

CLAPHAM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Number 163, October 2019

Out with the old

Our milking parlour has been feeling its age of late and the chap that maintains it has been finding it difficult to

Many years ago, as young agricultural students, we toured a milk testing laboratory to teach us the importance of hygiene in the milk production area. It was very impressive, with lots of stainless steel, wipe clean surfaces and a polished floor. Our host began to lecture us on the importance of “keeping everything clean at all times”. He was doing a mighty fine job until some bespectacled youth from near Clapham asked, “so how many times a day do cows walk through this lab?”

Welcome to the October newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Clapham & District newsletter which contains a good selection of articles. The Newsletter Committee will be holding its AGM on Thursday 5th November.

Please also note our request for your Christmas greetings on p19 which will be included in the December issue.

As always our thanks to our sponsors, advertisers, and many contributors.

The Newsletter Committee

Issue dates:

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

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.

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



Next edition: December 2026
Deadline: Friday 20th November

Distribution

If the printed edition is usually delivered to your home and you haven't received a copy by the 5th 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

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



Out with the old

Cont'd from p1

This summer the time had come to update some of the technology in the parlour due to the spare parts issue. The stallwork has remained but the jars were removed as they need a combination valve. These are handmade and shockingly expensive, I think the makers of combination valves are also building HS2. We are now “direct to line” meaning milk leaves the cow and is measured through a flow meter before arriving at the tank. The pulsation system has been replaced and the whole thing purrs so quietly I sometimes wonder if it is even switched on. All glass pipework has also been replaced with stainless steel and not seeing the milk takes a bit of getting used to.

The work took around two weeks as it had to be fitted between milkings, and it helps justify the cost according to the engineers who, when finished, went off to enquire about ski trip availability. Glass jars are available, enquire within.

John Dawson

Thank you



We were delighted that our cake stall on Bank Holiday Sunday and Monday, raised £1,285 for St John's Hospice. Thank you everyone who helped, baked and bought.

Rosie Hull and Annie Farrer

Tai Chi/Qigong class



Village Hall, Thursdays – 9.00 to 10.30am

Tai Chi derives from the ancient Chinese martial art of *Taijiquan* which translates somewhat alarmingly as ‘Supreme Ultimate Fist’. In practice, Tai Chi and QiGong are characterised by slow, fluid movements, deep breathing, and mental focus, often called ‘meditation in motion’ where Yin and Yang constantly shift in harmony. It is exercise of sorts, but not as you know it. No weights, jerks, or muscular exertion, in fact the aim is to move with the minimum of effort thereby generating and storing energy.

Under the gentle and expert tutelage of Tony Bennett, most Thursday mornings you will find a group of around a dozen people in the village hall attempting different ‘sets’ of movements whilst trying to remember to breathe properly!

At the end of every session, we move to the ‘pièce de resistance’ aka ‘THE FORM’, in the Chen Man Ching style of 37 postures or movements.

Google him and see what we aspire to in class. It is a lovely thing. You will have seen film of ancient but remarkably supple Chinese ladies doing Tai Chi in the park - living proof of concept!

Group members range from the highly experienced to relative novice and anyone is welcome. The benefits are numerous, e.g. better balance, deeper breathing, less stiffness, stronger knees, and improved posture and that's without daily practice (note to self).

Why not give it a go?

Liz Wake

Then and Now



Here we go back 59 years to 30th September 1967 and our “then” photo, taken from Lawsings Brow, shows a Class 5 locomotive pulling a Heysham to Leeds parcels train. It will have run via Carnforth as the direct line, via Lancaster Green Ayre, had closed 3 months earlier. Clapham Station, seen in the distance, is in its decline from a busy junction only a few years earlier to what we have today. The signal box is still open but with only eight levers operational out of thirty-two as the yard and branch had their tracks lifted – it only has a year left until it, too, will close.



The now picture was taken last week and wow! haven't those trees grown as there is now no longer Ganger Cross and his gang to keep their length of line tidy, nor the numbers of sheep on the moor either to keep that grazed.

Water is still running out of the bank on to the road though!

At least we still have a double track railway, still the same jointed track too, laid in 1958.

Colin Price

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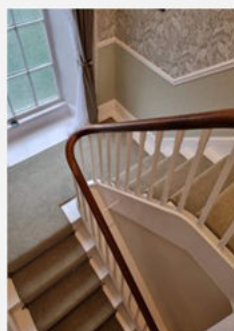
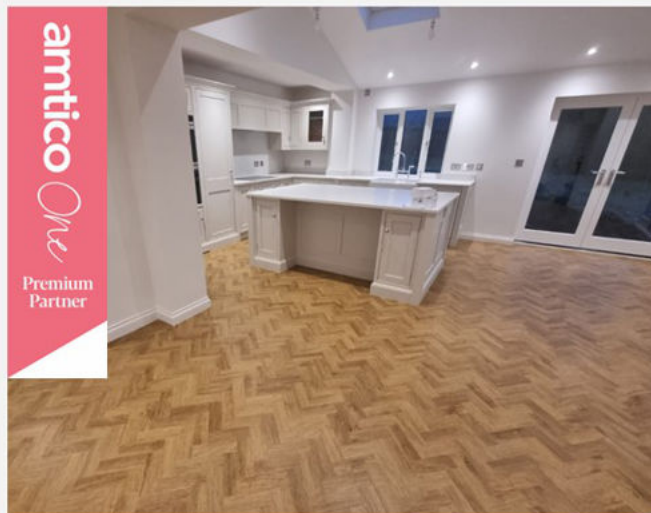
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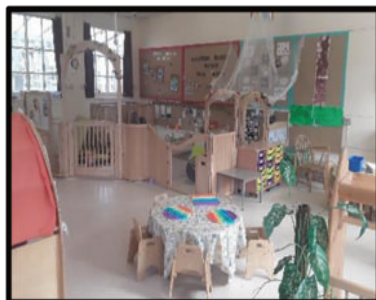
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A brief history of our Village Hall

As regular readers will know by now, the village hall is celebrating its centenary this year. Although it opened for the first time in December 1926, its history dates back to an open meeting that had been held four years earlier in November 1922; called and chaired by Dr Lovett to see if there was sufficient interest in the idea of creating a communal facility for events such as dances. Indeed, there was considerable interest, so a committee was formed to be comprised of ten members “as far as practical ... composed equally of men and women” with half to represent Clapham and the other half to represent Newby.

