Clogs and Congratulations

At Clapham Primary school we have had a very busy autumn term and a very exciting start to 2018. The children have been working hard and have produced some fantastic work. Class 2 are learning about the Industrial Revolution and this term their classroom was transformed into a Victorian school room. The children had a chance to use slates and completed typical work of the day including sewing and the technical drawing of a new-fangled steam train.

In Class 1, the children have enjoyed their music topic on marching bands, learning about different music and making their own instruments.

We are also about to start an exciting project with Alex Fisher who teaches traditional Yorkshire and Lancashire clog dancing. The children had a workshop before Christmas which gave them a chance to try out step dancing with clogs. The project will teach children to a high standard where we hope to join up with other schools to compete!

Just before Christmas, I made a visit to the Houses of Parliament with Alexis from Year 3.

Alexis won a prestigious award for mathematics and was presented with the award in Parliament. We were very proud of all her hard work!

We have lots going on after school this term with Ben Webster returning to teach Astronomy and Amy-Jo teaching Performing Arts. We also have Chess Club, Crafts and Computing.

We are looking to enhance our library provision and could do with some volunteers to help, so if you have any spare time and would like to help in our library please do contact the school!

Matthew Armstrong
Head Teacher

Village Playpark

Since the playpark was refurbished in 2011 we’ve spent £700 on topping up the play-grade bark that provides a safe and soft area around the play equipment. Over time, through use and the weather, the bark becomes compressed and rots down. It now needs topping up by 20cm to bring it back to a suitable depth, which equates to 60m³ of bark. and the best quote we’ve had is £2,225 inc VAT.

We’ve applied for a grant which, if approved in late February, will go a long way to meeting the cost but will still leave a gap of £725. It would be great if residents, local businesses and visitors make donations to help us, either via the collection tins in the village shop, bunkbarn, Teatime Vintage or at the playpark, or by sending a cheque (payable to Clapham Park Association) to me at the address below. If we raise more than this, the surplus will go towards the £900 per year we need for insurance etc.

We’re aiming to order the bark in March so that the park is looking good for when the weather picks up and it starts getting used again. However, the price above doesn’t include spreading the bark, so we’re also asking for help with that. If you can help please let me know and I’ll keep you informed.

The playpark basically needs more people to help, since many of the current volunteers have been involved for more than ten years and not many new faces are appearing. If you think you can offer a few hours a month to help with grass cutting or fundraising then please contact me. Together we can keep the playpark a great feature of the village.

Don Gamble
Clapham Park Association
3 Sunnybank Cottages,
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Clapham,
LA2 8DY

015242 51775 dongamble62@gmail.com
A Family firm established over 35 years, we supply and install top quality windows and doors in a range of colours and Farrow & Ball finishes, as well as Solidor & Rockdoor composite doors, and machined timber Masterdor doors. Call us for a free quotation and no pushy salesmen.
Appointment of Priest in Charge

On Sunday 17th December 2017, the following announcement was read out in all the churches of our United Benefice.

"The Bishop of Leeds, The Rt. Revd. Nicholas Baines, is pleased to announce that the Revd. John Davies, currently serving as Rector of the Cam Vale Benefice, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the United Benefice of Clapham with Keasden and Austwick with Eldroth, in the Ripon Episcopal Area".

John was born in Liverpool in 1962 and resided in the area during his upbringing and varied working life. During this time his employment experience included being an engineering apprentice, draughtsman, civil servant, computer programmer and freelance journalist.

He graduated in English from Cardiff University and later trained for the Ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. He was ordained at Liverpool Cathedral in the year 2000 and subsequently served as Curate and Rector in inner city, suburban and outer estate, Liverpool.

In 2009 he moved into rural ministry and served parishes in Devon, Cheshire and Somerset, until the present time.

He supports Everton Football Club and is a keen walker and writer.

John's Licensing and Installation as our new Vicar will take place at St. James’s Church on Thursday 19th April at 7.30pm, to which everyone is invited.

We look forward to welcoming John and his wife Diana into our communities.

Colin Brindle & Liz Mason, Churchwardens St. James's Church, Clapham

Church Services

Church Services continued

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

**Sundays:**

- Sunday School 10.15am, Services 11.00am & 6.30pm

**Weekdays:**

- Bible Study Tuesday at 7.30pm
- 1st Thursday Senior Citizens at 2pm, 3rd Thursday Fellowship at 2pm, 4th Thursday Coffee Evening at 7.30pm

**Children’s activities:**

- Mums & Tots Friday 9.30-11am
- Fortnightly on Fridays,
  - a) Knottie (primary school aged children) at 6.00pm
  - b) Encounter (10 years and up) at 7.30pm

**Special events:**

- **Gospel concert** with Mr Alex Robb, one of Northern Ireland’s leading vocal artists on Saturday 17th February - 7.30pm and on Sunday 18th - 11am

