warms in spring, Common Toads are instinctively driven to embark on a slow, perilous migration back to the ponds in which they were spawned. Travelling most of the way under cover of darkness, some will face a journey of three or more kilometres. And many will not make it. Their nemesis? Ironically, more often than not, it’s traffic. Crossing a road at night is a hazardous venture for a slow-moving amphibian.

Mr Toad’s obsession with the early motorcar in *The Wind in the Willows* results in his imprisonment and disgrace but today’s high-speed vehicles with their glaring headlights pose an even greater threat to his real-life counterparts.

Kenneth Grahame’s stories and the popular play it inspired, AA Milne’s *Toad of Toad Hall*, did much to restore this much maligned, warty little creature to our affections. Its reputation was certainly in need of a boost. From mediaeval times through to the Victorian Age, the toad was considered to be emblematic of evil, a poisonous witch’s companion, wreathed in myth and superstition. Both Shakespeare and Milton were instrumental in reinforcing the link with Satan and witchcraft while the Puritan essayist and playwright Thomas Lupton told the story of two lovers who died after rubbing their teeth with sage leaves from a plant under which ‘a great toad was found which infected the same with his venomous breath.’ Even well into the 20<sup>th</sup>

century there was a widespread belief in many rural communities that a toad entering your house brought with it sickness or misfortune.

While I am not entirely sure I would welcome a toad into my house (my wife certainly wouldn’t!) I would be delighted to have one in my garden or greenhouse. They are very partial to ants and wood lice, and happy to do their bit to keep slug numbers down. Surprisingly perhaps, a greenhouse or cold frame, a pile of old logs, or shady overgrown patches tend to be just as attractive to toads as garden ponds. Like frogs, they lay their long strings of spawn in water, but they much prefer the deeper water of a substantial farm or forest pool. Outside the breeding season their thicker skins mean that they retain moisture in their bodies more efficiently than frogs and are happy to spend a lot of their time out of the water. Do let me



Common Toad. Photo: Brian Christian

know if you are lucky enough to find one.

On a different note, it’s always a pleasure to welcome old friends back to the village. Swallows and House Martins arrived in early April with Swifts following at the beginning of May. We know that summer can’t be too far away when our Swifts return to swoop and scream around our rooftops. Genuine *poetry in motion!* This year it will be interesting to see if they choose to take advantage of all the new boxes that were installed for them last summer – including those in the church tower. They were definitely showing an interest in them before they departed at the end of last year’s breeding season. Fingers crossed.

As ever, if you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, send me an email, drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply stop and chat if you see me around the village. Photographs are always welcome and I will do my best to use any that are sent in to me. I also post news of recent local sightings here: @bc\_riverside28.bsky.social

Brian Christian

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

## Welcome to the June newsletter

Welcome to the June edition which we hope you find packed with local news and articles of interest.

Thank you to the Ingleborough Estate for sponsoring the colour printing for this edition. Our special thanks to all our contributors for helping us meet our revised deadline date.

If you would like to contribute to the August edition, check the details below and get in touch.

*The Newsletter Committee*

Issue dates:

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

Next issue: **August 2026.**

Deadline: **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026.**

### Articles

Articles should be around 250 words and, if possible, accompanied by a high resolution photo (at least 300 dpi). Please email your contributions to Andy and make sure your text and image files are separate attachments.

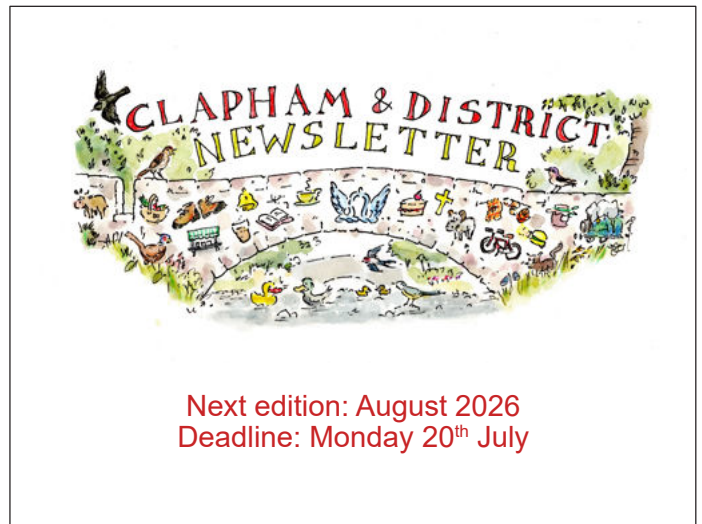
Contact Andy: [claphamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:claphamnewsletter@gmail.com)

*NB. We reserve the right to edit copy, or to refuse to publish submissions, and 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)



### Distribution

If the printed edition is usually delivered to your home and you haven't received a copy by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the publication month, please collect a copy from a distribution point. These are: Clapham Village Store, St. James' Church Clapham, and the porch at St. Matthew's Church Keasden.

If you can 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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## Raising funds for a great cause



Hi, I am Daniel, middle son of Graham and Lynda Taylor - formerly of Wickworth Cottage, Keasden, Clapham.

Last November I decided that I wanted to challenge myself to do something before I reached 40 - so two of my mates and I decided to do the Fellsman. This is a 60 mile+ challenge to be completed in 30 hours.

When my nephew Jack was diagnosed with Leukaemia in early February, I decided to set up a Just

community centre at 8.30am. We walked up Ingleborough and Whernside before dropping down into Dentdale and then to Gregareth. We then headed back to Newby Head towards Hawes, then to Semer Water then over the tops to Buckden Pike. Finally climbing Great Whernside and finishing at Threshfield 27 hours later.

We saw some marvellous scenery and went through checkpoints which provided much needed food and water, sweets, and chocolate.

It was an emotional ending with Ruth (my wife) and our girls Mabel and Ivy. Jack was also there with his Mum and younger brother Eddie. The photo shows Jack and me at the finish. All I wanted was a shower and some sleep.

Thanks again to all that have supported this cause, and I hope that Jack's treatment has the right outcome.

*Daniel Taylor*



**Manchester Foundation  
Trust Charity**

Giving page to raise funds for the Manchester Children's hospital where he was and still is under their care. We have currently raised over £8,000 - a big thank you to all who have contributed.