The first meeting of the new committee took place two weeks later, electing Mrs Richardson to be Treasurer and Secretary and Mr Drummond to be the Chairman. A bank account was to be set up in the name of the “Clapham Village Hall Fund” and a fundraising campaign was begun.

The following year a second public meeting took place and the Estate’s Agent, Mr Barton, presented some rough plans for a potential new hall that could be converted from some buildings identified and offered by the Ingleborough Estate. They comprised an old barn, with attached three-stall stable and some loose boxes – the buildings which form the basis of the hall as we know it today.

The buildings were to be provided at a peppercorn rent but the costs of conversion, which were estimated at £765, would need to be raised by the community.

With this news, fundraising got underway in earnest – concerts, fetes, jumble sales, a whist drive, and social evening. Many of these were held in the school. A follow-up public meeting took place the following year, electing the new committee, and this established the precedent for the hall’s annual general meetings. As the likely completion date grew closer, it was decided to host a weekend-long fete to raise as much money as possible in one go. The fete netted some £268, far surpassing all the previous fundraisers.

The conversion was still incomplete though, so the decision was taken to open the main hall whilst work on the supper room, changing rooms and kitchen (which, at that time, was much smaller and was located where the entrance corridor is now) was still ongoing.

The hall was opened on Wednesday 22nd December 1926 by Sidney James Farrer. From the start it was hired out to the community for events: for a dance lasting until midnight the charge was 22/6d (£1.13), but this went up to 30/- (£1.50) if it was to last until 2am!

With the building now “running” it was decided to appoint a Caretaker, and they were paid 8d (4p) an hour. The rental contract with the estate required that the Hall Committee draw up a constitution and this was presented to, and accepted by, the subsequent annual meeting. From the outset, the hall was to be “undenominational (sic), non-party and constitutional” in that it would not support in any way “any person, persons, or organisation disloyal to H.M. The King and the constitution of the state and Empire”.

In these early years, the main activities in the hall were dances and these were occasionally joined by sports. Other less energetic activities were somewhat limited because the building lacked heating. To address this, a stove was inserted in the supper room and a portable electric heater obtained for the main hall – use of either was at an additional charge to normal hire! Even so, money remained tight and the hall’s first 50 years were characterised by regular and frequent fundraisers and calls for voluntary help with upkeep.

During WWII, the accounts book tells us that the hall was used as the base for the local Home Guard, but it is not

clear what else may have been happening because, sadly, the minute book covering the period 1938 to 1953 has gone missing. When the next book does start, however, it sounds as if everything had carried on “as normal” and, by then, the committee comprised eight ladies and seven gentlemen who had been joined by the new squire, Dr John Anson Farrer. By the time of the next AGM, it was minuted that “there is not enough money in the bank to pay the caretaker for the full year”.

In 1958, Dr Farrer nominated Frank Benson to take over as Chairman with a brief that he should attempt to get the hall on a surer footing. A whole new set of hire rates were agreed, with surcharges for “outsiders” and for using “the plug” (i.e. the heating!).

Even so, by 1961, finances were in such a dire straight that “... Mr Farrer said that if things did not improve ... then we should have to close the hall.” Anything and everything that might raise funds was tried.

Between 1962 and 1964, the arrangements with the Estate were changed. The hall was to become a registered charity, with its committee members as trustees, and the lease of the building was replaced by an outright sale which also included the tennis court. One of the committee’s first tasks was to bring the building up to an acceptable standard – central heating, roof insulation and painting the exterior were all high on the list. But it all had to be paid for and the endless fundraisers continued. Maurice Brown was beginning to emerge as a particular champion of the hall during this period, being elected Treasurer in 1979.

Maurice recognised that the only way that the hall could succeed was if it was run more commercially and could pay its own way, especially as there were increasing legal obligations on the committee such as the requirement to provide fire safety equipment and emergency lighting. It was also short of storage space, had an increasingly unusable kitchen, and lacked accessibility and facilities for the disabled. The suggestion to look at building an extension began to be explored.

After several false starts – and a fair few changes of direction along the way – the work on the extension was completed and opened in 2000. Although a significant amount of grant money had been received, the remainder still had to be raised and the fundraising, inevitably, continued.

The improvements were a success and made the hall much more marketable as a venue. Over recent years, many current members of the community have helped drive it forward – you know who you are, so I’ll not mention names! – and we hope that the incessant fundraisers of the past are now behind us. Hopefully, the community can now enjoy the facility with less of the money worries.

Nowadays, it is a popular venue for businesses, community groups and for private hires. Together with regular users such as fitness, wellbeing and dance classes, arts and crafts sessions, and groups for the older and younger members of the community, it can stand on its own two feet financially and, helped by its online bookings system, has been reaching wider audiences.

It has sufficient excess income to allow the trustees to invest in continual improvements and has built up a reasonable reserve for “rainy day” projects such as major repairs.

Hopefully, it will continue to serve the community well into the future.

Andy Scott

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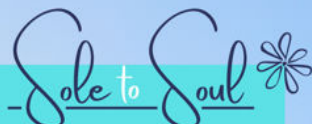
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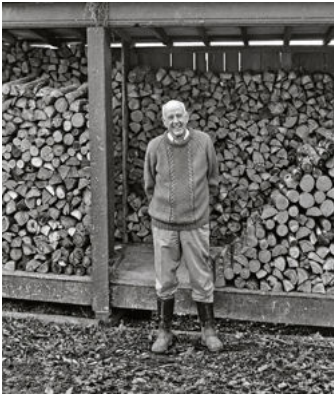
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Church News

John's Notes: 'Every day do something that won't compute'



"Friends, every day do something that won't compute," so wrote Wendell Berry, farmer, writer, poet and agrarian activist of Henry County, north central Kentucky. Berry died last month, aged 92, in that place where he had lived, written, and farmed his whole life.