**Sunday School Anniversary weekend** Saturday 3rd March - 7.30pm & Sunday 4th - 11am & 6.30pm with Mr Vinny Commons from Southport

**Methodist Chapel, Newby**

- Service - 1st Sunday in month - 2pm, all other Sundays - 11am

**For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

During the period of Anglican Interregnum (time without a Vicar), please contact:

- **Clapham**
  - Church Warden Liz Mason - 015242 51319
  - Church Warden Colin Brindle - 015242 51426
  - PCC Secretary Sue Mann - 015242 51792

- **Keasden**
  - Church Warden Graham Taylor - 015242 51636
  - PCC Secretary Angela Peach - 015242 51108

**Diary Dates**

**FEBRUARY**

- **Sun 11th** - Church in the Pub (New Inn) at 7pm
- **Sat 17th** - Church Coffee Morning at Clapham Village Hall 10am to 12.30pm
- **Sat 17th** - St Cyprian’s Singers at Settle Parish Church at 6pm
- **Sat 17th** - Gospel Concert at Bethel Chapel at 7.30pm
- **Sun 18th** - St Cyprian’s Singers Eucharist at Settle Parish Church at 10am
- **Sun 18th** - Alex Robb at Bethel Chapel at 11am
- **Tues 20th** - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm in Clapham Village Hall

**MARCH**

- **Sat 3rd & Sun 4th** - Sunday School Anniversary at Bethel Chapel
- **Thurs 8th** - YDMT’s guided walk around places of worship in Settle
- **Sat 10th** - YDMT host The Moonbeams at Clapham Village Hall
- **Fri 16th** - Domino Drive & Fish Supper at Clapham Village Hall
- **Sat 17th** - Church Coffee Morning at Clapham Village Hall 10am to 12.30pm
- **Tues 20th** - Newsletter deadline submissions to: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com
- **Sat 24th** - Give & Take Event 10am-12 noon Clapham Village Hall
- **Mon 26th** - Clapham Village Store - Summer time opening hours commence
- **Tues 27th** - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm in Clapham Village Hall
**escapebikeshop**

- Fully equipped service & repair workshop
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- Free on site parking for local trails – Park & Ride!
- Members of Bike2Work & Cyclescheme
- 0% finance available up to 36 months
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www.escapebikeshop.com

015242 41226 – Kirksteads, Westhouse, Ingleton, LA6 3NJ

Mon – Fri: 10-5 / Saturday: 9:30-5:30 / Sunday: 10-4

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**BRIDGE COTTAGE**

**Bed & Breakfast**

This charming 18th-century B&B with its sunny cottage garden is at the heart of Clapham, and has been extensively refurbished to reveal oak beams, window seats and slate floors. Enjoy a good selection of locally-sourced cooked breakfasts, homemade cake and biscuits.

Choose from three bedrooms: two doubles with ensuite showers, plus one twin/superking suite with ensuite bathroom and separate shower.

**From £40 per person.**

We are dog-friendly and are delighted to provide day care to our four-legged guests.

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Telephone 015242 51506
www.bridgecottageclapham.co.uk

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**Westby Dairy**

Robert and Janet Townson

We deliver Milk, Cream and Eggs from our family dairy farm.

Our families have been producing milk for local delivery for generations, and now, along with the help of our son and daughters we are very proud to provide a great British tradition that is the doorstep milk delivery service!

We bottle milk from our own herd of cows for delivery to homes and businesses the very next morning.

Westby Hall Farm, Gisburn
Tel. 01200 445283
Village stars in Photoshoot

In early January, Clapham saw a buzz of unexpected glamour as a fashion photoshoot descended on the village to take advantage of our picturesque backdrops and warm welcome.

Tulchan Textiles, a fashion brand based in Kirkby Lonsdale, set up at several locations around the village finding the perfect setting for their beautiful range of smart weekend womenswear.

Kristian Petterson
Digital Marketing & E-commerce Manager, Tulchan Textiles

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust News

Winter is the ideal time of year to plant trees, and this season YDMT is helping to plant more than 100,000 saplings to create 38 new woodlands. One of the largest is at Mearbeck Farm between Settle and Long Preston, where 11,000 trees are being planted across 10 hectares to improve biodiversity and enhance the landscape. You can support woodland projects like this by dedicating a tree either as a special gift, in memory of a loved one, or for yourself.

In March the Flowers of the Dales Festival returns for its tenth year, with 100+ events, including YDMT’s guided walk around places of worship in Settle on Thurs 8 March.

YDMT will host an evening of music with local band The Moonbeams on Sat 10 March in Clapham Village Hall, with original folk based music reflecting local life and landscapes. This will be a celebration of the life of Dave Tayler, a much missed friend and colleague who loved the Dales. Tickets: £10 for adults; £5 for under 16s, incl. supper.