We were lucky with the weather, no rain at all, if anything it was a bit hot. The Fellsman challenge started at Ingleton

*If you would like to support this great cause - please donate to Daniel's Just Giving page by going to:  
<https://bit.ly/DanielMFTC>*

## The "Wows, Ows and Nows" of Spring

### News from Austwick School

Another term is well under way, and our numbers continue to rise.

With the onset of spring, it is good to get out and about. We encourage children to appreciate and celebrate their surroundings, and outdoor opportunities are an important part of their education. The annual bluebell walk has just taken place and Oxenber Woods - right on our doorstep - really is a "wow" with its carpet of bluebells, primroses, orchids, and cowslips.

We have recently had our Diocesan school inspection. As with any inspection, it brings with it a little stress (something we classify as an "ow") but we felt the day went positively and we look forward to the full report. SATS have also taken place this half term.

As governors, we sometimes observe the administration of the tests and are always impressed to see the calm and confident way in which the children approach the task in hand with teachers providing reassurance and brain-boosting snacks!

For the "nows", Rocksteady is a new initiative to encourage children to join together as part of a rock band. Pupils are learning to play instruments and, I am told, working towards mastering Queen's "We will Rock You". We are looking forward to hearing more!

Sports-wise, cricket has come onto the menu, and the children will have the opportunity both to improve their skills and have a bit of competition - with KS2 competing in a cluster school cricket tournament. Hopefully not too many "ows" and plenty of "wows".

*Maria Farrer*

### Austwick Primary School PTA



## BIRD QUIZ

Can you solve the clues to identify 50 birds?

*e.g. dark period in a high wind?*

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## Austwick C.E. (VA)



## Primary School

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Our recent inspection (2024)  
"Pupils thrive in ... this small, friendly school."

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

"Pupils achieve well."

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

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

Beth McHardy (headteacher) 015242 51366 for our latest headteacher@austwick.n-yorks.sch.uk news see Facebook



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## £50,000 up for grabs



### Grants to fund wildlife and nature recovery projects in the Yorkshire Dales

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) has launched the latest round of its successful grants scheme for projects and organisations that benefit the people, landscape and wildlife in and around the Yorkshire Dales and Nidderdale.

Since the programme was relaunched in 2023, YDMT grants have funded community-based conservation and social impact projects worth more than £500,000.

In 2026, the Trust is prioritising wildlife and small-scale nature recovery projects and is especially keen to hear from young people wanting to make a difference in their communities. Priority will also be given to grants from the more northerly areas of the National Park, including Sedbergh, Hawes, Kirkby Stephen and the Westmorland Dales.

Grants of £1,000 to £5,000 are available with the application process designed to be easy to understand and complete, with minimal admin and box ticking required.

As well as funding specific projects, grants can also contribute to an organisation's core costs such as rent, insurance and volunteer travel expenses. The grants can also be used to unlock wider match funding bids.

*A YDMT Grant funded a highly successful social prescribing project in the Westmorland Dales delivered by social enterprise Wellness Walks.*

Chair of YDMT Grants Panel Rowena Herbert said: "This year's grants scheme aims to improve access to nature and wildlife, reduce the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, and encourage young people to manage their own conservation projects.

"We've designed the application process to be simple and straightforward while ensuring that we get enough information to make quick decisions for projects that will make a real difference.

Alongside grants, we can also provide advice and support to strengthen applications and to enable projects to have the maximum impact."

YDMT's grants scheme is supported by an award from Postcode Earth Trust thanks to funds raised by players of Postcode Lottery.

To start the application process, or to find out more, email a brief outline of your project to: [grants@ydmtd.org](mailto:grants@ydmtd.org)

*Mark Sutcliffe*

*mark.sutcliffe@ydmtd.org*

*01524 238491*

## Quality cast-offs come to the Parish Fete

As the time approaches for the Parish Fete on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July, planning is well underway and we look forward to featuring all the familiar favourites - The Duck Race (with 100 extra super-fast ducks!), Bacon Butty BBQ, Teddy Zip Wire, Raffle, Tombola and a wide variety of stalls and activities.

This year we will also be running a Quality Cast-offs stall - featuring good quality clothing and accessories (women's, men's, and children's).



Collecting has already begun and if you have any clean, good-quality items that you feel no longer belong in your

wardrobe, please do drop them off on the front porch at Hall Garth by 17<sup>th</sup> July (preferably not in the pouring rain!).

Hangers would also be useful if you have excess! Clothes, hats, bags, belts, scarves, and costume jewellery are all welcome along with offers of help on the day.

Thanks in advance for all contributions.

*Maria Farrer*

*maria.farrer@me.com*

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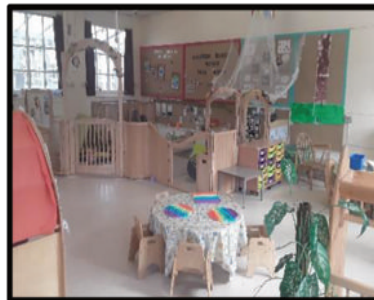
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# Church News

## John's Notes:

### Groping our way towards the unknown god

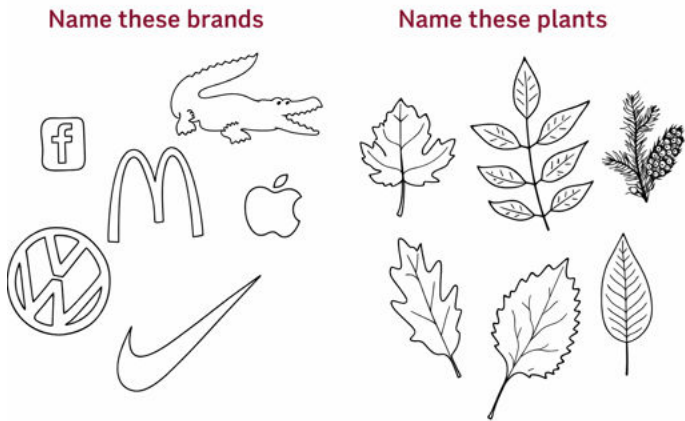


Image courtesy of Adbusters

*'Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus...'*

The Areopagus was the principal council of ancient Athens, where influential people exercised their power, their judgements and policy decisions directed by their many different gods. Among them, besides *Ares*, god of war and courage, there was *Aphrodite*, the goddess of love and beauty; *Demeter*, goddess of the harvest who gave feast or famine according to her mood; *Thanatos*, the frightening god of death; and *Zeus*, father of all people, leader of the gods.