Berry regarded living on the land, farming using traditional methods, and writing with pen, paper, and typewriter, as means to a joyful life and as acts of resistance against the all-pervasive corporate culture which he saw as driven by a "technological fundamentalism that, like other fundamentalisms, wishes to monopolise a whole society". Thus his 1973 *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front* begins in protest against those who, "When they want you to buy something / they will call you. When they want you / to die for profit they will let you know." It develops into an impertinent inventory of 'things that won't compute' including, "Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it."

In 1987 Wendell Berry wrote the essay, *Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer*, stating that "If the use of a computer is a new idea, then a newer idea is not to use one". Berry is as unimpressed by computer manufacturers as he is by the energy companies he sees despoiling rural Kentucky.



"I do not see that computers are bringing us one step nearer to anything that does matter to me: peace, economic justice, ecological health, political honesty, family and community stability, good work." A computer would cost him "More money, for one thing, than I can afford, and more than I wish to pay to people whom I do not admire." It would also require him to discard the 'old model' - that is his old Royal standard typewriter, and also "my wife, my critic, my closest reader, my fellow worker." This is Tanya Amyx Berry who closely collaborated with Wendell on all his writing, in ways which AI could only dream of (*if* AI could dream?).

This brings us to our present time, where 'a newer idea' would be for us not to use Artificial Intelligence, for reasons ranging from the technology's rapaciousness for water and other finite, diminishing, essential resources, to fears that the machines will overthrow humankind. Many people share a concern to rein-in harmful technology and a desire to find ways to live more simply.

Wendell Berry's writings create a precious space where temperance, thrift, and the ecological law of return are validated, even though they do not 'compute'. They are often awkward but I like them, in the same way as the likeably awkward parables of Jesus, which we've been chewing over together in our Evening Easy Church sessions this year. Like the one about the vineyard boss who agreed a day rate with his hired workers in the morning, then took on extra labourers at nine o'clock, noon, three o'clock, and five o'clock, and at the end of the day, paid them all the

same daily wage. Or the one about the simple chap who, entrusted by his master to 'look after' one talent (worth around a million pounds in our money), chose to bury it in the ground rather than invest it. Or the one about the very wasteful sower who scatters seeds indiscriminately, on the path with no soil, on rocky ground with little soil, on soil full of thorns, and some on good soil.

These stories don't easily 'compute'. But they do stimulate, and open up space for fresh perspectives on life to breathe, gather, and grow. Not computing makes room for healthy contemplation:

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron
feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry, The Peace of Wild Things, 2012

Revd John Davies

01524 805928; john.davies@leeds.anglican.org
Churches website: bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick
Notes from a Small Vicar: <https://johndavies.org/wp/>

Anglican Services led by Revd John Davies

October

- 4 9.30 Eldroth Harvest Festival; 6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church
- 6 Tuesday 2.30 Austwick School Harvest Festival
- 11 Harvest Festivals 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Newby Chapel
- 18 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer
- 25 Holy Communions 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Keasden Saints and Sparklers

November

- 1 Holy Communions 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 4.00 Austwick All Saints Service; 6.30 Newby Chapel Evening Easy Church
- 8 9.30 Remembrance Austwick; 10.45 Clapham Remembrance/Holy Communion; 2.00 Keasden Remembrance
- 15 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Taizé service
- 22 Holy Communions 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham
- 29 10.30 Austwick Benefice Holy Communion; 4.00 Keasden Advent Crib Launch Service

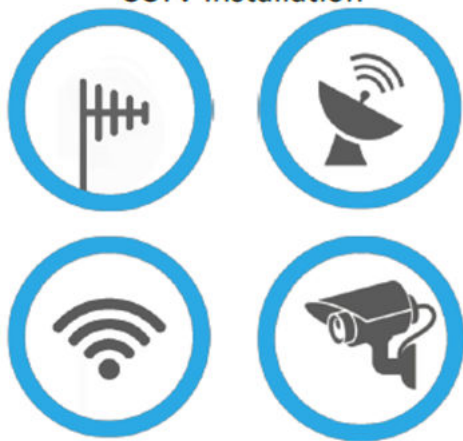
Also, each Wednesday

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

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

Praying meeting - Mondays at 7.30pm

Fellowship meeting - Tuesdays at 7.30pm (see website)

Clapham Tots Story Time - Wednesday 14th October & 11th November at 10am

Thursday Friends & Light lunch with guest speaker - 1st October & 5th November at 12.30pm

Clapham Tots - Fridays 9.30am-11am

Kmotion 6pm & Encounter 7.30pm - Friday 9th & 23rd October and 6th & 20th November

Coffee, Cake & Chat, Jigsaws, Kids crafts & Food bank drop off - Saturday 17th October & 21st November 10.30am-12 noon

Family Quiz Night – Friday 16th October at 7pm

Faith Mission weekend 24th & 25th October - Saturday at 7.30pm & Sunday at 11am & 6.30pm

Christmas theme felt making event – Saturday 21st November at 1pm

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:

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

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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 dates



Saints & Sparklers

**Sunday 25th October
St. Matthew's Church**

**6.30pm - informal service
7pm - food and fun outdoors**



Domino Drive & Supper

**Saturday 7th November
Eldroth Village Hall**

For more details - get in touch

We are a friendly bunch in Keasden and our 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

You're invited ...

