

Welcome to your newsletter

Welcome to the December edition. Our thanks to all who have supported the Newsletter over the last year; our advertisers, sponsors, contributors and readers. Thank you to those who have shared their Christmas greetings - your donations will help fund the Newsletter printing costs.

If you would like to contribute in any way to the **February** edition, please do get in touch. Our email address is: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

With best wishes to you for Christmas and 2023!

The Newsletter Committee



February 2023 edition

Deadline date: 20 January

Email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter information

Editions are produced in February, April, June, August, October and December. Next edition: **February, 2023.**

Deadline: 20 January.

Articles

If you want to submit an article it should be c250 words and, if possible, accompanied by a high resolution photo (at least 300 dpi). *Please note that we reserve the right to edit copy, or to refuse to publish submissions, and that the Newsletter Committee's decision on such matters is final.*

Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Advertising and Sponsorship

Advertising rates start from £10. We print in colour. We would love to hear from you if you, or your business, would like to advertise or sponsor colour printing.

Contact Judith: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Distribution

If the printed edition is usually delivered to your home and you haven't received one by the 5th of the publication month – please collect a copy from one of our distribution points: Clapham Village Store, the porch at St James' Church Clapham, the porch at St Matthew's Church Keasden, Newby Methodist Church. Distribution points will have copies available at the beginning of every publication month. If you would like to help with distribution where you live – please get in touch.

Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Website

For ongoing news updates and more see: clapham-news.net



Clapham Village Store



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Christmas & New Year opening times

Saturday 24 December: 8.30am-1.30pm
Christmas Day and Boxing Day: closed
Tuesday 27 December: closed
28, 29 & 30 December: 8.30am-5.30pm
New Year's Eve: 8.30am-1.30pm
New Year's Day: closed
Monday 2 January: 8.30am-4.30pm

Winter opening times

Monday to Friday: 8.30am-5.30pm
Saturday and Sunday: 8.30am-1.30pm

Telephone: 015242 51524
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Rare plant find - a first for the British Isles

It was in mid-April during an unremarkable day for a field botanist. I was gleaning records for the British Botanical Society's forthcoming new national plant atlas. The day was advanced when on a whim I dropped into Clapham to see what, if anything, of interest might be found. I knew that on the southwest side of the car park was a strip of rank growths dominated by nettles, rosebay willowherb and brambles but little else. This 'no man's land' separated the car park from the footpath I have taken many times to Austwick. On this particular day, I found a patch of leaves I was unable to recognise.

It was not until the following July that identification of the plants was finally verified, when another botanist also found the plant beside the beck. By then they were mature and flowering. Following a little research, it transpired that the mystery plants were Blue Sow-thistle (*Cicerbita macrophylla* subspecies *macrophylla*). Remarkably, it was the very first time the plant had been recorded anywhere in the British Isles.

The Clapham plants are significantly different from the common Blue Sow-thistle (subspecies *uralensis*) found in Britain. The Clapham plants are more robust, can grow as tall as three metres, the basal leaves have ludicrously large terminal lobes, and, unlike with *uralensis*, bear a dense fuzz of sticky hairs on the upper stem. Overall, it is a far more statuesque and impressive plant.

Subspecies *macrophylla* is widespread in continental Europe, but its appearance in the Dales begs questions concerning the plant's origin. Clapham, of course, was the home of celebrated botanist and international plant collector, Reginald Farrer (1880 – 1920). He travelled the world extensively collecting, returning to his home, Ingleborough Hall, with all manner of exotic specimens for his private collections.

Was the Blue Sow-thistle the result of one of his collecting expeditions? Did it escape years ago from his garden to establish itself in the wild? We may never know. What is certain, however, is that Clapham is firmly on the botanical map as repository for a plant species so far found nowhere else in Britain.

Howard M Beck



Mature plants growing beside Clapham Beck



Flowers showing the dense, glandular hairs peculiar to subspecies *macrophylla*



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Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of 25th October 2022 with four members of the public in attendance.

After the usual formalities, a police report dealing with the period between 25th September and 12th October 2022 was read to the meeting. Only two matters were mentioned: an inquiry from another police force and an incident involving suspicious circumstances on the A65.