There was a god for every occasion in Athens, and the streets were full of altars to all of them. But Paul had noticed something striking about one of these altars. It didn't have a name on it: just a simple plaque which read, 'To an unknown god.' It fascinated Paul that with so many gods to help shape their lives, the people had a sense that there was *still another god* who they didn't yet know and couldn't yet see, flourishing in a realm perhaps outside that of the other divinities.

I think we're like the ancient Athenians. We fill our villages, towns, and cities with altars to all sorts of gods: "the rulers, the authorities, the powers of this present darkness", as Paul once described the spiritual forces which dominate our world. For today (bear with me) we have the god *Asda*, a giant who straddles the earth providing all the food and drink we could ever need and whose priests are dressed in bright lime-coloured robes; the god *Bupa*, who promises to attend to all our health needs at speed, though also at great cost; the god *Lotto*, who promises us the earth but disburses any gifts very sparingly; and the god *Google*, who offers us the knowledge of everything we ever want to know, whilst disclosing details of our every move to other 'gods' for profit.

Now, whilst acknowledging that these *are* great powers which dominate our lives, we may struggle to think of them as *gods*, because we know their limitations. Once we put our faith in the god *Hermes*, divine deliverer of mail order packages, recently rebranded as the equally unreliable *Evri*. And I think the ancient Greeks would have smiled at *their* gods just the same, knowing *their* flaws. Paul said they were "like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals." Perhaps this is why they kept an altar in their public space named for an unknown god: one who they hoped might *satisfy* where the others *lack*; one not in competition with them but who rather

transcends them.

We understand that despite all the blessings the 'gods' of our times bestow on us, they're incapable of meeting our deepest-down, aching, needs: their behaviours lead to conflict and distress. We're conscious that despite living in one of the wealthiest, most comfortable societies the world has ever known, the pursuit of the gods of wealth and comfort brings with it poverty and discomfort. We're disturbed by the dissonance between our love of nature and our dependency on resource-devouring technology which is increasingly overheating the planet and decimating those very species which we love. We're troubled that our creeds of consumer happiness conceal a cruel competitive culture of high anxiety, anger, fear and loathing, self-loathing and depression.

What shape would an unknown god take? Would they be unconcerned with titillating or pampering us or making us affluent, instead supporting us in enjoying good, flourishing, relationships with those other humans and non-humans with whom we share this world?

At the Areopagus Paul told the Greeks that in every generation people "would search for God... though they might perhaps grope their way towards him to find him... for indeed he is not far from each one of us." On this search, some people find the notion of 'pilgrimage' helpful: a journey of spiritual discovery which for some means a one-off trip to an acknowledged 'holy place', and for others involves a lifetime of exploration.

You may have noticed that St James' and St Matthew's churches have recently taken to displaying 'Pilgrim Place' signs welcoming visitors seeking peace, hope, comfort, for their everyday lives. In our own modest, imperfect way, we're hoping, like Paul, to open up space for those following their instincts towards an unknown god.

Revd John Davies  
reflecting on Acts Chapter 17  
01524 805928

john.davies@leeds.anglican.org  
Churches website: [bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick](http://bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick)  
Notes from a Small Vicar: <https://johndavies.org/wp>

## Anglican Services

Led by Revd John Davies, except where stated.

### June

- 7 Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church
- 14 Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden
- 21 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer
- 28 Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 7.00 Keasden Beer & Hymns

### July

- 5 Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church
- 12 Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden
- 19 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer
- 26 Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham;

Also, each Wednesday (unless otherwise stated)

At The Church of the Epiphany, Austwick:

10.30 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer).

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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

Clapham Tots - Fridays at 9.30am  
Kmotion - 6pm & Encounter - 7.30pm alternate Fridays  
Story Time - Wednesdays 10<sup>th</sup> June & 8<sup>th</sup> July at 10am

Coffee, Cake, Chat & Jigsaws - Saturdays 20<sup>th</sup> June & 18<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am

Breakfast @ Bethel - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am  
An evening with the Longton Family - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm  
Walk & Pizza night - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July - see poster.

Children's Soccer & Netball Schools - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August at Austwick playing field - contact Emily 07975 862148

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

More details on our Facebook page or visit our website: [www.bethelchapelclapham.org](http://www.bethelchapelclapham.org)

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### Catholic Church - Our Lady and St Boniface

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

Usual mass times:  
Sundays: 9.15am, Weds & Fridays: 10am.

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

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

#### Parish Priest: Father Frank Smith

Tel: 01729 822525  
Email: [office.ourladyandstboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.ourladyandstboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)  
Website: [www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk](http://www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk)

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### 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.

For further information contact:  
Revd Tim Broughton, Tel: 01729 554006 or  
Email: [tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk](mailto:tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk)

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

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

The Open Day held on the first May bank holiday saw around a hundred people attend the Bethel Chapel where there were displays about the life of the Chapel over the last 50 years.

These displays included photographs of the building of the Chapel, the house, and the disabled facilities. There were photographs of many of the weddings, baptisms, children's clubs, and other special events that have taken place through the years.

There were also a number of personal scrapbooks on display that were an archive of events that have taken place in the village and the wider community.

Refreshments were served throughout the Open Day and donations, for the Alzheimer's Society, totalled over £400.

Please look out for further events that are planned in the coming months.

*Alan Woodhouse*



**Rise & Shine**  
**Breakfast @ Bethel**

Join us Saturday 13th June @ 9.30am  
Hear from Antony Marsh, founder of **Count**

BETHEL 76  
CHAPEL CLAPHAM



**Walk & Pizza**

**Friday 17th July**  
6.30 pm start

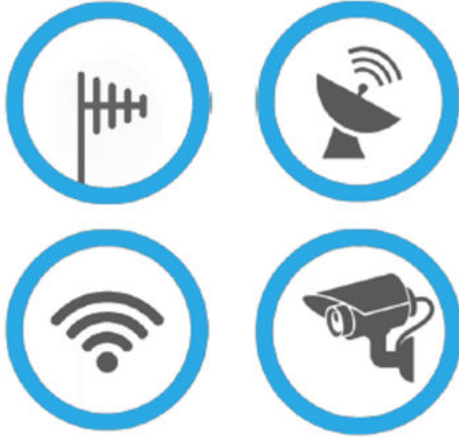
**Walk a loop - different routes for all abilities**  
Pizza and refreshments available upon return

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CHAPEL CLAPHAM

*Everyone welcome - bring a friend!*

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## Bring on summer

By June we are well into summer mode, sleeves are rolled up to last year's tan lines and winter waterproofs have been tossed aside with gay abandon into a corner of the washhouse where they are able to ferment and provide a useful habitat for all kinds of exotic insect life worthy of a Sir David Attenborough documentary. Winter disasters have been replaced with summer disasters, these are so much more enjoyable as the rain can be slightly warmer.