Newby Methodist Church

**invites you to celebrate
Harvest Festival**



**Saturday 10th October 10.30am -12noon
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raising money for Macmillan - bring a cake,
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**Sunday 11th October 11am
Harvest Festival service**

All very welcome

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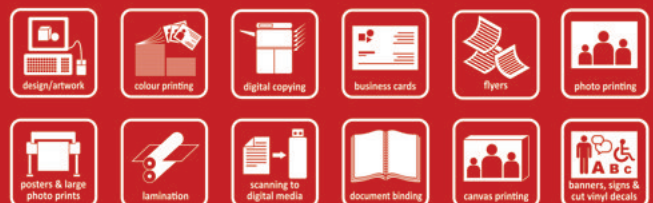
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Success at Macmillan coffee morning in Village Hall



Enticed by the promise of home-baked cakes and savouries, fresh coffee, plus a good chat, dozens filled the tables and gave generously to the raffle. There were some super prizes, including Tea for Two at Teatime Vintage, Settle.

I was “overwhelmed” by the support - from those who attended, baked, helped set up the hall, made jam, or gave a donation if unable to attend. It was also great to see children icing and decorating the biscuits we put out for them. The final total was £1,063.16.

Isobel Palmer

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Clapham & District Newsletter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 5th November at 7pm
in the Supper Room at
Clapham Village Hall

All welcome to attend

The AGM will be followed by
a Newsletter Committee Meeting

More homes needed

More homes needed for Dales House Birds as Nest box Project gets off to a flying start



Image copyright: RSPB Images
Credit: Ben Andrew

A nature recovery project to boost populations of some of the best-loved birds in the Yorkshire Dales is appealing for more volunteers to provide homes for house birds following a successful launch phase. The ‘Homes for Dales House Birds’ initiative has installed more than

300 new nesting boxes and carried out habitat improvement work to increase food availability in specific focal areas in Swaledale, the Westmorland Dales and villages along the southern edge of the National Park from Bentham to Grassington. It’s hoped the extra nest boxes – along with targeted habitat improvement work – will boost populations of four familiar species: the swift, house sparrow, starling, and house martin.

An appeal for homeowners and other sites willing to host nest boxes attracted an enthusiastic response last year and some of the boxes installed over the winter were occupied during this year’s breeding season. Now, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) need more volunteers to come forward to host additional nesting boxes. A list of villages eligible for nest box installations can be found on the YDNPA website (<https://bit.ly/homesbirds>).

The villages of Austwick and Askrigg have joined the project this year and while National Park Authority staff will be working with contractors installing additional nest boxes here, YDMT will be focusing on improving habitats to create additional food sources for nesting birds.

Swifts are now on their 6,000-mile journey back to their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa, with the house martins set to follow them shortly. Additional nest boxes are scheduled for installation this winter, meaning there should be plenty of new accommodation options when these birds return in the spring. While these species are widespread in the Dales, numbers are falling elsewhere in the UK, and the Homes for Dales House Birds project aims to bolster their numbers to offset population declines elsewhere.

Working in tandem with the nest box installation programme, YDMT’s meadows and woodlands teams have been busy enhancing habitats near the newly installed nesting boxes to increase the supply of insects and seeds: two staple food sources for the four target species.

Increasing the availability of natural food in locations where additional nest boxes have been installed should ensure that their new occupants don’t need to use precious energy finding food for themselves and their chicks.

The meadows team has focused on ways to increase species diversity in meadows near nest box schemes while the woodlands team has planted wildlife-friendly hedgerows in the same areas.

Mark Sutcliffe



A new chapter for Ingleborough Hall



We're Alex and Sophie, and together with our two young children we're embarking on a new chapter at Ingleborough Hall. Sophie grew up nearby and after visiting Clapham in 2023 we quickly fell in love with the village and its remarkable landscape and natural environment. When the opportunity arose to take on the Hall, it felt like the right place for us and a wonderful setting to bring up our family.

Our focus is on bringing the building back to its former glory as a house, retaining and repairing its historic fabric with the care it deserves. There is a great deal to do, and restoring the Hall properly will take time - this is a project that will take years rather than months.

We wouldn't have taken on such an ambitious project without a shared love of old buildings, history, and restoration. The Hall has also given us plenty of space to indulge our love of antiques and furniture restoration.

The grounds are equally important to us. We are gradually restoring former lawns to meadow and managing the

gardens and woodland with wildlife in mind. We're already seeing knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, harebell, quaking grass, and bedstraw emerging within the grassland, and hope to see orchids emerge following further careful management. We're also hoping to introduce a beehive this autumn with the help of a local beekeeper.

We're much aware that Ingleborough Hall has long been an important part of village life, and many people locally will have memories and connections with the building.

We're keen to learn more about its history and would love to hear from anyone with old photographs, documents, stories, or recollections relating to the Hall.

We're looking forward to gradually bringing the Hall back to life, making it our family home and becoming part of village life along the way.

We look forward to sharing some of that journey with you and wish everyone in Clapham a lovely autumn.

Alex & Sophie Heath

From Ingleborough to India

Libby's Cricket Adventure

This coming spring, Libby Clarke will swap the cricket grounds of Yorkshire and Cumbria for the sights, sounds and colours of India, as she joins the Cumbria Cricket Under-18 squad on their tour from 24 March to 6 April 2027. Although she lives in Clapham, on Cross Haw Lane, she represents Cumbria, having been born in the county and plays her club cricket for both Settle and Kendal. Cumbria has always been an important part of her cricketing journey, so the chance to represent the county on an overseas tour means a great deal to her.

The itinerary includes training and matches against local opposition, alongside visits to some of India's famous sights, including Amer Fort and Jaipur, as well as a traditional Rajasthani dinner. It promises to be an unforgettable mixture of cricket, sightseeing, and adventure.

The tour follows a successful season for her. She top-scored for Cumbria against Yorkshire in the National Under-18 Counties Cup quarter-final. She also helped Kendal win the Northern Pyramid T20 Cup.