In relation to highways matters the clerk was asked to report a pothole on Keasden Road, near to Lythe Birks, to North Yorkshire County Council and to request Craven District Council to install a street name plate on Jack Beck Lane. The Council noted that various matters raised at its last meeting had been taken up with the relevant bodies and that North Yorkshire County Council had undertaken to clear a drain on Gildersbank, Clapham.

With regard to ongoing matters, the Council authorised purchase of a defibrillator to be installed at the Old Saw Mill, Clapham. An update as to progress with the Neighbourhood Planning initiative was received, completion of the draft report being imminent. A representative from the Sustainability Group indicated that there is as yet no agreement as to the availability of a suitable site in Clapham to accommodate electric vehicle charging points and that a heat-loss camera was expected to be available for use in the parish.

There were no new planning applications for consideration. The Council however noted that approval

had been given by Craven District Council for proposed works at Wellfield Barn and at Croft House both in Newby.

Among its correspondence, the Council noted the potential availability of awards via the Craven District Council Legacy Sub-Committee for projects, organisations, teams, voluntary groups, and individuals who have provided an exemplary service to the district. Further information is available via the Parish Council.

The Council noted with grateful thanks a donation towards its upkeep of the closed churchyard in Clapham from Ken and Brenda Pearce. This donation was made with specific reference to the recently erected Lee family headstone.



Photo: Isobel Palmer

At the end of the meeting the Council said goodbye to Nigel Harrison whose last meeting as clerk this was. It expressed its thanks to him and presented him with tokens of its appreciation. The new Clerk, Steven Culver, will formally take over in due course and until such time as he is in a position to do so, Councillor Anne Sheridan will act as clerk with Mr Culver's assistance.

For more information about the Parish Council please click on the Information link at: www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Wednesday 14th December 2022** at 7.30pm at Clapham Village Hall. The Parish Clerk can be contacted by email at: parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com

Fleecy radiators



A member of the Sustainability Group has been testing the efficiency of using raw wool fleece to limit warmth from a radiator being lost through absorption into the wall and then out into the atmosphere.

The process:

1. Wash a raw wool fleece by hand, or on a 'wool wash' in the washing machine. Perhaps do this more than once, or until the water runs clear. If you wish - add an aromatic oil at the final wash.
2. Thoroughly air dry the fleece.
3. Push the fleece as thickly as possible into the space between radiator and wall. A garden cane is useful for this operation.

The amount of fleece you require will depend on the size of radiator(s) you wish to insulate. Half a fleece is a manageable size to begin with.

The test was carried out on a 1960s house that had no insulation in the walls and easily leaked heat. The house was not stone built.

Additional comments from the householder:

- The wool does absorb some of the heat, but holds onto said heat, which is helpful in prolonging the warmth in general, including keeping the radiator warm after it has been turned off. The outside wall behind the radiator was repeatedly tested and found to be cool and therefore not leaking warmth out through the wall.
- Old stone walls do not have an open cavity as does the 1960s house used for this test. The radiator heat was going through the uninsulated cavity wall and disappearing into the garden. It has made a difference and has helped to retain the heat for longer. The walls were not a heat sink. Prior to the wool test they were the complete opposite.

Clapham Sustainability Group



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Fingers crossed – Panto’s back in Clapham this year!

“Oh yes, it is” and we will be welcoming Dame Ruth from Pocket Panto and The Same Difference Theatre Company to the village hall on

Monday, January 2nd at 2:00pm

when they will be presenting

Cinderella



You all know the plot, but they promise us:

‘... fairy tale enchantment combined with side splitting comedy. This show will leave your audience entertained and enchanted from start to finish! Perfect for the whole family.’

The show is just 50 minutes long.

Tickets: £10 for adults and £5 for children under 14

They will be on sale in Clapham Village Store from Monday, December 5th (cash only) or via Sue Mann on 015242 512792 or suemann.wyvern51@gmail.com

The Three Peaks Players

The Austwick Community Players are an amateur dramatic group that have been a part of Austwick life for over 50 years, performing each year to say thanks to our community. However, our last full-blown production was just prior to the first lockdown, and the last two and a half years has been a frustrating time for us all.

Yet, during this time, we have recruited some enthusiastic new members to the group, some from Austwick but others from further afield. To reflect this, we have recently changed the Players name to 'The Three Peaks Players'.