A few weeks ago, I was reminded of how times have changed when I was in the Co-op buying the biggest Radox I could find in order to aid my post lambing time ablutions. (I take personal hygiene very seriously). A middle-aged gentleman was trying to buy tobacco and was struggling to prove his age. I remember years ago my younger brother and I had no such trouble when dad was at the Auction Mart in Bentham. We were dispatched down the street with £5 to buy dad and his brother sufficient cigarettes to last a week. We were seven and eight years old at the time, the only problem we had was in transporting the quantity.

I remember Billy Hird, who farmed next to Bleak Bank and was a very elderly chap when I knew him, he always appeared asthmatic and every time I saw him, I thought it would be the last. Apparently, he had been gassed in the First World War and medical advice was for him to take up

smoking to help clear his lungs, he lived to be 93. My Uncle Bill smoked all his life because "it helped him cough up all the bits of lung he had done with".

Sheep with single lambs have gone back onto Ingleborough as generations of their ancestors have done before them and, within weeks, lambs will understand which part of the fell is where they live. Mum teaches them this without even knowing it, just as her mum taught her. It is called "hefting" and is part of the cultural heritage of an upland farm.



Incidentally, the flock at Bleak Bank dates back in an unbroken line to the Enclosure Acts of the 1750s. Historically, when the tenancy changed

hands the flock of sheep were valued and the tenant had to buy them because of the hefting system of grazing on a common fell. Effectively, the sheep belonged to the farm.

Those sheep lucky enough to be a mother of two lambs get to live on the in-by land which is greener and more conducive to milk production. These families will have just a few weeks on the fell later in the year when the lambs are older and have started to graze.

The cows going out for summer is always a highlight and even those who are elderly and slightly arthritic attempt a hop and a skip down the field which is always worth a watch. "Mind how you go!" shout I, but they rarely listen.

*John Dawson*

---

## Experiments at Heysham

One hundred and twenty or so years ago, on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1904, a most unusual railway vehicle passed through Clapham Station. Seemingly a single carriage moving, mysteriously, all by itself, it made a stark contrast to the usual locomotive-hauled trains that came through. The vehicle in question was No. 2233, the Midland Railway's first "railmotor" and it was heading from Derby, where it had been built, to Heysham where it was to herald the dawn of a new type of service on the Midland. The concept was not totally new – other railway companies including the Great Western Railway already had railmotors – but they were certainly new to this area.

What looked like a single carriage, running on bogies at either end, internally was divided into four different "compartments". The largest of these carried passengers, accommodating up to 56 of them seated, and next to that was a luggage compartment. But the next compartment housed a complete steam engine with its boiler, firebox, coal and water supply, and positions for the fireman and driver all "built in" to the carriage itself. The only giveaway was a chimney emerging from the roof. The fourth compartment – at the other end to the steam engine – contained an alternative driving position, with all the controls that were needed: the whole railmotor could thus be driven from either end without having to be turned. The bogie beneath the steam engine compartment was powered, with the wheelset driven by a pair of cylinders



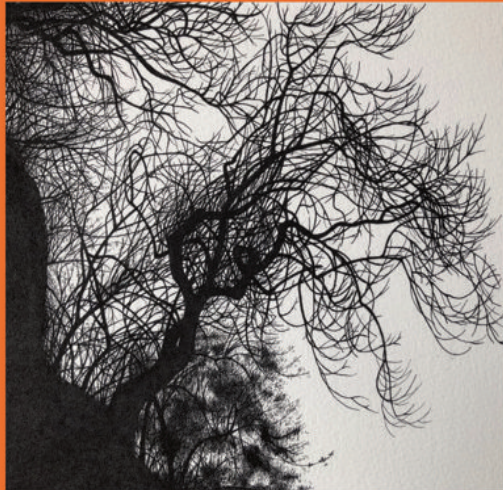
that used the steam supplied from above, whilst the bogie at the other end – under the passenger compartment – was unpowered. Although wholly novel at the time, with the benefit of hindsight, we can see that the layout rather echoes that of the class 158 trains that provide the service through Clapham today,

The idea was simple – on lightly used lines, the use of single self-contained vehicles that could be driven in either direction should improve timetable efficiency. Indeed, when they were deployed on the Morecambe to Heysham branch it was found unnecessary for them to run to a timetable at all. Instead, they ran continuously backwards and forwards along the branch as long as there were passengers to carry!

They were obviously very popular – over 1600 passengers were carried on the first day of operation – but the experiment was abandoned after just over a year with the opening of the new, larger Morecambe Promenade station. And within another year, the branch hosted another experiment - this time to try out electric trains using overhead high-voltage wires. Again, something that rings true right through to the present.

Quite why Heysham was chosen for such experiments is unclear, but it did make for a number of strange trains passing through Clapham. What the station staff made of it all at the time – well we'll probably never know!

*Andy Scott*



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## A new chapter for Clapham Park



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the Spring maintenance day in March. It was a brilliant effort and a true example of many hands making light work. The park is looking fantastic and we're very

grateful to everyone who helped, despite the rain arriving just in time for the tea break!

We'd also like to thank everyone who has generously supported the park through donations.

We're delighted to share that the park has been selected as one of ten local spaces to work with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust through their new "Wild Little Spaces" initiative. With much of the larger play equipment now over 15 years old, we're beginning to think about the future of the park and how it can best serve the whole village in the years ahead. The project will provide access to landscape design support, funding opportunities and ideas for climate-friendly community spaces. A grant awarded by Northern Rail last year will also help support this work.