YDMT is also supporting local communities and businesses through a range of grants:

• Stories in Stone conservation grants for the Ingleborough area – Up to £10,000 available to rebuild dry stone walls, and up to £5000 available for community-led projects that restore, celebrate or increase understanding of natural or historical features. Closing date: 16 April.

• Youth Environmental Action Fund – Up to £1000 available to help 11-24 year olds deliver small scale environmental projects in and around the Yorkshire Dales. Closing date: 26 March.

• Yorkshire Dales LEADER – Up to £150,000 available to rural businesses, community groups and other applicants for projects ranging from forestry and farming to tourism, heritage and rural services.

YDMT would like to say a huge thank you to all the local businesses and individuals who play a vital role in supporting their work, and to players of People’s Postcode Lottery for their recent award of £400,000 which will support a wide range of beneficial projects in the region.

Sarah Pettifer

Stories in Stone conservation grants for the Ingleborough area.
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Come and see our extensive range of organic produce in our lovely farm shop, or place an order online with FREE delivery!
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Mobile. 07815 285321

DRU YOGA CLASSES
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Thursdays - Clapham £6
Place: Village Hall  Time: 6:30-8:00pm
Phone/Text: Carole (Dru student teacher)
07976119081

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Fiach Cottage, Feizor, Austwick,
via Lancaster LA2 8DF
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Age UK North Craven
Advice support and social opportunities for older people and their carers.
Cheapside, Settle, BD24 9EW
Tel: 01729 823066
www.ageuk.org.uk/northcraven
Registered Charity number: 1141867
Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 23rd January, 2018 with five members of the public in attendance.

A written report was received from North Yorkshire Police setting out details of incidents dealt with since the last meeting. These included the discovery of a man deceased at Ewes Top Moss Pothole, a dog attacking another dog on the Nature Trail and a sudden death.

It was noted that a blocked drain on Gildersbank, Clapham had been reported to North Yorkshire County Council who had undertaken to deal with the problem. It was further noted that Craven District Council had dealt with leaves on the pavement on Station Road, Clapham and had removed old tyres which had been deposited at the lay by on Old Road, Clapham after these matters were reported to them.

The clerk was instructed to report to the appropriate authorities the presence of potholes on the Keasden Road, the lack of sufficient grit bins on that road and problems with the dog waste bin near to the Goat Gap Cafe.

The position of Parish Caretaker still remains unfilled although, the Council was informed, it is hoped that an appointment will soon be made. Among maintenance matters considered was the need for various repairs to the parish notice boards. Arrangements were made where they were not already in place.

Updates were received on progress with the hyperfast broadband project and in relation to the issue of neighbourhood planning. It was noted that a reply is still awaited to correspondence sent with regard to the question of an extra bus stop in Clapham.

The Council approved donations to Clapham Playpark, the Citizen's Advice Bureau and Settle Swimming Pool.

Clapham Waste Reduction – part of Clapham Sustainability Group

A GIVE AND TAKE event is an opportunity to pass on unwanted items that are clean and in good condition and a chance to pick up something you want – FREE.

Clapham residents are welcome to come to our opening evening on the Friday; just pop in to the Village Hall after about 8.30pm to meet our Scandinavian musicians. This year the theme is Swedish. We’ve invited Ditte Andersson (nyckelharpa & violin), Ida Meidell Blysod (violin), Anna Rheingans (violin), Peter Westerland (violin for the dance course) and Leif & Margareta Virtanen (dance tutors).

You can expect to hear a lot of fiddle playing over the weekend, as well as the amazing nyckelharpa – an instrument which sounds as if it has captured a whole string quartet. Our musicians play a wide range of instruments, and come from all over the UK and further to learn these wonderful lifting tunes. The dancers will learn varieties of the swirling Swedish polska – of which there are many, many styles.

You’ll get to see performances on Sunday evening in Victoria Hall, Settle (book tickets from the box office) or at a free concert in St James’ church (especially for Clapham) residents on Monday 7th May at c1.30pm. More publicity nearer the time. We are also planning a concert on Monday evening in Melling.

As always we aim to bring the best of Scandinavian music and dance to the UK, and share it with you as much as we can.

Pat Goodacre

The following planning matters were considered.

a. Applications:
   (i) C/18/613/A Application for full planning permission for internal and external works to incorporate attached cottage into the main house to form one dwelling; erection of single storey extension to west elevation and erection of new link to outbuilding: Hall Garth, Riverside, Clapham. Application supported.
   (ii) C/18/613/B Application for listed building consent for internal and external works to incorporate attached cottage into the main house to form one dwelling; erection of single storey extension to west elevation and erection of new link to outbuilding: Hall Garth, Riverside, Clapham. Application supported.
   (iii) 2017/18854/FUL: Application for permission for single storey rear extension: 4 Dalesview Close, Clapham, Lancaster, LA2 8RP. Application supported.

b. Decisions:
   (i) C/18/49G Full planning permission for erection of conservatory to replace existing conservatory: Bishopwood, Church Ave, Clapham. Application granted.
   (ii) 2017/18386/FUL: Barn conversion with new access: Ingebergh Barn, Bentham Road, Clapham, Lancaster, LA2 8HL. Application granted.
   (iii) 2017/18650/HH: Single storey extension to provide sunroom: Giffords, Wenning Bank To Reebys Lane, Clapham, Lancaster, LA2 8ET. Application granted.

