



Number 162, August 2026

'Fete' Accompli ...

The build up to the Parish Fete every year is always a bit nerve racking, largely because of the things you can't control – notably the weather. This year was no different. After weeks of hot, sunny weather and concerns as to whether there would be enough water in the beck to have the Duck Race what did we get? A day which was both wet and windy to the extent that the gazebo being used for face painting blew away and was 'fatally injured'.

Were we downhearted? Of course not! Everything went ahead pretty much as planned. People were not put off by the weather but gathered to catch up and have a chat –

perhaps with a greater emphasis on inside than outside. They enjoyed the traditional activities old (yes, the Duck Race was a success) and new (Quality Cast Offs), supported the stalls and generally had a good time.

Many thanks to all who supported the event in any way – either through running stalls and activities or by coming along and taking part showing the best of our lovely community.

So, it was 'Fete Accompli' or, as we would say round here, 'Job Done.'

Sue Mann



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THE COURTYARD DAIRY

Welcome to the August newsletter

Welcome to your August newsletter which is packed with local news and articles to interest you.

Thanks to our many contributors for providing such varied content and our thanks to all our advertisers.

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

The Newsletter Committee

Issue dates:

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

Next issue: **October 2026.**

Deadline: **Sunday 20th September 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 sent as separate attachments.

Contact Andy: 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.

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Deadline: Sunday 20th September

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If you can help us with distribution please get in touch.

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



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Parish Fete continued



A selection of photographs taken by Fleur Hudson

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In memory of Darren North

Amanda: As Darren would say “Oh no, Doris is going to tell a story - pull up a sandbag and swing a lamp” so here goes. I met Darren on 24th December 1993, in The Empress Pub in Bradford. He had only recently come back from Bosnia. He was such a handsome man, a smooth talker and easy to chat to, even though I was only a young and shy 18-year-old girl. We hit it off straight away and we went on our first real date on Christmas Day. I met a few of his army friends and then half of his family in his mum’s pub. That was some Christmas! We didn’t go home for five days, then only then for change of clothes for the New Year. That was some ending to 1993!

Our story continues as nine months later our first daughter, Amy, was born. Then Jade and Layla came to live with us, closely followed by Courtney, then Ella. Life was great and Darren came out of the army in 1996 after being medically discharged.

We moved to the east coast for 10 years to a little hamlet called Fitling where we got married in 2002. It was such a perfect day. In 2004 I started university as a paediatric nurse and Darren was behind me 100%. He was the local gamekeeper for four years and supporting our girls, whilst I was on placement. He put up with many tears, because I thought I couldn’t do it, but he believed in me and I graduated in 2007. He was so proud of me that day he even smiled a few times. Back in 1994 we had been on a walk together to the Yorkshire Dales and he promised that we would return sometime. Well, we did just that in 2010 when we moved to Clapham, and we love it here. In 2015 Darren had an email from a girl querying whether Darren was her dad. Anyhow DNA proved she was, so we met up and we both instantly knew she would be one of our girls.

Darren always was a grafter, and we opened our own log business and tree services. He worked hard and always provided us with love, kindness, and honesty. Sometimes it could be brutal though: “don’t think you’re going out in that!” he’d say to one of the girls and they knew they would have to change before they went out. He would always use army terms like “I was a dirty deviant, and I know what lads are after. Well not with one of my girls!” He taught us how to be strong, independent, caring and loving. We love our girls so much, but I know they loved their dad more: all six are “daddy’s girls”. He was such a good husband. We could sit for hours on our own when the girls weren’t home and chat about anything or everything. That is how I feel like I know all his army brothers as, even though I haven’t met some of them, I have heard all their names over the last thirty-two years.

Don’t get me wrong, life wasn’t always perfect and we had some very tough times, but we had each other and got through it together. Now he’s gone and left such a massive hole in my heart, but I have our six beautiful daughters around me and four grandsons and four granddaughters so we will face it together like we always do. He just loved us all so much. Goodnight, babe, till we meet again.

Amy: You might be wondering why all six of dad’s daughters are carrying him today. In his words “I didn’t have six daughters to have a 5 a side football team with a sub, I had 6 daughters to carry me, like I’ve done all your lives”, Well dad, you got your wish. Your girls have carried you today to the arms of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I don’t know where to start, I really don’t. To say you loved your wife, daughters and grandchildren is the understatement of the century. You didn’t just love us, we were your whole world, we are what you lived for. Everything you did was for us, your advice was second to none. You had the sort of bond with your daughters that other men are envious of.

You and mum have six beautiful daughters and eight beautiful grandchildren together. I remember you telling me once that “no one is like your mum; she’s one in a million. I don’t know anyone who would take three children under their wing and love them and nurture them like her own”. Our Mum did just

that and we are so grateful to you for giving us so many sisters to rely on.

If I went through every memory of us, we would be here until I’m old and grey because there is so much to say about you. Growing up you were strict with us and ‘kept us on a tight leash’ and though, at the time, none of us understood, as we have got older and started to have children of our own, we now know why you were so strict with us. The world can be a scary place. Every time we got in our cars to drive, you would tell us to drive carefully, and we would get defensive, and your reply was always the same: “It’s not you I don’t trust, its other people.”

Only a few of the people here today got to see the real you. You had this ‘hard faced’ persona and nothing and no one was going to hurt your wife, your girls, or your grandchildren. But to us, you were a cuddly teddy bear, you were a sassy diva, had the sickest sense of humour and you could give fashion advice like Gok Wan. I don’t know what we’re going to do now because Mum’s fashion advice is terrible.

If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever.