To help kick off the project, we're holding a community evening in the park on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June from 4-7pm. We'd love to hear ideas about how the park could become a welcoming space for people of all ages to enjoy.

See the poster included for more details - we hope you can join us!

*Eleanor (Nell) Whitley  
on behalf of Clapham Playpark Association*

## Then and Now



About 100 years separates these two images of the upper end of Riverside but only the degree of tree cover and the cars give it away. The chimneys in the middle distance are those of Arbutus House which, when the earlier picture was taken, was still the rectory for St James', whilst closer to the camera is part of what is now Fall View but was then, I understand, known as The Beeches.

Whilst the later picture was taken just before going to print, the former began life as a sepia toned monochrome image and has been "put through the mill" to create the version shown here. Whilst AI does get its share of bad



press, it does allow so much to be done to improve old photographs – whether that's repairing blemishes, enhancing a faded image, improving clarity, or livening it up by adding colour. For many of us, old photos are the only memories we have of our pasts or our families, so these techniques can be an immense help.

With that in mind, the September DEW Drop-In session will look at how you could use such tools to improve your own old photographs.

Watch out for details in the next issue.

*Andy Scott*

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## Hub for local food and farmers

Award-winning cheesemongers The Courtyard Dairy have been working hard to link-up local food producers to really champion traditionally made food in the region.

“It started when Ambry Bakery set up here in 2024,” says The Courtyard Dairy co-owner Kathy Swinscoe, “Bethan and Sam in Ambry do an amazing job using organic Yorkshire grown and ground wheat to make bread and pastries on site. That got us thinking – can we support more local produce and connect farmers to consumers using our site.”

The next step involved working with six local farms, from Bentham to Malham, and Long Preston. With extra support from FIPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes), The Yorkshire Dales National Park and Forest of Bowland, The Courtyard Dairy team worked with the six farms to install two vending machines in their already-popular vending chalet.

The first newly installed vending machine provided super-fresh milk from Peter and Rona Webster at Lawkland Hall Farm.

“The cows are milked in the morning, and that fresh whole milk comes straight up to the automatic vending machine – it’s great to see local milk travel less than a mile to where it is sold rather than disappear off into anonymous food chains,” says Kathy’s husband Andy.

Then just this month, local farmer James Newhouse created a partnership of local farms to install a meat vending machine. This collaborative effort uses meat from his farm (Megs, Long Preston) along with Neil & Leigh Heseltine’s

Hill Top Farm (Malham), Andrew Linney (Ingleton) Holly Story (Bentham), and Alan Robinson (Ingleton). Their high-welfare meat is from native breed animals (Belted Galloway beef, Swaledale and Herdwick sheep), grass fed on sustainable pasture.

James Newhouse comments, “The ability to add local raised and butchered meat to the offering at The Courtyard Dairy – already encompassing organic wine, handmade cheese, freshly baked bread, and local milk – feels like we are creating a centre for local and ‘proper’ food. I am so proud of the produce we create on our farm, and the way we farm, and the new vending machine allows us to get it out into the locality for everyone to enjoy,” adding, “It also shows how local farms can work together to provide a positive future for agriculture and food in this region. Working together has given us greater stability and security and allowed this project to come to fruition.”

Ambry bakery opens every Friday - Monday (9.30-4.00), whilst the vending machines for

milk and meat can be accessed every day from 8.00am-8.00pm.

“It feels great to be part of a special movement allowing food to be connected to the community,” says Kathy. “Enabling food to have a real identity and spring-boarding these products to give the producers an outlet to sell their properly-made food – it just feels right. The Courtyard Dairy is no longer just about cheese!”

*Andy Swinscoe*



*Bethan & Sam Leach of Ambry Bakery*

## Rural Arts events in April

St. James’ Church was delighted to work with the village hall to host two Rural Arts events in April as part of the latter’s centenary year programme. We needed a bit of comedy - and we got it in spades!

**EYES DOWN** – and they were! “Thank you for hosting us in Clapham and for such a warm response from the audience” wrote Peter and Jake of **Just Some Theatre** who created the wonderfully immersive Bertie’s Bingo Night which took place in the village hall on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

While the show presented as a murder mystery with ingenious scenery and video devices, it was character Bertie the bingo caller’s banter with the audience during games of bingo that made the evening so much fun. Almost derailed by Marge Dowling opting to ‘stick’ instead of ‘twist’ for a bigger prize (a giant inflatable banana) Bertie rallied with quick *ad-libs* to much hilarity.

Winners’ prizes included a signed photograph of Matthew Kelly “off the Telly” (who put in a cameo appearance on screen) and a baseball cap reading ‘Make Bingo Great Again’!

Credit to Jake for playing six different quick-change characters throughout the play. The murder was solved in the finale of this hugely entertaining evening. Thanks to Andy Scott and Angie Martin for running the bar.

**CRUMBS** Hot on the heels of the above, we were delighted to welcome back **Bad Apple Theatre Company** to perform their latest Kate Bramley written comedy, **Crums**, on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Another ingenious set for what was



billed as a “one woman, one oven” show and had the crowd in stitches – all whilst making and baking bread live in front of our eyes.

More quick changes of costume ensued as one character

after another was presented to carry the story along.

Tickets for this event had been sold online as well as in the village shop, so we managed to attract a fair contingent of fresh faces in the audience, largely from some local WIs. We were delighted to welcome them.

*Liz Wake*

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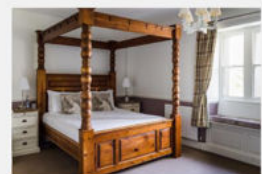
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## Clapham Curlew Cluster



### May update

Hayley Land joined the Clapham Curlew Cluster in April as our Seasonal Curlew Conservation Worker, and together with John Marriott, our Farm Liaison volunteer, has started the season with remarkable success.

Hayley together with John and a core team of local volunteers have found and fenced 10 curlew nests in the first few weeks of the season. With John being known by so many farmers and Hayley being excellent at finding nests it is a winning combination. John or Hayley gets the calls from the farmers who usually know which field the curlew are in and Hayley puts in the time to find the nest. The reasons for the fencing are varied but mainly involve avoiding predation and farm machinery.

With cameras put on the fences we will be able to see the outcome of the nests and better understand the hatching success rate.

The season is still early; our main concern now is running out of fencing equipment, we will need to think about purchasing more for next season and are already looking at funding sources for 2027.