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Scandimoot will be back in May!

You can expect to see us at Spring Bank Holiday weekend, Friday 4th to Monday 7th May, mostly around Ingleborough Hall and the Village Hall where the course is run.

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Saturday 24th March 2018, 10.00 - 12 noon in Clapham Village Hall

50p entrance charge to help cover costs. Children free.

A GIVE AND TAKE event is an opportunity to pass on unwanted items that are clean and in good condition and a chance to pick up something you want – FREE.

It is fun, often surprising, and can be rewarding for creative recyclers. We cannot accept clothes, books, televisions, printers, freeview sets, cd-players or foam-filled furniture.

A noticeboard will be available in the hall for you to advertise the details, measurements, photographs, etc, of a large item you have at home.

A qualified electrician will be present for the morning.

A leaflet with more details will be delivered in advance to households in Clapham and Newby and will be available from Clapham Community Shop.

Bring your items on Saturday 24th March or drop them off at the Village Hall, 6-7pm on Friday 23rd March.

For more information, or if you need help transporting goods to the Village Hall, please contact:

Jill Buckler on 51030 or Ann Stewart on 51118

Clapham Waste Reduction – part of Clapham Sustainability Group

Recently I was delighted to be able to address the village’s Age UK group. The subject was the “English Civil War and My Part In It” and we covered a lot of ground. A question came up regarding how the wars affected our local area. As there was no time to cover this, my article is the first part of an attempt to provide an answer with what I have found out so far. It is also a plea for more information, so if anyone can add to the story then I’d be very pleased to hear from them.

The English Civil War lasted for about a dozen years in the middle of the 17th century. There was no single cause that triggered it; rather a whole spectrum of grievances including issues of religion, taxation, justice and people’s rights which had built up before and during the reign of King Charles I. The one common thread was the attitude that Charles had to the way he governed his country: Charles believed he ruled over his people, rather than with his people. As a consequence, he did not feel the need to call his parliament unless he absolutely had to – and when he did, he simply expected them to rubber stamp his wishes. When he recalled them in 1640 – after an eleven year gap – they steadfastly refused to do so, and ultimately he decided to take up arms against them.

Much of the landed nobility, and the estates they controlled, took the king’s side in the ensuing show down. They became known as the Royalist (or Cavalier) faction. Much of the professional nobility, together with the merchant classes and townsfolk, took the parliament’s side. They became known as the Parliamentarian (or Roundhead) faction. Numerically, it was a fairly even split and both sides strove immediately to secure resources, manpower and territory. Areas closer to London tended to support Parliament whilst those further away tended to support the king. The situation in Yorkshire, along with some of the other counties that were on the border, was rather less clear-cut.

The countryside of the mid-17th century looked very different from what it does today. The enclosure of the land to form the familiar field systems, with their walls and ditches, was in its infancy, and much of the land was rough grazing with thickets, small copses, stony ground and bogs all in amongst larger areas of woodland. The present day transport networks of tarmac, railways and canals were still some centuries in the future, and the roads of the time were little more than unsurfaced and unbounded trackways.

Bridges over the major rivers were particularly thin on the ground. In this environment, the Pennines formed a formidable barrier to east-west communication across northern England.

North of Derby, perhaps the safest and best all-weather route over the Pennines was the so-called “Aire Gap”. This provided two crossings – from Skipton south-westerly to Gisburn then down the Ribble Valley, and from Skipton, north-westerly, across the Ribble at Settle and on to the main England-Scotland road which ran up the Lune Valley. It is inevitable that these crossings would be used to move troops during the Civil War and indeed they were - on more than one occasion, as we shall see.

At that time, the manor and hall of Clapdale – along with the neighbouring manors of Lawkland and Austwick – were owned by branches of the Ingilby family whose main residence was at Ripley Castle near Harrogate. The Ingilbys sided with the King during the conflict and even raised a troop of horse for his army. However, they were also staunchly Catholic at a time when it was dangerous to be seen to be so, and it seems many of the family decided to keep a very low profile and tried not to get involved. Lawkland Hall was the main residence of the local branch of the family and, by keeping themselves “closeted”, they seem to have avoided attracting much attention from either side.