Amanda North and Amy North-Parkinson



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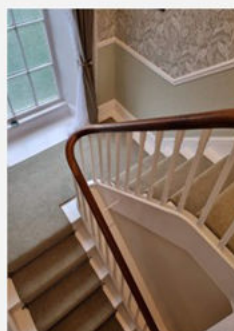
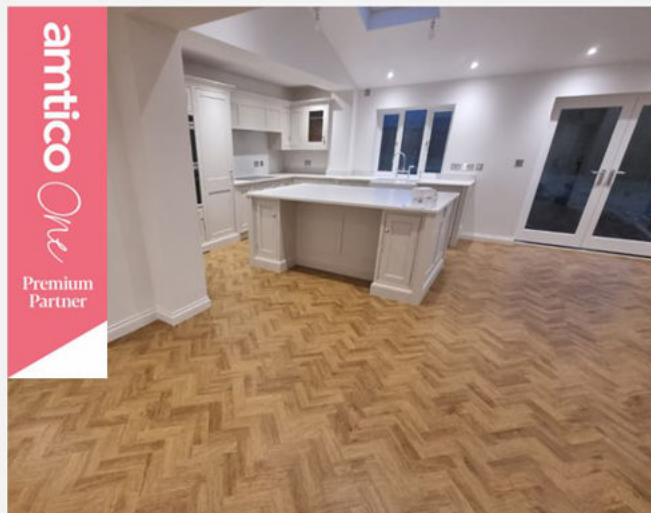
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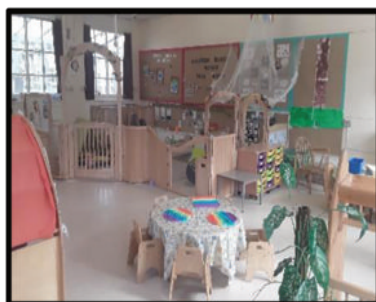
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Church News

John's Notes: Craven Faults



Lately I've been listening to Craven Faults. By Craven Faults I don't mean the major fractures in the earth's crust across the Pennines. I mean Craven Faults, an enigmatic musician about whom, besides his music, little is known. "I've got friends who I've never told about this music," he once told a journalist to whom he'd granted a rare interview. Despite - or possibly because of - this elusiveness, Craven Faults' music is well-received. He has released a series of EPs and three double-length LPs since 2017, in a form of instrumental music described by his record company (The Horsforth-based Leaf Label) as summoning 'half-remembered journeys across post-industrial Yorkshire'. 2026's *Sidings* LP - 'loosely based on the journeys of freight traffic on the Settle-Carlisle line linking gypsum and limestone quarries to the national rail network over 150 years' - peaked at number 15 in the UK album LP sales chart, and 4 in the downloads chart in February 2026.

The titles of his music tracks will resonate with residents of Craven and rural West Yorkshire. Some reference specific sites: *Netherfield Works*, *Springhead Works*, *Lowfold Works*; some natural landscape features as in the 2020 album *Erratics & Unconformities*; others, man-made features such as *Enclosures* and *Bounds*. The epic *May Birching* (76 minutes long and accessible on YouTube and Bandcamp) 'is named for the Northern tradition of secretly fixing greenery to people's houses between sunset and dawn on May Day to indicate their character (e.g., sprigs of briar, holly and plum stood for liar, folly and glum)'.

Even if you're not sure whether lengthy pieces of brooding electronic music are your thing, but you are interested in the human geographies and natural histories of 'place' - and *this* place, 'our' place, in particular - then I'd say that Craven Faults is worth investigating.

It's not just the music, with Craven Faults. Each record sleeve is impeccably designed, featuring monochrome landscape scenes on their covers, images of abandoned mines, dry stone walls, former mills, and tumbledown barns. 'I am looking for shapes in the landscape,' he says. 'Removing the colour helps. It removes the obvious beauty of a spectacular view and leaves something slightly different. I try to avoid making them dramatic. I'm trying to make the subjects look as natural as possible.'

In an essay on Craven Faults in *Northern Earth* (Issue 184, Summer 2006) Phil Hubbard expands on this: 'There are no scenes of tourists thronging chocolate-box perfect villages here, nor any *Grand Designs* conversions suggestive of the type of rural gentrification that has beset rural Yorkshire since the Covid-19 lockdown encouraged working from home. This is a search for the layers beneath, repressed histories of place and identity which are there just below the surface if one looks - and *listens*.'

Craven Faults' musical meditations derive from his keen observed eye for detail in these upland Northern landscapes, its old broken gate posts, its clapper bridges over beck, its abandoned cow houses. One inspiration is Arthur Raistrick, whose 1972 book *Industrial Archaeology* started Craven Faults 'off on this journey' when he purchased it from a

junk shop. As Hubbard reports, 'Raistrick was a Yorkshire polymath best known as a pioneer in English Landscape Studies, producing over 300 books, pamphlets, and articles, mainly on the landscapes of the North of England. But unlike W.G. Hoskins, who argued little of any beauty was created after the 18th century, Raistrick argued the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales - dry stone walls, vernacular buildings, and packhorse ways - was entirely the product of the industrial era.'

Thought to have been a member of a successful group who toured America and Europe in the late 1980s, the journey which led him to become Craven Faults began with a leisurely ramble around the tiny village of Hebden, halfway between Grassington and Appletreewick. 'I could see a chimney in the distance,' he recalls. 'The remains of Yarnbury lead mine. All the spoil heaps are grassed over now, but the ground is still rough. There used to be 5,000 people living in that valley, but now they've all gone. It was a town, and now it's not. And I found that really interesting - the way urban places can become rural places.'