To help raise money towards the cost of the India tour, Libby has set herself a rather unusual challenge. In October

this year, she will climb Ingleborough, in full cricket kit, carrying her bat and wearing her pads, gloves and helmet. It will certainly be a memorable climb! She hopes her challenge will raise as much money as possible towards the tour. Anyone wishing to support her can do so through her Ingleborough to India GoFundMe fundraising page.

See: <https://bit.ly/LibbyIndia>

For Libby, the India tour will be about much more than cricket. It will be a chance to play against teams in a completely different cricketing environment, meet new people, experience Indian culture, and create memories with her teammates that will last well beyond the tour. After a rewarding season, she is understandably excited about what lies ahead. From

Ingleborough to India, it is certainly going to be an adventure - and one that starts with a cricket bat firmly in hand!

Paul Clarke

A busy summer for our Brownies & Guides!



What a busy end of term and summer we have had! We had a great last night of term, exploring the Settle Flowerpot Festival. The girls enjoyed looking at all the amazing displays around the town and, of course, we couldn't resist turning our visit into another little Protect the Peaks project!

We created a short video inspired by the festival, which is now available on our YouTube channel - @ClaphamAustwickBrownieGuides. Why not take a look and subscribe to see what else we get up to?

Before we finished for the summer, we also managed to squeeze in a campfire cookout, which was very much led by the girls. They wanted to make their own burgers, as well as trying their hand at dampers and s'mores. A lovely evening of cooking, eating, and enjoying being outdoors!

Our Protect the Peaks – Take It Home campaign has certainly been a lot of work, but it continues to progress and evolve all the time. Over the summer, we took the campaign to the Clapham Parish Fete and also held a stall at Settle Market. The girls were brilliant at talking to people and encouraging local residents and visitors to get involved.

At Settle Market alone, the girls encouraged around 26 local businesses to get involved in some way - whether that was signing our pledge, displaying a Protect the Peaks pledge

poster, or taking one of our Take Your Litter Home signs. Our signs are now travelling much further afield too, with some making their way to Hull, Scotland, and Bradford! Have you spotted one of our signs? We would love to see it! Share a photo on our Facebook post or email it to us. It is fantastic to see where our girls' campaign is reaching. We have now reached 100 pledges, which is a fantastic milestone - but we don't want to stop there! We want to keep spreading the message and encouraging even more people to take their litter home.



We also had a very exciting visit from BBC York during our Settle Market day. They filmed the girls in action and then joined us as we took part in a litter pick at Ribbleshead. They produced a fantastic piece which is now online, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it will also make it onto TV soon! Our Flowerpot Festival visit also inspired us to create a special display - an overflowing flowerpot-inspired rubbish bin! It certainly caught people's attention and helped us spread the campaign message in another fun and creative way.

And there is no slowing down when we return! We have a very action-packed and exciting term ahead, including an overnight adventure, a trip to Wembley for Big Gig, and a whole lot of exploring cheese!

You'll have to wait for the next newsletter to find out what we get up to...

Jill Crowson & Katie Hawkins
Leaders

1st Clapham & Austwick Brownies & Guides

New season for Settle Orchestra



Settle Orchestra begins an exciting new season this autumn, welcoming a new conductor and another year of live orchestral music in the heart of our community. Our autumn programme features Mozart's *Idomeneo* Ballet Music, Jacobi's Bassoon Concerto, performed by talented young orchestra member Harris Birch, and Beethoven's uplifting Symphony No. 8.

Afternoon concerts take place in Settle on 14th November and Skipton on 21st November.

The 2026/27 season will also be a special one as we celebrate Anne Heaton's final year as our Orchestra Leader, following many years of dedicated music-making and leadership. Applications are now open for an accomplished violinist to succeed Anne and help shape the orchestra's next chapter. New string players are also warmly invited to join us.

Find concert, membership, and Leader vacancy details on our website (www.settleorchestra.org.uk).

Jill Gates

Keasden rainfall report



	2025	2026
July	1.7" or 4.3cm	1.1" or 2.8cm
August	3.9" or 10.0cm	1.18" or 3.0cm

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Linda Brindle 21st March 1945 - 7th August 2026

Linda was born Linda Harrison and spent her early years in Golborne, Wigan. She worked as a secretary at Turner Brothers and then became a typist-secretary for Wigan Police force, which was where she met a young police officer called Colin Brindle. They were married at St. Thomas' Parish Church, Golborne, on 23rd August 1969, and honeymooned at the Patterdale Hotel in the Lake District.

Throughout Colin's time in the police, he and Linda lived in their police house on Springfield Road, Wigan, where Linda was a housewife and mother to Matthew, born in 1972. When Colin retired, he and Linda lived in Chorley Road, Standish, for a couple of years before moving here to Clapham twenty-three years ago, first to a house on Cross Haw Lane and then to their long-time retirement house, Lindens.

Linda enjoyed a quiet life and Lindens was perfect for her. She decorated the house in the 'Country Living' style which she so loved, just as she wanted it, with pictures of beautiful rural scenes and her collection of Emma Bridgewater pottery, and she even turned her hand to painting and other forms of artistry to help make the home even more her own.

Linda also showed her creativity in the garden, which she loved and tended with great care. The last time I spoke with her, just a few days before she died, she was busily weeding just outside the house, keeping the grass verge tidy. She was always happy in the garden... and accomplished

in the kitchen too, the family particularly celebrating her home-made custard pies.

Colin and Linda enjoyed a good, happy marriage, with "never a bad word to each other," he says. They liked their UK holidays. Linda wouldn't fly, Colin tells me, but she would go to New Brighton on a boat. So, they enjoyed travelling to Devon, Cornwall and the Lakes, and their days out to places like Sizergh Castle, and shopping at Low Sizergh Barn farm shop.



While Colin adeptly performed his role of churchwarden at St. James for many years, Linda characteristically played a support role, quietly but well, and she's especially appreciated for the many floral displays she contributed over the years, and her Christmas wreaths. She and Colin would support the many local church events, for instance travelling to Eldroth Church for their

summertime cream teas, and to coffee mornings at Keasden.