To the East of Clapham, Skipton Castle was held for the Royalists by the Clifford family. The troops there were commanded by Sir John Mallory and they defended it fiercely as well as conducting raids into the surrounding areas. To the West of Clapham, Kirkby Lonsdale stood close by the main road from Scotland into England via Carlisle. The Scots played a significant part in the wars – on both sides at various times - and their armies will have billeted in the town as they passed through. Just south of there, Hornby Castle protected an important bridge across the River Wenning and, like Skipton, was initially held for the Royalists, as was Thurland close by.

Apart from Skipton, much of the old West Riding rallied to the call of Ferdinando, Lord Fairfax, of Denton Hall near Ilkley, who was a strong supporter of parliament and set about raising troops for the cause. In this, he was very much aided by John Lambert of Calton Hall near Kirkby Malham (of whom more in the next part).

Closer to the west of Clapham, the manor of Ingleton was held by the Lowther family who were also Royalist. The squire, Richard Lowther, was made a Colonel in the Royalist Army and given the governorship of Pontefract Castle. He moved out to take up his new command, leaving his hall and estates – including the important coal mines – undefended and they were quickly captured by Lord Fairfax’s men. Elsewhere in the West Riding though, Fairfax had rather less success and some of the important towns, such as Bradford, fell to stronger Royalist forces from the North Riding.

Parliament’s response to these setbacks was to send additional troops to the area. Fairfax’s Northern Army was
joined by those of the Eastern Association, under the Earl of Manchester, and the Scots, under David Leslie. The three armies set about surrounding and besieging the City of York which was the major Royalist stronghold in the North.

Over the winter of 1643, the King made plans to deal with this, and the following year much of his army was put under the command of his cousin, Prince Rupert of The Rhine with orders to relieve York. From his position in Shrewsbury, Rupert advanced north collecting troops and capturing key objectives such as Liverpool on route. From Preston, with his numbers further bolstered by regiments from Lancashire, he made the first of the war’s three route-marches through the Aire Gap. He took the southern route through Gisburn, so although his main body missed Clapham, an army of that size on the march will have used its mounted troops to form a protective screen for many miles either side and it’s quite possible that Royalist troopers passed through our villages.

Although Rupert succeeded in lifting the siege of York, his manoeuvring soon led to the Battle of Marston Moor and a significant defeat for the Royalists – so much so that most of the north was lost to the King. What was left of Rupert’s defeated army had to march back across the Pennines - but this time he headed north first to try to put his pursuers off. He then took the route from Richmond to Lancaster, travelling down Chapel-le-Dale, to try to avoid detection and further casualties.

With York’s subsequent surrender, the defeated defenders were given free passage as long as they left the county. Amongst those leaving was the Yorke Cittie Regiment under the command of Sir Henry Slingsby whose diary records the events. He wrote that they chose to march to Furness to re-join the Royalists in that area and that they marched from Skipton to Kirkby Lonsdale, so almost certainly went through Clapham on route.

Ultimately, Slingsby’s men returned home by the same route, but this time they marched by night to try to avoid detection. Nevertheless, they were spotted and challenged “at a place near Ingleton, where ye enemy had set a guard” and one of their officers was killed. Perhaps that place was Clapham.

After Marston Moor, the hostilities moved to other parts of the country and the First English Civil War came to a close. Yet peace was still a long way off, and war raged again twice more in the ensuing years, with troops again using the Aire Gap to cross the Pennines on each occasion. I’ll write about the second and third civil wars in the follow-up article.

Andy Scott

Castleberg Hospital - the future?

Consultations on the future of Castleberg Hospital, Giggleswick, have started. Until its sudden closure last April the Hospital provided 10 intermediate care beds for patients who needed help to prepare for discharge from Airedale, or who needed palliative or end-of-life care which could not be given at home. Since then patients needing intermediate care, for example for rehabilitation or for end-of-life care, have had to be nursed at home or in hospitals far from carers, friends and families. The Hospital, or the services it provided, will be critical to many of us at the most vulnerable times in our lives.

A consultation on future services in Craven is under way with two drop-in sessions remaining. **Tuesday 6 February** 10.00am-12.00 noon in Skipton Town Hall and **Thursday 22 February** 6.00-8.00pm in Gargrave Village Hall.

If you filled in a form about this before December 2017, the 2018 questions are much more specific, and are put rather like a vote. We are asked to choose between re-opening Castleberg; or enhanced care for patients at home. This consultation about the future services in our spread-out area is vitally important to all of us, young as well as old. If the services go, or are not really appropriate for our community, it will be a serious problem.


We have until **27 February** to send in our views. A couple can submit two responses. It is up to us to make it clear which option we prefer.

*John Asher (01729 825075)*

‘Castleberg – the future’ steering group

**Funds from Craven District Council**

The council’s Ward Member Grants scheme is open to local community groups to apply for funds. The scheme allows groups to apply to their local councillors for cash to provide community run events, services and facilities.

Each ward councillor has a maximum of £1,000 to give out to local organisations.