To appreciate the layers and details of landscape as sculpted by human activity over many centuries requires the same sort of deep listening which Craven Faults' lengthy meditative music invites. For him, the key seems to be about making art which helps the artist and their audience to take a long view of time. He told Phil Hubbard, '*Idols and Altars* (a track on his *Standers* LP) makes me think of pre-Christian religion or something like that. It's to do with carved rocks and things on Ilkley Moor. And the track itself is quite slow, and it's got a melody which is spacious, like you hear music in church. I don't go to church. Never have. But sometimes when you hear like a church organ, there's something about the physical space of the sound. That is, there's a slowness to it.'

Revd John Davies

01524 805928, john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

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

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

Craven Faults: cravenfaults.com

Northern Earth: northernearth.co.uk

See also Bob Fischer, 'Craven Faults: Faulty Towers' in *Electronic Sound*, July 13, 2023

Anglican Services led by Revd John Davies

August

- 2 Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church
- 9 Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden; 12.30 Austwick Baptism of Edith Margaret Huck
- 16 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer
- 23 Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 3.30 Keasden Summer Walk
- 30 Benefice Communion: 10.30 Keasden; 7.00 Keasden Harvest-time Beer & Hymns (Pub in the Church)

September

- 6 Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church
- 13 Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden
- 20 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 1.00 Eldroth Baptisms of Stanley Robert & Finley Edward John Harrison 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer
- 24 Keasden Marriage of Leah Duncan & Samuel Antony Mitton
- 27 10.30 Clapham: Benefice Communion with the Bishop of Ripon Rt Revd Anna Eltringham: a Harvest of Creativity; 7.00 Keasden Harvest Festival

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Church News *continued*

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Sunday services at 11am & 6.30pm

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

Clapham Tots Summer Specials - 7th & 21st August: 10am - 12 noon

Coffee, Cake, Chat, Jigsaws & Foodbank drop off - 15th August & 19th September at 10.30am

Sportsreach at Austwick Playing Field - 26th to 30th August
Contact Emily Wilson - 07975 862148 for details

Thursday Friends & Lunch (with guest speaker) - 3rd September at 12.30pm

Treasure Hunt & BBQ - 4th September at 6/6.30pm

Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend with Mr John Fox
- Harvest Supper Friday 25th September at 7.30pm
Sunday services 27th September at 11am & 6.30pm

Weekday meetings will resume in September.

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

More details on our Facebook page or visit our website:
www.bethelchapelclapham.org

Catholic Church - Our Lady and St Boniface St. Boniface, Robin Lane, Bentham, LA2 7AB

Usual mass times:

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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

Website: www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

Our usual services take place on:

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

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

For further information contact:

Revd Tim Broughton, Tel: 01729 554006 or

Email: tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk

Religious Society of Friends - Quakers

Worship in the manner of Friends:

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>

Keasden Summer dates



Walk & BBQ

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



Summer Walk

Save the date
Get in touch for more info
3.30pm Sunday 23rd August



Beer & Hymns again!

For people who love drinking beer
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& singing hymns - particularly
Harvest Hymns
at St. Matthew's Church
7pm Sunday 30th 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

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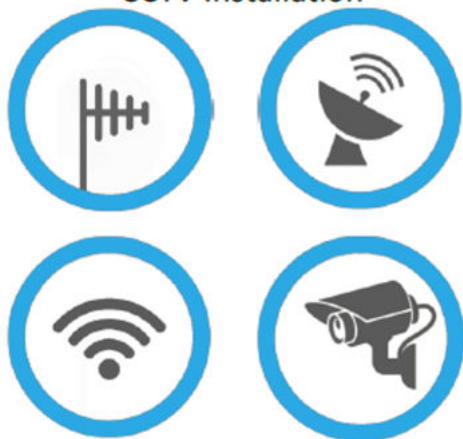
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Nature Notes

'We lay on our backs and just stared at the empty sky... Nothing moved or happened, nothing happened at all, except summer. Small heated winds blew over our faces, dandelion seeds floated by, burnt sap and roasted nettles tingled our nostrils together with the dull rust smell of dry ground.' Laurie Lee, from *Cider with Rosie*.

We are never told the specific years described in Laurie Lee's much-loved story of his feral childhood in the Slad valley in rural Gloucestershire but, as he was born in 1914, we know the setting is sometime in the nineteen twenties. It seems reasonable to guess then, that the prolonged spells of hot, dry weather he remembers here are the heatwaves of late June and early July 1923.

If the Slad valley was uncomfortably warm, life in post-war London must have been scarcely bearable. Ice was in short supply and the price of fruit and salad had 'risen beyond reason.' According to the *London Column* in the Hull Daily Mail, the elevated temperatures had brought about a collapse in standards of dress even among the most fashion-conscious:

'The heat wave continues to keep London in its fiery grip. It absolutely dominates the daily life of our seven million population, whose habits are rapidly approximating to those much nearer the Equator: Hyde Park ladies fashionably attired may now be seen sitting under sunshades beneath the shadiest trees in their stockinged feet. Their shoes rest beside them on the parched grass.'

While 1923 and its badly behaved young ladies now sit outside the range of living memory, the record-breaking weather of the last two months may well have led some of us to cast our minds back to 1976 – at the time, the driest year since the Second World War with the longest heatwave on record. The most vivid recollection I have of that sweltering summer is of my friend and I being caught up in a swarm of bees as we walked back from a day watching tennis at Wimbledon. (Not just watching, we'd been operating the scoreboard on Centre Court as Bjorn Borg beat the Australian, Colin Dibley, on his way to his first championship – but that's another story). Almost without warning, we found ourselves in the middle of a seething maelstrom of noisy insects. At first, we had no idea what was happening, but when we realised that they were thousands of swarming honeybees, our first thought was to run. Fortunately, we decided to stand as still as we could for what seemed like several minutes – actually, just a few seconds – and neither of us were stung.