Never seeking attention, but always good to talk to, Linda was, as Colin puts it, "sharp as a pin", with a very good memory and aptitude for the crosswords which she did each day.

A person of quiet but certain faith, Linda loved living here in a home and garden she had made special, in a lovely village, in special countryside.

Revd John Davies

The Gus Stewart Fund

The Gus Stewart Fund for Craven Young Musicians in association with Dales Jam Community Band

When my husband Gus (Angus) knew that his life was so limited we discussed how we might thank the residents of Clapham and district for their friendship and practical kindness through his three periods of ill health. After his death in February 2019, I organised 'Gus's Thank You to Clapham' with food and drinks in the Village Hall a month later.

Gus trained as a teacher. His career diverted towards technical theatre work, particularly lighting design for children's plays in London and for corporate events across the UK, Europe, and the USA. He was a keen amateur trombonist.

"Thank-yous" are important even if unavoidably delayed. I'm writing to re-thank and update as many kind people as possible who made donations to the above-named Fund either at the Village Hall or over the following months. Thwarting the practical development of the Fund (banked and guarded by local Hon. Treasurer, Jill Gates) was Covid 19. That was followed by illness affecting Dales Jam's conductor's father and in-laws, and later himself. Trustee meetings halted.



I can now report that in the past two years introductory performances have taken place in local schools – three in Skipton and one at Settle College – at no cost to the schools. These relatively informal sessions are led by Dales Jam's conductor accompanied by a student four-piece band from Leeds College of Music bringing all the technical equipment they need.

Channels of communication have opened with local music teachers and facilitators and, importantly, students who can formally apply for bursaries towards music lessons, travel expenses to music lessons, funds towards the purchase of a musical instrument or a music stand or proper padded case, for example.

A store which houses a wide range of donated instruments has been secured in Leeds.

Gus would have been *so pleased* that local young musicians could apply for this kind of help – a fund kickstarted by people in Clapham, Settle, Giggleswick and Skipton, and increased by relatives and friends in the UK, Amsterdam, Vancouver, Nairobi, Bordeaux, and London.

Thank you.

Ann Stewart

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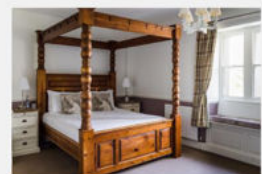
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Parish Council news

The Clapham-cum-Newby Parish Council met on Tuesday 15th September in the Village Hall.

Councillors dealt with a range of local matters including policing, highways, street lighting, planning, and Council administration.

During public participation, residents highlighted concerns about people walking between the campsites and the village along the A65. The Council has noted these concerns and discussed possible approaches, including signage via Highways and encouraging use of existing footpaths and the cycle route.

A police report covering the summer period noted several incidents, including road traffic collisions, thefts, and routine welfare checks.

Highways and village maintenance featured strongly. The Council will report failing tarmac under the railway bridge near the station, request sweeping and cutting back where debris and growth are narrowing the path between Wenning Bank and Clapham village and report the persistently blocked drain outside Croft Café for proper jetting. Repainting of white lines and the “Keep Clear” marking outside the New Inn will be chased.

Following the recent departure of caravans at Clapham Old Road, hazardous waste remains; the Council will confirm land ownership and look at options to prevent further misuse.

On street lighting in Newby, residents highlighted the brightness and timing of a newly installed light. The contractor has agreed to return to ensure that the street lighting conforms to the specification agreed at the June 2026 meeting of the Council.

Settle Area Swimming Pool outlined two projects—an energy-saving pump timer and help with transport for school swimming. Councillors agreed a donation and will stay in touch over further funding opportunities.

Bins and village amenities were reviewed by North Yorkshire Council. The Parish Council supported replacing certain bins with larger models where needed and agreed a one-off contribution to upgrade the bin on Church Avenue, with further surveys later in the year.

Planning matters included supportive comments and no objections on routine local applications. Councillors also discussed maintenance needs at Toll Bar Wood and will explore putting an updated woodland management plan in place to help attract external support.

The Council recognises and extends thanks to local volunteers for recent verge-clearing and weeding work in Clapham village and will continue to press the relevant authorities on the actions listed above.

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

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be:
Wednesday 21st October.

Commencing January 2027, meetings will move to the 3rd Tuesday of each month, again with no meetings in April, August, and November.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Alex Ashworth, can be contacted by email:
clerk@claphamcumnewby-pc.gov.uk

Independent Advisory Group



New members needed

The Craven Neighbourhood Policing Team are looking for new members for our Independent Advisory Group (IAG). IAG's are a way for our diverse communities to work with us to help improve our service and consider local and national issues through online quarterly meetings that last approximately one hour.

IAG's aim:

- To maximise trust and confidence in North Yorkshire Police through communication, exchanges of views and discussing police issues.
- To provide a forum for the community to help shape service delivery.

If you work or live within the Craven area you are eligible to apply to become a member of our IAG. If you are interested, please email a brief expression of interest including a little bit about yourself and background for consideration to:

SNACraven@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Thank you.

*Sergeant Daniel Price
Craven Neighbourhood Policing Team
North Yorkshire Police*

Calling all Salseros!



You may already have heard about our regular Salsa classes, held every Friday evening in the Village Hall? If you would like to join in the fun, then this is your chance.

A new beginner's Cuban Salsa course is due to commence in the New Year. The new course will start on Friday 15th

January 2027 and run for 10 weeks until 19th March, from 7pm until 8pm.

Salsa is a good all-round exercise, a full body workout without stepping foot in the gym. It helps your balance and coordination, improving your agility. Salsa is also a universal language, dance anywhere in the world with confidence!

There is no need to bring a partner, you may come alone. There is no obligation either, if you decide it's not for you, then that's fine. With no up-front charge, it is just £5 per session.

So why not come along and join in? Not only will you meet friends and have a great time, but you will also be learning a sociable, authentic Cuban dance.