For more information please contact: [claphamcurlews@gmail.com](mailto:claphamcurlews@gmail.com)

*Clapham Curlew Cluster*

## Keasden rainfall report



	2025	2026
<b>March</b>	34mm or 1.34"	140mm or 5.5"
<b>April</b>	28mm or 1.1"	90mm or 3.5"

## Ben in concert



Ben Saunders hardly needs any introduction to the Parish. His concerts at St James's are now well known. I was going to start by saying "Local organist, Ben Saunders", but this would be far from accurate. Internationally acclaimed organist would be closer to the truth and how lucky we are that a person of such

exceptional talent enjoys coming to play the organ at Clapham Church.

Recently, I popped over to visit Ben at his home and had a guided tour of his newly installed organ. As a professional organist, it is good to be able to put in some regular practice (or so he tells me!) without necessarily having to go to a local church or cathedral. He relays this information while merrily playing a medley of songs by Queen.

He will be performing a concert full of surprises at St. James' Church on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30. Drinks will be available from the bar and brilliance will be available from Ben. See poster on p22 for more details.

*Maria Farrer*

## Your shop needs you!

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Anyone reading this who's involved in Clapham Village Store will understand when we say that we're proud to be at the very heart of our village. We try to be more than 'just a shop', aiming to provide a warm welcome and a cheerful smile along with a side

order of coffee, pastries, and baked beans!

But to keep our shop going we need new volunteers. And we need them soon, because there is so much truth in that old maxim: a load shared is a load halved.

From serving customers to helping guide the future of the store, every contribution matters. By volunteering, you'll help preserve not only this valuable village resource, but also the spirit of connection that makes Clapham so special.

If you have a few spare hours each week and would enjoy being part of something truly special, we'd love to hear from you. Volunteering at the store is a wonderful way to meet people, have a chat, and play an important role in helping our shop to thrive.

No previous retail experience is needed – just a friendly approach, a willingness to help, and a love for our village.

We are also urgently seeking a volunteer Treasurer to join our management committee. This important role helps oversee the financial wellbeing of the store and supports its long-term success. Ideally you will have an accountancy qualification and/or have financial accounting/bookkeeping experience, but training will be provided. This is a rewarding opportunity to make a lasting impact.

If you'd like to find out more, please pop into the store for a chat or email Helen: [info@claphamvillagestore.co.uk](mailto:info@claphamvillagestore.co.uk). We'd be delighted to welcome you.

*Clapham Village Store*

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## Parish Council news

At the meeting of Clapham cum Newby Parish Council held on the evening of **26<sup>th</sup> March 2026** councillors dealt with a wide range of local matters including policing, highways, street lighting, planning applications and council administration.

The meeting was attended by councillors together with North Yorkshire Councillor David Ireton, and 11 members of the public.

One of the main topics discussed was the ongoing consultation over street lighting in Newby. Since the previous meeting the Council had received one written comment supporting the lights and two verbal comments in favour of preserving dark skies. Residents from the eastern end of the village also submitted a petition opposing any street lighting in that area. The Clerk reported that upgrading the existing lights to part-night downlighters would cost around £1,415, with the possibility of grant funding if biodiversity benefits could be demonstrated. As views remained divided councillors agreed to defer a decision while further options are considered.

Highways issues were discussed. Potholes at Wenning Bank and Lawsings Brow were reported and the Clerk will raise these with North Yorkshire Council. Councillors also reviewed progress on earlier matters, including ditching work on the Keasden Road, where additional quotations are still being sought. Fly-tipping on the A65 cycle path and overhanging trees at Lawsings Brow have both been reported and dealt with.

The Council received a police report covering the period from 17<sup>th</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> March, during which 14 incidents were logged in the parish. These included reports of suspected poaching on Clapham Moor, road traffic offences on the A65, a collision involving a sheep, and several welfare checks.

PCSO Julia Runciman attended the meeting to discuss preparations for the forthcoming traveller season. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to the Deputy Mayor to stress the need for a visible police presence and additional resources during the busy summer months. Police were also encouraged to maintain contact with local businesses.

On planning matters, the Council raised no objections to an application for a garage with living accommodation at Old Butt, High Bentham. Members also noted the approval of plans for an accessible garden office structure at Barn House in Clapham.

Councillors were informed that recruitment for a new Parish Clerk will begin shortly. Hopefully the successful candidate will take up the role from 1<sup>st</sup> July following a handover period.

Other matters discussed included attendance at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Spring Parish Forum, the Government's Local Power Plan, and maintenance work needed to the noticeboard at Clapham Station.

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 17<sup>th</sup> June** and **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer can be contacted by email:  
Email: [clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk)

## Open days in the wild west



On the first two weekends in June is when the annual North Yorkshire Open Studios event takes place. Ten artists from the wild west reaches of the North Yorkshire Dales will be amongst over two hundred others opening their doors to the public. The opening hours will be 10am to 5pm.

Almost out on the county boundary at **Jack Beck, Keasden**, are Norma Stephenson, showing her pastel and acrylic landscapes of the local scenery, and Sue Fletcher with her stylised, hand crafted, animal models. Close by at the **Reginald Farrer Rooms in Clapham** you will find unique silver jewellery hand-made by Christine Horsewill alongside landscapes and still-life paintings by Annie Farrer.

A short distance to the north at The Knoll, in Horton in Ribblesdale, you will find Penny Hunt's landscape work and Hester Cox's wildlife prints.

Finally, in Settle and Giggleswick, there are four artists to visit. Frank Gordan, landscape artist, at Haymeads in Giggleswick. Also, in Giggleswick, at Rakein Studios, Sandrigg Laithe, Kairen Bradley will show her collection of vibrant abstract art and at Bracken Rigg - Elaine Newington Ward, a multi-media artist showing a diverse and eclectic collection of work. The last artist in the heart of Settle - Emily Knight-Moran explores silversmithing techniques at The Studio Vault in the Town Hall.

For further details visit the website of the North Yorkshire Open Studios [www.nyos.org.uk](http://www.nyos.org.uk) or pick up a comprehensive brochure from the first studio you visit.

*North Yorkshire Open Studios*

## Clapham Lecture Group

The group held its AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Items discussed included the upcoming Autumn Lecture series, which is now planned to run on Tuesday evenings from 8<sup>th</sup> September through to 17<sup>th</sup> November, with a half term break at the mid-point.