Although I had no idea at the time, I now know that before they swarm, bees gorge on honey to fuel their search for a new home; well-fed and intent on their mission they tend to ignore any hapless humans daft enough to get in their way.

Honeybees swarm instinctively for several reasons but primarily for reproduction. The natural swarming season is between May and July when nectar and pollen are plentiful:

in the right conditions, the hive will grow to its full capacity, and the queen will set off with around 70% of her retinue – perhaps 45,000 bees – to establish a new colony. Those left behind will nurture a new queen and work to rebuild the original population.

It is thought that prolonged spells of extreme heat, such as those we experienced in 1976 and again in June and July of this year, can also trigger the instinctive swarming response. If the bees are unable to regulate the temperature

in the hive, they think that the heat is the result of overcrowding and see it as a signal to split the colony and swarm.

It goes without saying that bees are far from the only creatures affected by unusually hot weather. Nestlings and recently fledged birds are particularly vulnerable if they can't find shade, and even adult birds can struggle. I wonder how many of you saw Blackbirds behaving strangely in your gardens in last month's heat wave? Rather than moving to an area of cool shade, they will sometimes fluff up their feathers, spread their wings,

and sit panting on the lawn with their beaks wide open. It looks as if they are distressed but this *sunbathing* habit is their way of using the sun's heat to dislodge parasites and condition their feathers, in much the same way as they sometimes employ ants to perform the same service.

(Disclaimer: *I'm writing this in July, and the temperature is around 28 degrees. I apologise if, by the time you read this, normal service has resumed and you're 'enjoying' our more typical August dampness!)*

As ever, if you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, please 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.

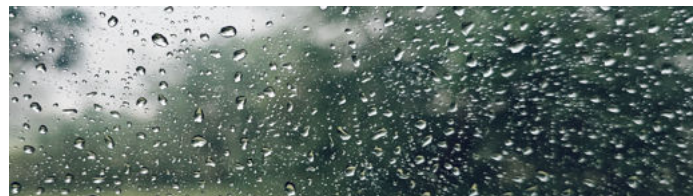
I also post news of recent local sightings here: [@bcriverside28.bsky.social](https://www.facebook.com/bcriverside28.bsky.social)

Brian Christian
Email: bc.riverside28@gmail.com



Grey Wagtail nestlings enjoying the shade of their nest site in a recess in the A65 underpass wall. Photo: Brian Christian

Keasden rainfall report



	2025	2026
May	3.38" or 8.6cm	3.86" or 9.8cm
June	4.88" or 12.4cm	7" or 17.8cm

Clapham Lecture Group

Discover, Learn and Connect with the Lecture Group

Looking for something different to do on an autumn evening?

Join us for another inspiring programme of illustrated talks starting this September on Tuesdays at 7pm in the Village Hall. Our upcoming season brings together a fascinating range of speakers and subjects, offering something for everyone - from local history and culture to science, art, literature and beyond.

Whether you are a long-standing member or joining us for the first time, our lectures provide a welcoming opportunity to learn something new, meet others in the community and enjoy an evening of thought-provoking conversation and entertainment.

Come along and be part of a friendly and established village community group - we look forward to welcoming you to our next programme. You can either subscribe to the whole series of talks for a discounted price or just attend up to three particular sessions that you are interested in and pay on the night. Refreshments are included in the price.

We also follow up each season with a field trip, and this August we will be visiting the Tan Hill Inn in the remote northern dales, having enjoyed a talk last year by its one-time proprietor and author, Neil Hanson.

If you would like more information or to register interest, then please email me at the address below.

Angie Martin
claphamlecturegroup@gmail.com

Clapham Lecture Group

2026 AUTUMN SERIES PROGRAMME

Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall, Tuesday Evenings

Sep 8 th	Capt. Julian Blatchley	Steam Yacht Gondola <i>The survival of the excellence and innovation of the Victorian Age</i>
Sep 15 th	Martin Lunn	The History of Weather Forecasting
Sep 22 nd	Colin Penny	A Georgian Scandal <i>The Trial of Edward Gibbon Wakefield</i>
Sep 29 th	Dr. John Helm	Lead Mining <i>In the Southern Dales, Grassington Moor and Upper Wharfedale: Preserving its Industrial Heritage</i>
Oct 6 th	Ann-Marie Michel	Thefts Fakes and Forgeries <i>The Greatest Art Crimes</i>
Oct 13 th	HALF TERM	
Oct 20 th	Bob Seeley	Not a Lunar Lander <i>Antibiotic resistance and the possible exploration of the use of bacteriophages</i>
Oct 27 th	Alison Marshall	Journeys of Hope <i>The Letters of Meyer and Sonia</i>
Nov 3 rd	Peter Lewis	Its Not Just About Vampyres <i>The Literary Connections of Yorkshire Abbeys</i>
Nov 10 th	Dr. Jed Atkinson	Stuck in the Mud <i>The Early Jurassic Rocks and Fossils of the Yorkshire Coast</i>
Nov 17 th	Rowena Lee	Upstairs, Downstairs <i>A life of service in modern stately homes</i>
Nov 24 th	Watch this space!	

All lectures start at 7pm prompt and include refreshments.

Lecture fees: Full series £40, individual lectures (max of 3) £6 each.