If you are interested and want to sign up, or indeed, just to know more, then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

You may email me or text/phone on 07990 633645 - you may need to leave a voicemail, but I will call you back!

*Anne Lawler
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Richard & Justina Sexton



On 1st August 2026 - Yorkshire Day - Richard and Justina Sexton officially retired after 39 years at the helm of Glencroft, the business they founded in 1987.

They have now handed over the reins to their son Edward, who will continue running the business in much the same way, alongside sister-in-law Helen.

As many of you who know Richard will understand, he isn't stepping back entirely! He will continue to hand-finish all of Glencroft's British sheepskin rugs, as well as helping with various manufacturing projects.

Edward Sexton

St. James' church pew - upcycled



I felt a great weight of responsibility as I applied my handsaw to the antique oak pew, representing some 150 years of Clapham heritage. In so doing I gained a great appreciation for the Victorian ancestors who had a vision for a grander place of worship and for the highly talented craftsmen who will have used hand skills to build the pews in our St. James' Church in Clapham.

There was some trepidation as I unpicked the skillful craftwork of our 19th century church pew, followed by hours of sawing and planing. But I was rewarded as planks of beautiful quarter-sawn timber emerged with exquisite grain patterns. Hours of deliberation followed of how I might best use the precious resource to build an 'arts & crafts' oak cabinet. Trained eyes will no doubt see the little carpentry faults that are all too obvious to me, but I hope I have adequately honoured our Victorian village forebears. I thought 21st century villagers may be interested in my sharing this photo of a piece of upcycled history.

Tony Horsewill

Christmas greetings



Our thanks to these readers for supporting the newsletter with

Andrew, Beatrice, Rosie & Mia
Brook House

Lesley & Anthony Dent
High Leys

Glenys, Mavis & David
Gilgen, Cross Haw Lane



a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all their friends

The Coultherds
The Hayloft

John & Diane
Crooklands

Anne & Poppy
Dalesview

Getting ready for Christmas? Let us help. You can save time and money by sending a simple Christmas greeting via the newsletter instead of sending expensive cards.

In the December edition we'll publish greetings, similar to the image shown above.

If you'd like your name to be included, please make sure we have your completed coupon by **Friday 13th November**. It will cost you **£5** - which will help fund the newsletter production!

There are four ways of submitting your greeting:

- Complete the coupon and, along with your cash, hand it to members of the Newsletter Team who will be at the **Old Sawmill Café on Tuesday 13th October** or **Paul Pedals on Thursday 22nd October** from 10.30 to 11.30am.
- Or complete the coupon and pop it in an envelope marked 'Newsletter Christmas Greetings' along with your cash and leave it in the drop off box at the Village Shop. The box will be available from **Thursday 1st October until Friday 13th November**.
- Or email your name and the address details to be used with the subject line 'Christmas Greetings' to: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com and pay £5 online.

Our bank details are:

Account name: Clapham & District Newsletter

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Please use your surname as your reference.

We will only include greetings on receipt of a Christmas Greetings coupon or a Christmas Greetings email, and payment. Thank you for your support!

The Newsletter Team

Christmas Greetings

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS
Each greeting will consist of 2 lines.

Line 1

Your name(s): (maximum of 29 characters incl. spaces)

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Line 2

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Autumn Concert

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Settle Parish Church

Sat 21st Nov, 3.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

Mozart
Ballet Music from Idomeneo

Jacobi
Introduction and Polonaise
for Bassoon and Orchestra
Soloist - Harris Birch

Beethoven
Symphony No.8

Conductor - Juan José Muñoz Borja
Leader - Anne Heaton

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Settle Orchestra reg. charity 1025554

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 & include refreshments.
Lecture fees: Full series £40, individual lectures (max of 3) £6 each.
To find out more or register interest,
email claphamlecturegroup@gmail.com

Lecture Group field trip - 2026



Sixteen people from the Lecture Group enjoyed their annual trip on 18th August, stopping off at the Hawes Creamery for morning coffee before travelling onwards to the Tan Hill Inn via the Buttertubs. This visit

to “England’s highest pub” had been suggested after our very informative talk about the place last year by author (and former Tan Hill Inn landlord) Neil Hanson. After a leg stretch and a delicious meal, we travelled on to Arkengarthdale.

This first stop on our scenic return journey gave us the chance to see some of the most impressive, ruined remains of the Swaledale lead mining industry. It was a great opportunity to walk up and explore the area before the talk by Dr. John Helm on Lead mining in the current season’s programme.

We continued our tour with a stop at the Green Dragon at Hardraw – which doubles as the internal set for the “Drover’s Arms” in Channel 5’s current incarnation of *All Creatures Great and Small* – before heading back to Clapham.

With our 2026 Autumn Series already underway, plans are now already afoot for our 2027 field trip.

Angie Martin
claphamlecturegroup@gmail.com

CLAPHAM PARK ASSOCIATION

AGM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

**THURSDAY
22 OCTOBER
7.30PM
CLAPHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Come and see the new park design ideas and share your thoughts.



Contact: claphamparkassociation@outlook.com

UNA SERATA DI INTRIGHI, INGANNI E... OMICIDIO!

1920's ITALIAN MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

TO BE HELD AT
CLAPHAM-CUM-NEWBY VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY
17TH OCT
7PM FOR 7.30PM

TICKET PRICE
£25

INCLUDES
WAITER-SERVED
3-COURSE
DINNER
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
CLAPHAM VILLAGE STORE - CASH ONLY PLEASE

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 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month,
from 10.30am, at Paul Pedals**

CLAPHAM BOOK FAIR

Clapham Village Hall

Sunday 25 October

10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Admission 50p
Proceeds for Village Hall Funds



Enjoy a day of second-hand books in the Yorkshire Dales

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Village hall news

As this newsletter goes to print, we are looking forward to our ever-popular Quiz Night, run by Stuart and Barbara Marshall; the tickets are sold out for their final appearance with us. A big thank you to them both for many years of challenging yet quirky quizzing. The events have been both engaging and enlightening, and they will certainly be a hard act to follow!