We had some suggestions for speakers or topics the group would be interested to hear about, so the planning will start soon, and we will be publishing the programme in the next issue of this newsletter.

Fees will remain unchanged at £40 subscription for the full series or £6 for individual lectures paid on the door. We also discussed our proposed field trip to the Tan Hill Inn which will be on one of the Tuesdays in August – the group will be canvassed by email to select which is the preferred date.

The formal AGM business was followed by a short talk entitled "Heraldry – An Introduction".

*Andy Scott*



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## SETTLE ORCHESTRA

### The French Connection

**Debussy (arr. Ravel)**  
 Sarabande

**Ravel**  
 Pavane

**Mozart**  
 Paris Symphony

**Poulenc**  
 Sinfonietta

Conductor - Andre Chan

Leader - Anne Heaton



Sat 20th June, 3.30pm  
 Christ Church, Skipton

Sat 27th June, 3.30pm  
 Settle Parish Church

Tickets £15; Students and benefits claimants £7.50; 18 and under Free  
 Essential carers of the disabled: Free  
 See our website for details of free tickets through our 'Buy One Donate One' scheme

From: Forage and Feast, Settle:  
 via [www.settleorchestra.org.uk](http://www.settleorchestra.org.uk); from orchestra members:  
 or on the door. Cash or card payment.



Reg. Charity 1025554

Clapham Community Shop Ltd

## Annual General Meeting

plus

Talk on local cheeses by  
Andy Swinscoe from  
The Courtyard Dairy

**Tuesday 7 July in the Village Hall**

All are welcome whether or not you are shareholders

Refreshments will be available from 6pm

(Wine/soft drinks plus samples of local cheeses  
from The Courtyard Dairy)

Andy's talk will start at 6.15pm

with the AGM following on at about 6.45pm

The AGM agenda will include elections to the  
Management Committee. If you are interested in joining,  
then contact CVS Secretary at cvs@gmail.com or  
speak to Helen in the shop

## Keasden Summer dates

### Beer & Hymns

For people who love drinking beer  
(or wine or juice etc)  
& singing hymns

at St. Matthew's Church  
7pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June

### Walk & BBQ

By kind invitation of our friends  
at Keasden Head Farm  
6.30pm onwards  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August

### Summer Walk

Save the date  
More details to follow  
4pm Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August



We are a friendly bunch in Keasden and our summer events  
are a good opportunity to meet up and socialise!

All are very welcome to join with us at these events  
organised by St. Matthew's Church, Keasden.

Further details will be on the Keasden Community  
Facebook page or contact me for more info.

*Angela Peach*

*Email: angela.peach@e-l-c.co.uk*

## Settle Orchestra - new leader

Settle Orchestra has announced an exciting opportunity for  
an accomplished violinist to take on the role of Orchestra  
Leader from September 2027, as the current postholder  
prepares to step down after many years of dedicated service.

With a proud history spanning nearly 60 years, Settle  
Orchestra is a cornerstone of the local cultural scene.

The position of Leader plays a pivotal role in the artistic  
life of the orchestra. Working closely with an annually  
appointed conductor from the Royal Northern College of  
Music, the new leader will help shape each season's repertoire,  
lead the string section, and support the musical development  
of the ensemble.

One of the distinctive aspects of Settle Orchestra's model  
is its collaboration with emerging conductors from the  
Royal Northern College of Music, bringing fresh perspectives  
and energy to each season.

Looking ahead, the orchestra is committed to broadening  
its artistic horizons through future collaborations that  
celebrate music as a bridge between cultures, connecting  
communities and enriching shared musical experiences.

The orchestra rehearses weekly in Settle, with concerts  
held in November, March and June in Settle and Skipton.  
The position is paid, with fees dependent on experience.

Application deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026, with shortlisted  
candidates invited to interview and audition in January 2027.  
For further details and to apply, candidates should visit  
<https://www.settleorchestra.org.uk/vacancies> and send a CV  
and covering letter to:

Charlie Dobson (Chair) charles\_snaygill@yahoo.co.uk

*Jill Gates*

**Come join us for our new community group  
initiative....**

## COFFEE & CHAT

And company and conversation and,  
of course, cakes!



**All welcome! Just drop in if you fancy it!**

**Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month,  
from 10.30am, at Paul Pedals**

# Music for a Summer's Evening



Guest Concert Organist  
and classical accordionist  
**Benjamin Saunders**

Director of Music, Diocese of Leeds  
Board of Directors, Leeds College of Music  
Visiting Professor of Music,  
University of Notre Dame, Indiana

St. James' Church, Clapham  
Saturday 13th June  
at 7.30pm

There will be a bar for refreshments.  
Tickets £10 (accompanied children free)  
available from:

- Clapham Village Store
- Sue Mann 015242 51792
- and at the door



"Revolutionary work... the mixture of adventurism  
and self-discipline brings dividends... that's why they call him  
a breath of fresh air." Joe Riley, Organists Review

Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall  
Centenary Celebrations

# MIDSUMMER CEILIDH

with hog roast!



**Batty Moss Ceilidh Band**

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June, from 7pm

Tickets £17.50 (under 16s £10)

Available from Clapham Village Store  
(cash only please)

**BAR**

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## Village hall news

We are almost halfway through the year, and it has been a busy one for the village hall, with several events already taking place as part of our centenary celebrations.

We have recently welcomed the return of The Scrimshankers, who gave us a rousing evening of sea shanties, enjoyed by all. Our next event on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June – the Midsummer Ceilidh and Hog Roast (see the adjacent notice) - will be another fun night with music to dance to from The Batty Moss Ceilidh Band. In addition, we have hired caterers to provide a hog roast for the evening of this special midsummer occasion.

Looking ahead to July, we have had to postpone the children's event, but this will now take place in the autumn. More details later! With one more exception, the other events taking place this year are still on schedule. The event that will need to be tweaked is the date for the Open Mike Evening with Kevin McSherry. Again, more details later.

On the administrative side, the hall's AGM will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and of course, everyone will be welcome. However, I can let you know that Anne Lawler, who has been our treasurer since 2019 has indicated that she can no longer continue in the role, so we are now very keen to attract a replacement. Anne will be happy to shadow whoever takes over to ensure a smooth transition. If anyone would be interested or would like to find out more, please contact one of the hall's officers via the email below or contact Anne directly (Anne Lawler, 07990 633465, a.lawler@sky.com).