News from Cave Rescue



On 17th May 2026, the Cave Rescue Organisation (CRO) Ingleborough Challenge once again brought walkers and runners from far and wide together in a show of spirit, determination, and support for the cave rescue volunteers.

The event offers two routes; a marathon or a 12 mile trail using footpaths seldom used by visitors but which are some of the prettier paths in the area. In total, participants generated over £11,250, with the majority coming through personal sponsorship, a testament to how strongly people value the team's work.

At its heart, the Challenge is more than a fundraising event. It reflects the deep connection between CRO and the people it serves. As a volunteer rescue team, CRO relies on the goodwill, backing, and involvement of local residents, outdoor enthusiasts, and visitors. Their presence at village events, safety talks, and community gatherings reinforces that they are not just an emergency service but an integral part of the wider Dales family.

The CRO Ingleborough Challenge showcases that relationship in action: neighbours supporting neighbours, walkers and runners supporting the rescue team, and everyone contributing to the safety of those who explore the hills and caves.

Some take part to honour the volunteers (a number of entrants have been people we've rescued), while others simply wanted to enjoy a day on the fells with purpose. Whatever their motivation, the collective achievement was clear; a successful event, a strong community, and vital funds raised to keep the team operational.

Julian Leader

Austwick School wildflower walk



A group of Year 5 children from Austwick School recently took an afternoon walk through Austwick to look at the wildflowers along the way.

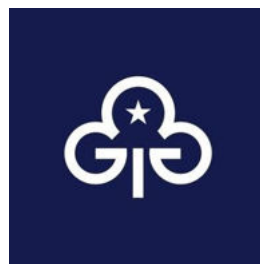
Led by Graham Cleverly, headteacher Beth McHardy and Revd John Davies, the walk ended in Austwick Cemetery, a 'living churchyard' which features a wildflower meadow created in an area which will not be used for burials for many years yet, and in the meantime is here for the enjoyment of the human visitors, and the encouragement and support of the non-human visitors to that place.

The meadow was in full bloom and the children enjoyed discovering and identifying many wildflowers, including the following, all found in the cemetery hay meadow: Ox-eye daisy, betony, musk mallow, fox and cubs, meadow buttercup, selfheal, ribwort plantain, red clover, rough hawksbit, common knapweed, meadow cranesbill, yellow rattle, bird's foot trefoil, common spotted orchid, and ragged robin.

Austwick School children will soon be working with Graham on a project to create a wildflower bed in the school grounds.

Revd John Davies

Clapham & Austwick Brownies & Guides have been busy!



What one of our Guides said:

Clapham and Austwick Guides is a great place to build confidence and challenge yourself.

We blend traditional outdoor activities like fire building, navigating and outdoor cooking with teamwork and friendships to push us out of our comfort zones.

The litter campaign had many amazing opportunities such as working with Settle Stories on a video, making posters to spread the word and painting flowerpots for the Settle Flowerpot Festival.

Beyond these projects, our meetings are full of games, badge work and skill building sessions along with fun and laughter.

Nala Brearley

It has been an action-packed term for the Clapham and Austwick Brownies and Guides!

Our girls have been working hard, celebrating big achievements, and making a real difference in our community.

Here is a look at what we've been up to:

Protecting Our Peaks

We officially launched our **#ProtectThePeaks** campaign to parents and supporters with a grand premiere of two brilliant campaign videos, created with the fantastic support of Settle Stories.

You can watch them right now on our brand-new YouTube channel: **Clapham Austwick Brownies Guides**. Please take a look, like, and subscribe!

To get our message out into the wild, we have printed 150 outdoor signs. We are looking for local businesses and supporters to "adopt a sign" by finding a safe, suitable place to display it and keeping an eye on it. We also have "Join our Pledge" posters ready.

If you can support us by displaying a poster in your window or business, please get in touch - we would love to hear from you!

A Golden Term of Awards

We had a wonderful evening handing out badges and awards, including two very special Gold Awards - one for a Brownie, and our first-ever Guide Gold Award!

Both girls have worked incredibly hard and are a true credit to themselves and our unit.

Baking up a Storm for Charity

Our amazing girls also hosted a highly successful charity tea party for Yorkshire Cancer Care in June in Clapham Village hall.

The girls spent the morning baking delicious treats from scratch, then spent the afternoon serving tea and cake to about seventy guests.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised a fantastic £430 for the charity!

Generous Community Support

We would like to send a huge thank you to **The Old Manor House** in Clapham for their incredibly generous donation. This kind support will go directly toward funding trips for the girls, including our highly anticipated overnight trip!

We have had such a fantastic term, and we want to thank all the parents, businesses, and community members who help make our adventures possible.

Jill Crowson & Katie Hawkins
Leaders

1st Clapham & Austwick Brownies & Guides

Playpark news



Firstly, we had a lovely evening in early June with YDMT's Wild Little Spaces Project team. Thank you to everyone who came along to share ideas on how we can reimagine the park, renew the equipment and create an even better space for the whole community. Secondly, we're looking for two new volunteers to join the Clapham Park Association committee. We're a friendly

bunch who meet just 3 or 4 times a year (cake and wine included!). Everything else happens on Whats App.



Maintenance Coordinator: Help coordinate park maintenance, organise the odd community maintenance day and keep an eye on repairs.

Fundraising Coordinator: Help identify grant opportunities, organise fundraising events and build links with local businesses and supporters. Experienced fundraisers, or those simply full of enthusiasm, are equally welcome!

The park is entirely volunteer-run, and every contribution helps create a fantastic space for local children, families, and visitors.