To find out further details of the scheme, to see if your project is eligible to apply, and to see who was awarded grants last year, you can visit: [www.cravendc.gov.uk/wardmembergrants](http://www.cravendc.gov.uk/wardmembergrants) or contact your ward member directly.

For advice or for assistance in completing the application form, please contact Kate Senior, Partnerships Officer on 01756 706414 or at ksenior@cravendc.gov.uk

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*Sketch map showing places mentioned in this article*
Village Hall Notice Board

Clapham Art Group
Tuesday Evening
Linda Clemence
01729 823767

Parish Council
4th Tuesday Evening of the month at 7.30 p.m.
Nigel Harrison 51165 or njhar1957@gmail.com

Dru Yoga
Thursdays 6.30pm to 8pm £6 per session
Carole 07976 119081

Whist
Friday Evenings 7.30 p.m
Elsie Morphett
07951 295995

Bowls
Monday Afternoons 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Mrs. Denne 51617

Tai Chi
Thursdays 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Tony Bennett
c/o 51240

Clapham with Horton W.I.
2nd Wednesday Evening of the month 7 p.m.
Jill Walker
01729 825358

1st Wednesday morning of the month 11 a.m.
Brenda Pearce
51816

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Nature Notes

Common gull – Larus canus

The common gull is a light grey and white gull with black wing tips. It also has a yellow green bill and legs. It is slightly larger than the black headed gull and smaller than the herring gull. Even though it is called a common gull it is not a common bird during the breeding season around Clapham; only one or two are seen, often with the large numbers of black headed and lesser black backed gulls that are present during the summer.

During the winter, however, the common gull replaces the black headed and lesser black backed gulls in our area. Large flocks of common gulls migrate south from Scotland, Scandinavia and northern Europe to spend the winter along the coasts of Europe and all around the coasts, and inland, in the southern UK. Very large flocks of common gulls and a few black headed gulls can often be seen feeding in fields that have been recently spread with muck. They will also mix with the large flocks of lapwings we have wintering around the local area this year. If a lapwing finds a worm, one or two common gulls will chase it to steal the worm from the lapwing. From about mid-March the common gulls will start migrating north back to their breeding grounds and they will be replaced by the black headed and lesser black backed gulls, so there is always movement of different species of gulls during the four seasons we have.

One great white egret was seen around the Newby Moor area for three days early in December by Tracy Bilton’s brother in law; there is one of these wintering at Long Preston marshes, so it is possible that the Newby Moor bird could also be the same one.

Two little egrets were seen regularly along Crook Beck over the Christmas period.

At least one hawfinch is still wintering around the Nature Trail & Ingleborough Hall area: it was seen at the hall on 2nd January.

Two blackcaps are wintering at Clapham; they were seen regularly feeding on cotoneaster berries at Chrissie Bell’s house. I also saw one of them with a tit flock near Broken Bridge on 2nd January.

Three stonechats are wintering on Newby Moor and Hardacre Moss; they were seen throughout December and January.

Three large flocks of lapwings are also wintering around the local area and they can be seen regularly feeding in fields around Nutta Farm and between Green Close and Tewit Hall.

One chiffchaff was found with a mixed tit flock at Ingleborough Hall on 15th and 17th January.

Tim Hutchinson
Smithy Cottage

Then and Now

Many in the area will remember when the village had its own Post Office which, over the years, had occupied a number of different premises in the vicinity of the village shop. Perhaps fewer are aware that there was once also a second Post Office down by the station! Although it’s now a private house, this building had had a number of uses over the years and the first picture shows it at about the turn of the 20th Century when the Sedgwicks ran it as a Post Office and grocers. Some 120 years later, the building itself maintains the same overall outline but the right-hand side has been converted to living accommodation.

Andy Scott
**Settle Photographic Group’s Trip to Clapham**

What a super village Clapham is for photographers! Members of Settle Photographic Group spent a slightly chilly morning in January looking for photo opportunities around the village. Favourite locations were the village shop, the church, the river and the waterfall, but so too were smaller, less obvious subjects: the little owl near the Millennium Trust, the churchyard, chimneys, signposts and the sadly abandoned Café Anne.

The weather? A little sun, some sleet, and often leaden skies meant these were not ideal conditions, but the exploration will encourage members to return. The trip ended with a hot drink in one of the cafés where fingers were warmed holding steaming mugs.

**SANTA’S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

Santa and his elves from the Rotary Club of Settle, would like to thank the kind people of Austwick and Clapham for their overwhelming generosity in supporting its collections for local charities.

The total collected was **£534.92** (plus 2 euros and 50 US cents!!) which was £94 up on last year.

**THANK YOU**

It seemed appropriate that Group members visited Clapham as we hold our annual exhibition in the Village Hall at the end of August.

If you want to see more of the pictures the group took go to our website (www.settlephotos.org) and they will be there for a few weeks.