Finally, one of our upcoming centenary events is our 1920s-themed Murder Mystery Evening in October. If you are coming to this, now is the time to start thinking about what you are planning to wear. Time to raid those charity shops perhaps?

Angie Martin

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

Web: [claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk](http://claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk)

## Village hall regular events

### Indoor Bowls

Mondays 1.30pm to 4pm (restarts in October)  
David & Jackie Kingsley  
07711 730819  
[jackieanddavid@yahoo.com](mailto:jackieanddavid@yahoo.com)

### Clapham & Austwick Guides & Brownies

Mondays 6pm to 7pm (term time only)  
Jill Crowson  
01729 860595  
[claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com](mailto:claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com)

### Age UK

Wednesdays 10.30am (1<sup>st</sup> Wed of month)  
Judith Holt  
015242 51817  
[jmh061@btinternet.com](mailto:jmh061@btinternet.com)

### Clapham DEW Drop-In

Digital Equipment Workshop PC support group  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays (Mar, May, Sept, Nov) at 7pm  
Andy Scott  
015242 51749  
[claphamdewdropin@gmail.com](mailto:claphamdewdropin@gmail.com)

### Clapham cum Newby Parish Council

Usually, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month at 7.30pm  
Parish Clerk  
[clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk)

### Tai Chi

Thursdays 9am to 10.30am  
Tony Bennet  
[taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk)

### Reconnect to Nature

Selected Thursdays 7pm  
\*\* Booking essential \*\*  
Rosie Johnson  
[healingpathofthedragonfly@gmail.com](mailto:healingpathofthedragonfly@gmail.com)

### Board Games Group

Fortnightly on Fridays 2pm - 5pm,  
see Hall website calendar or  
call Jackie Kingsley  
07711 730819  
[jackieanddavid@yahoo.com](mailto:jackieanddavid@yahoo.com)

### Cuban Salsa Dancing

Fridays 7pm  
Anne Lawler  
07990 633465  
[a.lawler@sky.com](mailto: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](http://claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk)

<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 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><b>Watch this space!</b></p> <p>(Joint Event with St. James' Church)</p>
<p><b>Sat 12<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p><b>CENTENARY PARTY</b></p> <p>Further details nearer the time</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>

## Life on the Ingleborough Estate

Since moving to Clapham last year with my husband, Andrew, and our daughters, Rosie (5) and Amelia (2), we have enjoyed getting to know so many new people and joining such a great community. Most of you know my parents, Philip and Maria, who continue to support the stewardship of the estate and are involved with a number of local voluntary groups. Nowadays, they can often be seen around the village trailing an ever-growing number of grandchildren.

Over the last couple of years, I've started to become increasingly involved with the Estate. It has been a steep learning curve; attempting to get to grips with farming, land management, local planning and running a visitor business. Rarely is anything straightforward (even when it really should be!), and at times it can feel like navigating a maze of acronyms and shifting government policies. But it has given me a strong sense of purpose and a real appreciation for the place in which we live.

Stewardship involves trying to take a balanced, long-term approach - supporting the local community, caring for the landscape, and ensuring the estate remains viable, relevant, and true to its values. We may not always get things right, but we remain open to hearing different perspectives, and the bottom line is that we care.

### Coming to the village soon...chocolate!

Earlier this year, we said goodbye to the Badger in the Wall gallery and thanked them for their contribution to the village. The barn will reopen as a boutique Belgian chocolate manufacturer and retail space, including the opportunity for tastings. Chocolate feels like a fairly safe addition to village life and should sit well alongside the very popular Paul Pedals - the bikes, perhaps, providing a useful counterbalance!

### Woodland and conservation

Following last year's tree surveys, unsafe and diseased trees have been removed where necessary for safety reasons. Some areas may look a little bare at present, but this work is part of a longer-term plan to create healthier woodland for the future. Many thousands of replacement trees have already been planted, thanks in part to support from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

Wildlife conservation is important to many of us, and we support a number of projects alongside the RSPB and other organisations. Many of you will have heard the call of the curlew returning this spring, and we keep our fingers crossed for a successful breeding season. Hen harriers have also been spotted locally. Red squirrels remain elusive, but the trusty squirrel cams suggest they are, at least, aware of us and us of them.

### Homes in the village

Most estate homes remain fully occupied, and demand for long-term rental cottages in Clapham continues to be strong. It's encouraging to see the village thriving with a good generational mix.

### Supporting local causes

Through the Farrer Family Trust, support has been given to a range of local organisations over the past year, including the Village Hall, Austwick School, Brownies and Guides, Clapham Church, and charities such as the Cave Rescue Organisation and the Ribble Rivers Trust.

We also support organisations relevant to Clapham, such as Yorkshire Air Ambulance and St John's Hospice.

If anyone is involved in a local project or fundraising effort, please do get in touch. We will always try to support where we can.

### Enhancing our visitor experience

Clapham has much to offer visitors. At The Old Sawmill Café,

Ingleborough Cave and on the Nature Trail, the focus has been on steady improvement, including simplifying ticketing and annual passes through the introduction of online booking.

At the cave, improvements have been made to the shop and visitor facilities. A stalactite in Pillar Hall, missing since the 1950s, is in the process of being expertly reinstated (if anyone comes across the original, please let us know!) and the Mimpish Squimbie trail continues to provide a happy focus for younger families.

We are beginning to build more educational elements on the trail, including a rhododendron conservation project in partnership with Plant Heritage.

The café remains a welcoming space for both visitors and locals, including a weekly co-working morning on

Tuesdays. Upstairs, the Reginald Farrer Room provides a great space for meetings and events and is now equipped with full audio-visual capability.

You may also have noticed the rebuilding of the old log store behind the Sawmill. It had become critically unsafe and has now been rebuilt to modern building specifications using, as far as possible, the original materials.

We are mindful of the various impacts of visitor activity in the village and try to grow in a way that works for the community as well as the estate. Our friendly visitors sustain many aspects of village life, including the shop, and we continue to welcome them and share the beauty and hospitality of the place in which we live.

*Beatrice Farrer*