If you'd like an informal chat, please speak to Jeni or Tim Lane, Nell Whitley or Beatrice Farrer, or email claphamparkassociation@outlook.com

Nell Whitley

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Steam update

The summer steam excursion programme is now well underway – but the early season was somewhat lacking in the glorious sunshine and magnificent views that make such trips so memorable.

We've seen a small number of steamers running through the station, to pick up their charges at York or Hellifield, and we've had one revenue-earning service through with a Carnforth to Scarborough excursion. For many of these, the rostered engine was 34067 Tangmere.

For a while now, Carnforth-based West Coast Railways has had to comply with the requirements that all mainline passenger trains must have central door locking and, as a result, they have been forced to use more modern passenger coaches. These, in turn, are air-braked and Tangmere is one of the few locos in their operational fleet that has the necessary equipment.

One other welcome visitor, though, was the class 8F no. 48151 which has just emerged from the workshops at Carnforth after a major overhaul and was out on a test run.

Elsewhere on the steam railway scene, the big news has been that some steam engines have been converted from coal-firing to oil-firing. As reported in a previous newsletter, Britain's last remaining supplier of Welsh steam coal –

Ffos-y-Fran opencast mine – closed recently so coal has now to be brought in from abroad.

Even without the issues of cost, quality and availability, there remain the environmental concerns. Oil, on the other hand, can come from a variety of sources, some of which have much better “green credentials” than coal. But there is another benefit too – oil burning doesn't create the sparks that might lead to lineside fires, and that in turn means that the “steam bans” imposed at times of high risk can be lifted for such locomotives.

One of the first engines to get converted is based at the North York Moors railway and the ability for it to carry on running, even in the driest of weather conditions, was a key component in the cost-case for the work.

Other examples amongst the narrow-gauge railways of Wales have similar cost-case profiles. None of the locos permitted

to run on the mainline are equipped as yet, but as I write this, the heatwave has resulted in a yet another steam ban on the network.

All those passengers who paid good money for a steam excursion will no doubt be sadly disappointed to find a diesel at the front of their train, so I wonder how long it will be before we see an oil-fired steamer passing through Clapham?

Andy Scott



Stanier class 8F no. 48151 departing from Carnforth on 16th June 2026. This was its first test run after an overhaul which began in August 2019.

Then and Now



Our old photo for this issue comes from an old Matthews of Bradford postcard which recently came up on eBay. It shows a more distant view of the village from the southwest, but it took me a little while to work out where the photo was taken from. This is because the whole of the foreground has since changed because of the widening and realignment of the old road to merge it into the newer A65 bypass.

The most obvious landmark is the church at middle right with its flagstaff clearly visible. To its right you can just make out the chimneys of Hall Garth, whilst to its left you can also make out those of Arbutus House. Just to the left of Arbutus House is the large gable end of what is now the village hall and this helps us date the image, since the



building as pictured is without the windows which were inserted in 1925/6 to turn the then estate barn into the communal facility that we have now – more of which in our next issue!

At the extreme left, the field wall on the hillside gives a final common point of reference. My attempts to take the “now” image were hampered by the changed land levels where the original photographer had stood. The bulldozers may have tried their hardest, but I was able to find an alternative which had been taken from the roof camera of a Google “Streetview” car, and which I think provides a sufficiently equivalent modern view.

Andy Scott

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In the footsteps of others

The recent settled weather has allowed summer work such as sheep shearing and hay making to continue at a measured pace. It is perfectly normal for the great life shortening grass harvest to be interrupted at regular intervals with spells of rain which can last for a few days, weeks and, occasionally, months. This year however, much of July has been warm and sunny, meaning grass can be cut, turned, and dried almost at leisure for several days until ready for baling into small bales, known as idiot bricks.

We have two front line tractors at Bleak Bank whose job it is to help with this kind of work, both are relatively young in age and amount of work done. Modern tractors are fairly high tech with lots of sensors for things such as oil flow, engine revs, power ratios, the list is almost endless. Because of this, it is quite normal for an alarm of some kind (known as an error code) to be flashing or beeping at any time without the operator (we are no longer tractor drivers) actually knowing why. It is similar to me sounding an alarm if I feel my nose needs blowing. My policy is, and always has been, if the tractor works, ignore the alarms and turn the radio up, unless it is Zoe Ball. If it is Zoe, change to 5 Live and catch up on who is to be prime minister next, this policy has stood me in good stead.

I do report tractor alarms to our supplier and, in due course, an engineer will turn up with a laptop, wipe the error codes, download some software, have a cup of tea with a ginger biscuit (they could be vets) and all is well for a few days, not a spanner in sight.

As soon as the fine weather appeared, both tractors did the equivalent of taking to their beds, neither would proceed

at anything other than snail pace, they had gone into "limp mode," we have all suffered a bit of that. This is a game changer; it is not unlike arriving at a bike race with no bike. This situation also meant we had to employ three different contractors to mow grass and another to wrap bales of silage.

All this, while our tractors were in tractor hospital having their temperature taken or, at least, error codes wiped. Once much of the grass was harvested both tractors returned home looking suitably embarrassed. Luckily, we now have invoices for tractor repairs to put alongside those from local contractors.

I have always valued the heritage part of our little farm, walking in the footsteps of those who have gone before means something to me. When I get a proper job, I may well become a historian.

This summer has brought family heritage to mind. My grandad's younger brother was conscripted into the army in the summer of 1916 and was subsequently killed at Passchendaele in November of 1917. Edward Carr Dawson was shot by a sniper as they went over the top and, due to the nature of the war, Edward was denied a grave. Instead, he was lost to the mud of Flanders fields. This affected his mother, Elizabeth, enormously and it was said she never locked the door again at Bleak Bank just in case Edward had, in some way, survived and ever found his way home. Elizabeth, pictured here, died one hundred years ago in June 1926. She was a tormented soul because Edward had no marked resting place. It was the least we could do to add his name to her headstone a few years ago.