**A little information about the group**

Settle Photographic Group was formed in 2008, and now has about 30 members drawn from Settle and surrounding villages. Meetings are held monthly throughout the year at Townhead Court in Settle, with additional meetings during the winter months. Dates include 5 & 19 February; and 5 & 19 March.

We have a wide-ranging programme of activities, including talks, demonstrations and regular photographic challenges which give the opportunity to discuss our work with other members. We also visit local places of interest to take photographs, just like this trip to Clapham. Visit dates include 22 February (RSPB Silverdale) and 21 March (Ingleton Falls).

Our annual exhibition is preceded by a ‘Town Trail’ in Settle when the pictures are displayed in shops and businesses around the town.

Further information about the Group can be found on Facebook or on our website (www.settlephotos.org). New members and visitors are always welcome.

*Gill Pinkerton*

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**Margaret Smith - Clapham in winter**
Changes afoot at Hall Garth

If all goes according to plan, over the next few weeks renovations will begin on Hall Garth. The building has needed a new roof for the last several years and this is where the work will start. There are also necessary repairs to the fabric of the building and the inside requires considerable refurbishment. A small, single-storey ‘garden room’ extension is proposed at the West end of the house.

Overall, the work is expected to take around a year, after which Hall Garth will become the full time home for Philip and Maria Farrer in their role as ‘Custodians of the Estate’ and a base for their four daughters plus growing family.

The work on Hall Garth will not affect, in any way, the continued programme of repair and refurbishment of the Estate cottages and every effort will be made to keep disruption to an absolute minimum.

Many of you will have met Philip and Maria already and they are looking forward to their move and hope to be living full-time in Clapham (Rosebank) from May this year.

Brian Rycroft, Ingham & Yorke

Village Hall News

By the time you read this, the first of our community events (the Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh) will be over. However, this heralds the coming of other events planned by the committee for this year, to raise much needed funds for maintenance and refurbishment. We hope this will include an upgrade to the heating which is becoming increasingly unreliable.

The first of these events will be the Domino Drive with Fish Supper, on Friday 16th March. Doors open at 7pm for a prompt 7.30 start. Tickets are £7.50 and can be bought from the village shop. Come along and have a fun night!

Although not organised by the committee, the hall played host to Ian Owen on 20th January for a photograph exhibition and talk on his recent experiences as a tourist in North Korea. The hall was filled for the talk, which led into a very interesting question and answer session. We all came away quite fascinated by his exploits. We hope we’ll be able to host more events like this.

The Hall is a focal point for our community, so to keep it running and in good order we need YOUR support. If you would like to help or have ideas for events we can run, come along to the next committee meeting (23rd May) or contact David, Lorraine, Alan, Judith or myself.

Angie Martin

Did you know….?

The rainfall in Keasden in 2017 was 95.5 inches (242.57 cm).

Steam Update

Just as our last issue went to press, West Coast Railways announced a series of steam-hauled “Santa Specials” to run on the first three Sundays in December. Starting from Lancaster and Carnforth, these ran a circular route: out via Clapham and Hellifield and back via Blackburn and Preston. At a stroke, this quadrupled the number of “proper” steam trains passing us in the year! All three specials were hauled by Stanier-designed LMS Class 8F no. 48151 and the cold weather made for a fine sight as she worked hard with a full load through the station.

Most tour companies have now published their provisional schedules for 2018 and, at first glance, these look very similar to last year’s with a mix of Monday/Tuesday “Dalesman” services over the Settle and Carlisle starting out from Hellifield, Thursday “Scarborough Spa Expresses” which, despite originating at Carnforth, will be diesel-hauled through Clapham and only switch over to steam from York, and Saturday “Cumbrian Mountain Expresses” over the Settle and Carlisle but routed via Blackburn. Indeed, the first of these last will have already run by the time this newsletter reaches you, but they are scheduled to pick up gradually in frequency as the year progresses. The engines for some of the above are expected to be Carnforth-based so they will be likely to pass through the station as light locomotives before beginning their day’s work.

2018 is also an important year since it marks the 50th anniversary of the very last steam-hauled British Rail main-line passenger train, the famous “Fifteen Guinea Special”. That train ran on 11th August 1968 and used four different steam locomotives for its run from Liverpool to Carlisle and return, including Britannia Class 70013 “Oliver Cromwell” for the leg over the S&C. British Rail introduced its steam ban across its whole network the following day.

For the anniversary tours – two are scheduled, on the 11th and 15th August respectively – the “new-build” Peppercorn Class A1 Pacific no. 60163 “Tornado” is expected to provide the motive power.

Finally, it may be worth getting Friday 20th April in your diaries for a trip over to Helwith Bridge with your cameras. This date will be “day 2” of a 9-day steam tour through England, Scotland and Wales where the tour travels from Scarborough to Edinburgh via the Settle and Carlisle. The two Carnforth-based Jubilee Class 4-6-0s “Leander” and “Galatea” are booked to double-head this leg and should make a fine site as they tackle the Long Drag up Ribblesdale.