2023 is going to be an exciting year which will see us putting on a variety of performances across the Three Peaks area. This we believe will give more people a chance to get involved, and more audiences the chance for a fun evening with us.

Our next performances will be:

- 'Last Tango in Little Clapham' showing at Clapham Village Hall on Saturday 28th January
- 'Last Tango in Little Austwick' showing at Austwick Parish Hall on Saturday 25th February

This is a fabulously chaotic and hilarious comedy, written by David Tristram, about a small Amateur Dramatic Society who need to come up with some rent money fast. After all, "there's only one thing that sells tickets" they argue, "Sex." And so, we see an evening unfolding that you will hopefully never forget!!

We'd love to see you all at our first shows of the season and tickets are available from Clapham Village Store, Austwick Stores or from the Players.

If you'd like to join us for a fun-filled 2023, whether to try your hand at acting, or to help backstage, please contact the Players at threepeaksplayers@gmail.com and we'll welcome you with open arms.

*Tony Stephens,
Chair, Three Peaks Players*

Win a handcrafted blanket



When I was given a lot of colourful mohair wool, I asked the knitters at Craft and Chat and other friends if they would be willing to knit squares from it. The response was great, and these have now been assembled into a blanket by Barbara Marshall.

This will be raffled, and the proceeds given to Cancer Research. The tickets are £1 and can be bought from me.

*Liz Mason
015242 51319*

Financial help

Do you, or someone you know, need help with the extra costs that come with illness or immobility?

The Settle and District Aid in Sickness Fund is a registered charity, operating since 1960, and its entire purpose is to help people with those increased costs. The Fund makes one-off gifts to applicants in Settle Parish and all the eleven parishes that surround Settle. Examples of the kind of help available are towards the cost of:

- travel to hospital both for patient appointments and for family visits
- winter fuel bills for the housebound or immobile
- equipment to help with immobility
- domestic help

The Charity aims to help those who are less well off, but there are no formal means tests. Applications are handled in the strictest confidence, there are no age limits and no complicated procedures or forms to be filled out. The amount of each gift is at the discretion of the Trustees, except the rules say there can be no commitment to recurring gifts.

If you think the Fund can help, either you, or someone you know, give me a ring, or send me an email.

*Diane Elphinstone,
Trustee*

015242 51813 or dianeelphinstone@gmail.com

Co-op local causes



Our local Co-operative stores support local community organisations such that 2p out of every £1 that members spend can go towards one of those causes: members simply nominate which of them they wish to support, and the Co-op does the rest.

In the year ending October 2022, Ingleton Guides benefited from £2,065.30, Ingleton Primary School from £2688.91 and the Cave Rescue Organisation by £3,446.27. Congratulations to all of these.

For this current year, Ingleton Primary School will continue to benefit but the other two nominees are Ingleton Rural Community Association and Kirkby Lonsdale Community Cupboard.

Carolynne Lobb

Macmillan coffee morning

Although it was held way back in September the coffee morning was a great social event and raised an amazing £529.00. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Jackie Kingsley and Liz Mason

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Church news

John's notes: Keasden's anniversary: 'From this day on I will bless you'

Monday 22 September 1873 was 'a glorious day', weather wise, with the sun shining 'in full splendour', according to a newspaper report of the consecration of St Matthew's church, then Keasden's newest building. The Lord Bishop of Ripon had travelled to preside over this occasion, and 'long before the hour appointed for the commencement of the service, groups of persons in their Sunday attire were to be seen wending their way over the hills to Keasden, all evidently anxious to show their appreciation of the noble gift of the worthy squire of Ingleborough.'

Prior to the building of St Matthew's, the ancient church of Clapham served Keasden's people (as it did those of Austwick and Eldroth before their 'chapels of ease' were built), but those who lived in 'the remote parts of the parish' sometimes experienced difficulties reaching it. Occasionally services were held at the old Bobbin Mill at Clapham Wood but 'in order that people may have the advantage of a more suitable place of worship, James Farrer, Esq., of Ingleborough, the Lord of the Manor of Clapham, came forward in the most liberal manner,' provided the land and 'at his own expense' built 'a very neat looking and substantial little church... the work in connection with which has been executed in a manner reflecting the highest credit of all concerned.'

At the service, the Bishop preached from Haggai 2.19: 'Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. From this day on I will bless you.'