John Dawson

Clapham Walking Group



With summer now in full swing, there's no better time to put on your walking boots and rediscover the wonderful countryside on our doorstep. Whether the sun is shining or the rain is falling, every walk brings something different, and at the Clapham Walking Group there's always a warm welcome waiting.

We're inviting both new walkers and those members who haven't joined us for a while to come along and

enjoy good company, fresh air, and the beauty of nature. Our walks are typically 5-7 miles and are mainly within the magnificent Yorkshire Dales, offering a relaxed pace with plenty of opportunities to appreciate the scenery and wildlife.

We've enjoyed some fantastic walks recently, including:

- **Malham Cove** – taking in the breathtaking limestone scenery, **Janet's Foss** and the dramatic gorge at

Gordale Scar, one of the Dales' most spectacular locations.

- **Oxenber Woods** – famous for its stunning bluebells, where we also identified around ten different species of wildflowers in bloom.
- **Bentham** – exploring the local countryside and discovering the intriguing **Great Stone of Four Stones**.
- **Swinsty Reservoir** – the walk rewarded us with fascinating historic features, spectacular views and even a glimpse towards the area where Gareth Southgate has his impressive home.
- **Gisburn Forest** – a wonderfully shady, dog-friendly walk that proved the perfect escape on one of the hottest days of the year.

So why not come and join us? Whether you're returning after a break or trying us for the first time, we'd love to see you. There's no better way to enjoy the great outdoors, stay active and make new friends. We hope we've tempted you!

For more information or details of upcoming walks, please contact:

Angela Rickards on 07711 698961 or me on 07908 293117.

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Parish Council news



Rainbow over Newby. Photo: Lisa Smith

The Parish Council met on the evening of **Wednesday 15th July** with three members of the public in attendance.

The Council had been in contact with both the Police and North Yorkshire Council Highways department regarding the roadside weeds on Clapham Old Road. It was noted that these had been sprayed but that residents are responsible for any weeds outside their own properties. The Clerk is to write to North Yorkshire Council to ask that advance warning be given whenever future spraying is about to take place. A representative from the Sustainability Group asked the Council to consider appointing a Parish Caretaker who could take on responsibility for this sort of thing. Councillor Dawson also advised that the new street lights for Newby have now been ordered.

An issue was reported regarding the fountain in Clapham. It appeared to be leaking which was leading to staining and a continuously muddy base. This will be investigated.

The Sustainability Group advised that following a meeting with the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP), the establishment of wildlife corridors was too large a project therefore the Group will look at smaller projects or patches as well as garden wildlife areas. The initiative for the disposal of waste medical blister packs is going well. The Curlew Cluster has located twenty-eight nests, fencing twelve of them, and with eighty-nine eggs laid of which forty-four hatched.

Planning applications had been received for a development at Lodge Bank farm and for a tree protection order. Austwick Parish Council has advised that it has requested signage from YDNP for both ends of Thwaite Lane to make it clear that this route is now a restricted by-way.

The size of the village's litter bins is considered inadequate for the number of visitors in the summer months, so larger bins are to be requested.

Work is required to keep Toll Bar Wood in good order, and the Council are to write to YDNP to see if they might be willing to contribute towards the costs.

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

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be: **Wednesday 16th September** and **Wednesday 21st October**.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer can be contacted by email:

Email: clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk

Craft & Chat: come and join us



On Thursday 18th June we had an interactive session with tutor, Charlotte Treglown, who demonstrated how to produce botanical prints on paper, a method which uses the natural colour from the leaves themselves to produce the print. Many of our group produced some wonderful results, my prints were slightly less successful but were definitely botanical. This tutorial followed on from a previous session in March where we learnt a specific method for dyeing fabric with plant material.

Craft and Chat meets on the first and third Thursdays of every month from 2-4pm at the Village Hall. We each bring something to work on and share advice if required. There can be quiet concentration or lively conversation, especially when we stop for a brew. It is a friendly group of people with different interests and skills. Please join us if you have an interest in any aspect of crafting and would like to participate. You don't need to be an expert: some of us have been learning as we go. I certainly had no crafting experience before I joined the group.

Anne Douglas

Keasden Lambing Service



Youngsters enjoying the Lambing Service. Photo: Isobel Palmer

Coffee Morning for Macmillan

**Saturday 19th September
10.30-12.30pm**

**Clapham Village Hall
Cross Haw Lane**

The annual Macmillan coffee morning returns on Saturday 19th September at the village hall. There's a huge act to follow from last year when a whopping £1,400 was raised, thanks to a massive effort from everyone in the village. Cakes were made; raffle prizes donated; jam and chutneys purchased and coffee drunk by the gallon - can we beat it? Hope to see you there.

Isobel Palmer



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Settle Parish Church

Sat 21st Nov, 3.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

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for Bassoon and Orchestra
Soloist - Harris Birch

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Symphony No.8

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Leader - Anne Heaton

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Restoring old memories?



Artificial intelligence (AI) often gets a bad press, but it can help with some tasks that would otherwise be daunting. Restoring old photographs used to be a niche hobby that took many hours and required special equipment. Now pictures can be restored with a simple scanner and one of the freely available AI packages. At the next Digital Equipment Workshop in the Village Hall, Simon Peach will show you how.