Andy Scott

Ingham & Yorke

Brian Rycroft, David, Lorraine, Alan, Judith or myself.
The newsletter is a community initiative which shares news, announcements and items of interest. It is funded mainly from advertising revenue and relies on volunteers to get it together and distributed. The newsletter is produced in black & white, though we aim to produce one colour edition per year. It is distributed free to the communities of Clapham, Newby and Keasden. Copies are available in the Village Store and local churches. Electronic versions are displayed on the Clapham Village website (in colour) thus increasing the audience by potentially large numbers.

The intention is that it’s both ‘for you’ and ‘by you’, so we rely on submissions from readers and the village institutions which make up our community. The next edition is due out at the beginning of April. **Copy deadline: 20 March.**

To those who already produce articles, thank you; for those who’d like to have a go, welcome. Items should be around 400 words and, if possible, accompanied by a high resolution photo: we can be flexible so contact me. **Contact: Andy Scott Email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com**

To advertise in six editions (one year) the costs are:
- 1/8 page - £17.50
- 1/4 page - £35.00
- 1/2 page - £70.00
- Full page - £140.00

**Contact: Judith Dawson Email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com**
Clapham Village Store

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The Bull with the Bowler Hat …

One of the many things I enjoy about the farming way of life is working alongside Mother Nature, who at times can be moody and bad tempered and at other times only too happy to help. I was told, a long time ago, that the relationship between a farmer and Mother Nature should be like that which exists between a young man (farmer) and young lady (Mother Nature): as long as they are walking hand in hand and in step with each other then all is well.

Part of this is embracing the changing seasons and the different jobs it brings to the farm. We are now in the depths of winter which brings many challenges, for instance our standard farming disasters are often cold unpleasant affairs. I have always enjoyed the short daylight hours of winter and the routine it brings to livestock farms. There is nothing better than a cup of tea and ginger biscuit at about four o’clock in the afternoon after a cold hard day’s work, then going outside for a few hours of milking cows, feeding calves, bedding cubicles, pushing silage up to the feed barriers and cleaning out the milking area. These jobs are brought together with a one word title which is universally recognised in the farming world: it is known as “cowing” and it fills up much of a winter’s day. Not many people know that arable farmers only get out of bed every other day in winter, and then only if it is not raining.

Our dairy herd is full at this time of year and by now we hope to have most of them back in calf to calve again in the autumn of this year. The milk cow is perfectly happy carrying her pregnancy and giving milk through the winter whilst being waited on hand and foot. Our aim with the cows is to have one calf per cow per year. For example, she calves on day one and is back in calf by day one hundred. She milks to day three-hundred-and-five before being dried off, and then rests for the final sixty days before beginning again. A cow in good health and well looked after can do all this perfectly comfortably; it’s the farmer who feels the strain.

We have very few farming policies at Bleak Bank: our main one is “don’t buy owt.” With the cows we have two policies. Number one is “breed for type” and this means we always try and breed a cow that is structurally very correct, from sound legs and feet, to good udder attachment and strength through the rib: in other words robust. The second is “feed for health” and this means we do not feed our cows for maximum milk output, for instance we don’t give them huge quantities of protein. We hope that following these two criteria, our cows have a chance of living a reasonably long and healthy life. Our oldest cow is twelve years old having produced seventy tons of milk and, like me, her family roots run deep into the farm.

We breed our own replacement dairy cattle which is known as a closed herd. There are two of us responsible for getting cows pregnant, myself and the bull. I use artificial insemination (AI) on the adult cattle. It allows me to use genetics from around the world to improve what I do and that is my department. When AI was first introduced the chap who went from farm to farm doing it was known as the ‘bull with the bowler hat’. Cows come through the milking parlour twice a day and, if they are on heat, can be inseminated. There are lots of bull semen companies and it is a very competitive industry; one of these was “Semen World” until it was taken over by a bigger company. My Semen World hat was always a good conversation starter whilst out carol singing.

The bull is responsible for the maiden heifers. These are young cattle which are yet to have their first calf. They are out in the fields in summer so it is less work for me and less stress on them to let them run with the bull. Bulls can be very dangerous animals and need handling with care, which is a good reason for not keeping one.

Confrontations with them tend to be brief, very one sided and best avoided. Much safer to employ the ‘bull with the bowler hat’.

John Dawson

Picston Shottle facts
In his official Interbull proof, he has 100,000 daughters in 20,000 herds in 22 countries. Conservatively, those 100,000 Shottle daughters have produced more than £5bn and more than 2bn litres of milk. Shottle got lots of press attention featuring in Playboy, The Times and the Daily Mail.

John Dawson

Picston Shottle – one of the AI bulls we used a few years ago

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