Our next event is our centenary showpiece **Murder Mystery Evening on 17th October** (see p21). Our local players have been working hard preparing for what will prove to be an amusing evening. Thus far, tickets have been selling slowly, but we do hope to fill all the tables in the next two weeks so that the cast can play to a full audience. This was one of the celebratory events you asked us to put on, and we would appreciate your support. Where else could you sit down to a catered three-course meal, served at the table, along with a night's entertainment, for £25? Do come along and enjoy the evening – you will not be disappointed!

Also, in October we have our **AGM**, which will be held in the hall on **7th October** (see the notice on p22 of the August issue). The way that the hall is run is forever evolving, and for us to get the best out of our facility, everyone in our community has a chance to voice their opinion on how it is run. Changes are afoot, so do come along to have your say.

Finally, to round off our centenary celebrations, there will be a free **'Thank you' Christmas Party on Saturday 12th December**. This is open to anyone (and their 'plus ones') who has helped to run the hall over the years. If you have been on the committee, been involved with the running of hall events/fund-raisers or helped with the maintenance/cleaning of the hall or tennis court, then please keep the date free. We will be sending out invitations after the AGM, but we wouldn't want to miss anybody. We will try to invite everyone, but we may not have a full list, so do feel free to drop us a line so that we don't inadvertently miss you out. Alternatively, there will be a tin in the shop with a list that you can add your names to.

*Angie Martin
Hall Secretary*

Email: claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com

Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm - AGM
Saturday 17th October at 7pm - Murder Mystery Evening
Saturday 12th December at 7pm - Christmas Party

Clapham Film night

A very successful and enjoyable first night

On Saturday, 12th September, the Clapham Film Group showed its inaugural film, *I Swear*, at the Village Hall. The event was well attended, and the end of show conversation suggested it was very well received. The table seating added to the relaxed atmosphere, with the audience bringing their own drinks and nibbles. The Group took the opportunity to garner ideas for future showings although the options were certainly broad. We hope the film nights will bring people together to enjoy films, perhaps one they may not have considered, in a social and sociable setting.

Coming soon: look for the posters and check social media for our next film showing.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Cost: £5. And don't forget your drinks, glass, and nibbles...

*Anne Douglas
on behalf of the Clapham Film Group*

Village hall regular events

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 1.30pm to 4pm
 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 p13)
 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
 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

Nature notes

I find myself writing this latest set of *Nature Notes* on a wet and windy afternoon in mid-September and the temptation to look back towards lighter, brighter days is irresistible. Here in our corner of the Dales, we were fortunate: we were spared the most extreme temperatures, the devastating wildfires, and the parched, drought-stricken farmland of more southerly parts of the country. Yes, our water butts ran dry and the potatoes on my allotment would have appreciated more rain, but we were able to enjoy some of the benefits of this record-breaking summer more than most.



The Clifden Nonpareil, or Blue Underwing.
Photo: Tim Hutchinson

One of those warm weather benefits was the remarkable influx of *Painted Lady* butterflies. Intrepid long-distance migrants, they begin their journey in Africa and reach the UK via a relay of

several generations, each completing a leg of a perilous route which includes crossings of the Sahara and the Mediterranean. According to the 2026 Big Butterfly Count, records of this species were up almost 350% on last year, capping a steady increase in numbers since the first count sixteen years ago. This was definitely a *Painted Lady Summer*!

Even more noteworthy for our local area was the increase in sightings of two colourful butterflies more usually associated with areas further south of us. The *Holly Blue* and the *Clouded Yellow* are distinctive but very different butterflies that seem to be gradually extending their range northwards. Both were spotted several times in and around the village in July and August.

However, the real highlight of late summer was a moth rather than a butterfly. One morning in early September, Tim Hutchinson was initially disappointed to discover just ten moths had been attracted to his light trap overnight. That disappointment was short-lived. Looking more closely, he



Clifden Nonpareil - the underside is just as striking.
Photo: Tim Hutchinson

immediately spotted that among the captive insects was the rare *Clifden Nonpareil*, a huge, strikingly marked moth previously unrecorded in the region. Also known as the *Blue Underwing*, it is a master of camouflage – until it opens its wings to reveal a vibrant flash of blue. *Nonpareil* means ‘without equal’ and now, having finally seen one, I know how it got its name.

In the first half of the twentieth century, it was a breeding resident in Kent and the Norfolk Broads but significant changes to forestry and agricultural practices in the fifties led to its extinction within a decade. For the next forty years the only sightings were of occasional vagrants, rare visitors venturing across the Channel from France.

In 2007, however, a few small breeding colonies were discovered on the Isle of Wight and in the most southerly counties of England. Now it seems that habitat restoration and the warming climate have helped them to consolidate

their position and extend their range northwards. That said, we may have to wait quite a while longer before we see another one here in Clapham!

Of course, it would be easy to assume that this year's heatwaves have been entirely beneficial to our butterfly and moth populations – after all, the results of the Big Butterfly Count show that recorded sightings are the second highest in the count's history. Professor Richard Cox, Head of Science at *Butterfly Conservation* is not so sure:

Adult butterflies love hot, sunny weather... but a good summer for adult butterflies is not the same as a good summer for butterfly populations. What matters far more is what's happening on the ground, to the butterflies' caterpillar offspring and the plants they depend on. The very same weather that made it a good year for butterflies – lots of sunshine and very little rain – could mean we're actually on course for a population crash, which could take years to recover from.

If you want to know more about the results and conclusions from this year's Big Butterfly Count, you can find all the details here: <https://bit.ly/BflyCount>

If you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, send me an email or drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply stop and chat if you see me around the village. Photographs are always welcome and I will do my best to use any that you send in to me. I also post news of recent local sightings here: [@bcriverside28.bsky.social](https://www.facebook.com/bcriverside28.bsky.social)

Brian Christian
bc.riverside28@gmail.com



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