In 2023 we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Keasden Church, which continues to be a 'hub' for the activities of our local community; hosting services of worship and social events, providing the perfect venue for local people (and those with Keasden connections) to marry or hold christenings, and being the gathering place for all to come together to honour those who have passed away. Its churchyard is a solemn burial ground, a haven for wildlife and a place of rest and reflection (with its tremendous view down across towards Ingleborough) for parishioners, hikers, and cyclists alike. The newly completed New Burial Ground adjacent to the church (which, like the old church itself, is the product of the time and generosity of so many local people) will be consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Leeds Rt Revd Nick Baines on the 150th anniversary weekend, Sunday 24th September 2023.

Back in 1873 a post-consecration luncheon was held at the Flying Horse Hotel, where the Vicar of Clapham Revd Canon Marriner proposed the health of Mr Farrer (who was, sadly, indisposed due to illness that day) and other toasts were raised - to the Lord Bishop, to the Vicar, to the deanery clergy, and to the 'ladies' and the 'laymen' of the parish.

Since that day St Matthew's has acted as Keasden's community hub serving worshippers and non-worshippers alike, and so this coming year we're taking the opportunity of this anniversary to celebrate Keasden's life. Come and join the festivities!

With my good wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Revd John Davies

john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

01524 805928

Notes from a small vicar: bit.ly/johndavies-talks

For more events for our churches - see p 22.

Anglican Services

December

4th: 9:30 Eldroth & 11:00 Clapham - Holy Communion

11th: 9:30 Austwick Holy Communion; 7.00 Clapham Joint Clapham and Newby Carol Service

18th: 9:30 Austwick & 11:00 Clapham Holy Communion; 4.00 Austwick Carol Service preceded by carols outside church at 3.40pm; 7.00 Eldroth Nativity and Carol Service

Thursday 22nd: 7.00pm Keasden Carols around the Crib

Christmas Eve: 3.00 Austwick Crib Service; 5.00 Clapham Crib Service followed by a short Holy Communion; 11.30pm Austwick Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day: 9:30 Eldroth & 11:00 Keasden Family Communion

January

1st: 9.30am Eldroth - Benefice Holy Communion

8th: 9.30am Austwick & 11:00 Keasden Holy Communion

15th: 9:30 Austwick & 11:00 Clapham Holy Communion; 6:30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

22nd: 9:30 Austwick Holy Communion; 7:00 Keasden Evening Service

29th: 10:30 Austwick Messy Church; 7:00 Clapham New Inn Church in the Pub

Also, each Wednesday (except 28th December) 10.30 Austwick Holy Communion

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

Services are usually taking place on second Sundays of the month at 11am and fourth Sundays at 2pm.

Our coffee morning each Thursday 10.30am to 12.00 noon, is a great way to meet new friends.

Details available from Revd Stephen Caddy on 015242 61257 or by email: Stephen.f.caddy@gmail.com

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Sunday services 11am & 6.30pm. Junior Church 10am.

Fridays - **Clapham Tots** 9.30 to 11am.

Alternate Fridays - **kmotion** (primary school ages) 6-7pm &

Encounter (secondary school ages) 7.30-9pm.

Prayer meeting on Mondays 7.30pm.

Coffee evening 4th Thursday of the month 7.30pm.

Saturday 3rd December 10.30am Coffee, cake & chat & Foodbank drop off. Thank you for supporting the foodbank throughout the year.

Find us on Facebook or at: www.bethelchapelclapham.org

Catholic Church - Bentham and Settle

St Boniface, Robin Lane, Bentham, LA2 7AB

Usual service times: Sun: 9:15am, Wed & Fri: 10:00am

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

Usual service times: Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sun: 11:15am, Tues & Thurs: 10:00 am

Parish Priest: Father Frank Smith, Phone: 01729 822525

Email: stboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

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Clapham scandal revealed

On 16 June this year the BBC, on Radio 4, announced that research initiated in 2019 by the Church of England Commissioners had revealed that in the 18th century a Church fund known as Queen Anne's Bounty (QAB) had invested significant sums in the South Sea Company, a trading body which bought and transported slaves across the Atlantic. You may never have heard of either the South Sea Company or Queen Anne's Bounty, but their awful trade was brought right to our doorstep when it was locally discovered that the former Clapham Vicarage, now known as Arbutus House, was financed in part by Queen Anne's Bounty.