The two images above show what can be achieved in just a few minutes: an old photograph of Clapham Station Post Office made bright and crisp with the weather transformed to a warm sunny day.

The workshop will work through different examples using the various, commonly available AI packages. The pitfalls will be explained together with ways to avoid them. AI can make things up if left to its own devices; notice the

introduction of a hat and the apparent gender change to the person on the right. Of course, such changes might be deliberate and the workshop will explain how the prompt given to AI will determine the finished picture.

Participants are invited to bring their old photographs that need a bit of care and attention. Just a note of caution, AI has its limits and pictures that are simply too damaged may be beyond repair.

If you have a digital version of a picture you would like to restore, send it to the Dew Drop-In email address before the workshop: claphamdewdropin@gmail.com

If you only have the physical photograph, bring it along and it can be scanned before restoration is attempted.

The Dew Drop-In workshop will be held on Wednesday 2nd September at 7pm in the Village Hall, entrance £3.

Dew Drop-In Group

Clapham Film Night

Join us for a relaxing and entertaining evening at the Clapham Film Night

The first of many film nights...

Film: to be announced

Date: Saturday 12th September 2026

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Entry: £5 per person

Bring your own snacks and drinks, settle into your seat (table seating) and enjoy the show!

Help with the event would be appreciated. Please contact Lesley on 07808 066684

Settle Photographic Group

Exhibition

10.00am-5.00pm

29th-31st August

Clapham Village Hall

Free entry

Refreshments available

www.settlephotos.org

Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall

Presents



With

Stuart & Barbara Marshall

Saturday 26th September

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Tickets £12.50

available from the village shop (cash only please)

Price includes pie and peas supper

- Bar -

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall

Date: Wednesday 7th October

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Clapham-cum-Newby Village Hall

To be followed by the first meeting for the newly elected committee

The hall's outgoing committee is delighted to invite all local residents, groups, and supporters to attend our 2026 Annual General Meeting. This will provide a fantastic opportunity to hear about what the hall has achieved over the last year, to review the accounts, and elect the committee that will manage the hall on your behalf for the year ahead.

All community groups are entitled to nominate an individual to represent them for the year and there is also the opportunity to elect new individual members from the floor.

Our village hall is at the heart of our community, and we want to know how it can best evolve to better serve you in the future. Consequently, we welcome fresh faces, input and ideas to help keep this valuable facility thriving and ensure that it doesn't go stale. If you're new to the village, it's also a great way to meet others in the community and help.

We already know that changes are needed and have some proposals of our own but, if you would like to get involved, then please just come along and introduce yourselves.

Refreshments will be provided, and we look forward to hearing your fresh ideas and to shaping the future of our hall together!

If you'd like to find out more about what is involved, or to discuss some of the issues we face, then please do email us at

claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com

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Village hall news

Many thanks to those of you who supported the hall this summer, joining in with our Centenary Events in May and June. Following the most popular suggestions put forward in our questionnaire in 2025, we organised a return visit for local shanty singers, The Scrimshankers, who had gone down so well last year, and a Midsummer Ceilidh and Hog Roast with local favourites The Batty Moss Ceilidh Band.



The hog roast at the Midsummer Ceilidh

The two events made a small profit, and those who attended had a great time. It is hoped that the money raised will allow the Playpark to host a children's event this autumn.

Before then, we have our ever-popular **Quiz Night**, run by Stuart and Barbara Marshall, which is on **26th September** (see facing page for details). This will be Stuart's very last quiz, so we are

looking for lots of support for the event. Tickets will be on sale in the shop from 26th August, and when they are gone, they are gone.

At the same time, the shop will also start selling tickets for our upcoming centenary showpiece, which is our 1920s-themed **Murder Mystery Evening on 17th October**. This includes a fully catered three-course Italian-themed meal and tickets will be £25 to cover costs. This is a new type of event for us, which should be really good fun on the night, and was the clear winner of all the suggestions for events which we received. Although it is a bit more than our usual ticket prices, it promises to be a truly memorable night. Places will be limited, so this will provide an opportunity to get your tickets early. If you would like to dress for the occasion, it will add to the fun, but please do not think this is mandatory.

Finally, the hall's AGM is coming up soon so please see the notice on the facing page. All are very welcome to attend, and we are keen to attract new members to the committee to make sure that the hall remains vibrant and thrives for the future.

Angie Martin

Email: claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com

Web: claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk



Next edition: October 2026
Deadline: Sunday 20th September

Village hall regular events

Indoor Bowls

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

Clapham & Austwick Guides & Brownies

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

Clapham Lecture Group

Tuesdays 7pm (see notice p11)
Angie Martin
015242 51749
claphamlecturegroup@gmail.com

Age UK

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

Clapham DEW Drop-In

Digital Equipment Workshop PC support group
1st Wednesdays (Mar, May, Sept, Nov) at 7pm
Andy Scott
015242 51749
claphamdewdropin@gmail.com

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council

Usually, 3rd Wednesday of month at 7.30pm
Parish Clerk
clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk

Tai Chi

Thursdays 9am to 10.30am (restarts 3rd Sept)
Tony Bennet
taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com

Craft & Chat

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

Reconnect to Nature

Selected Thursdays 7pm
** Booking essential **
Rosie Johnson
healingpathofthedragonfly@gmail.com

Board Games Group

Fortnightly on Fridays 2pm - 5pm,
see Hall website calendar or call Jackie
07711 730819
jackieanddavid@yahoo.com

Cuban Salsa Dancing

Fridays 7pm
Anne Lawler
07990 633465
a.lawler@sky.com

For more details of the above, and for the latest on other events in the hall, please visit:
claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk

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