QAB was established by Act of parliament in 1703. Its purpose was to tackle poverty among the poorer clergy by making grants where necessary. The funds came from donations from wealthier clergy and, more significantly, from investment in the South Sea Company. At one time 25% of the fund was held in Queen Anne's name (she ruled from 1702 to 1714). This company transported 34,000 slaves from Africa to Spanish colonies in the Americas between 1715 and 1739. 11% of them are known to have died during the crossing. Those who survived fetched £10 a head if aged over 16 years, the younger ones £8. The company ceased slave trading in 1739.

Clapham vicarage was built by the Farrer family in 1832 in exchange for the land on which the original vicarage stood, now part of Ingleborough Hall garden. That new vicarage was occupied by Rev John Halton up to 1837, then by Rev Charles Overton until 1841, by Rev John Marriner until 1876 and then by Rev John Meire Ward until 1895. Rev Marriner had nine children and Rev Ward had eight.

They both found the vicarage small and inadequate as originally built. Rev Marriner approached the staff of QAB for finance to pay for the repair, extension, or replacement of the vicarage and, on 10 May 1866, they offered to lend him £250 repayable over 30 years. It seems that this offer was not taken up but, probably on 7 May 1876, Marriner asked the Church Commissioners for permission to mortgage the vicarage to raise funds to "... increase the convenience of it as a residence". Sadly, he died on 21 May 1876 without having received any known reply.

His successor, Rev Ward, wrote to the Commissioners on 24 August 1876, again asking to mortgage the vicarage to QAB "... for the purpose of enlarging the Parsonage House". QAB replied on 16 November that same year, offering to lend £600 repayable over 30 years, provided that the Commission's treasurer controlled the financial arrangements.

The task of completing repairs, improvements and extensions took some considerable time. Getting hold of the money to pay for them took even longer, a saga in its own right. But the important point is that the vicarage would have looked considerably different and would have been considerably less convenient had it not been for the very significant help of the QAB – drawing on the ill-gotten gains of the Atlantic slave trade.

In 1948 the QAB and Ecclesiastical Commissioners merged to become the Church Commissioners and in 1984 Clapham Vicarage was sold into private hands, severing the link between those awful events on the high seas and the church in tranquil Clapham.

Ken Pearce

Correction

Following the publication of the October 2022 Newsletter, which contained a short article I had written about Norah Hazzard, I received a phone call from Graham Cross, whose family lived in Clapham for many years. He pointed out an error in my article, which I accept completely. Graham told me that Norah Hazzard did not have one of the earliest cars in Clapham as I had claimed. He said that Norah had been taught to drive by his father, Bert, in 1963 in a Morris Minor she had bought in either 1962 or 63.

This prompted me to enquire further into the question of when cars appeared in Clapham and I discovered that one of the first ones seen was in 1900, when the school logbook records that the children were taken to see it. James Anson Farrer, then the Squire, hired a Benz car in 1900 and subsequently bought his first car in 1901. In 1920, Claude Barton, the Ingleborough Estate agent, opened a commercial garage in Clapham. By 1964, some 1500 cars an hour were reported to be going through Clapham at holiday times before the A65 bypass was built.

I hope this will help to put the record straight. My thanks to Graham for bringing my error to light.

Ken Pearce

SETTLE PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

DECEMBER 2022 PROGRAMME

5 December: 19:30 St John's Methodist Church (+ Zoom)

Amy Bateman returns to SPG to tell us about her latest project, documenting rural life in Cumbria (amybatemanphotography.com/forty-farms).

19 December: 19:30 Zoom only

Full details of our festive gallery and get-together will follow in due course.

JANUARY 2023 PROGRAMME

9 January: 19:30 Zoom only

Learn about Astrid's creative process for capturing emotion in photographs (www.astridmcgechan.com).

23 January: 19:30 Zoom only

Meeting: Discussion of potential SPG entries for YPU
A chance to obtain feedback from other members about images that you are considering as entries for the YPU exhibition. We will also review the "Farming" gallery.

Meetings held at St John's Methodist Church, Church St, Settle, BD24 9JH and/or on ZOOM as shown.

Outings are also held on a monthly basis.

Further details available at <http://www.settlephotos.org>

Nature notes

Until very recently, we have been experiencing a disconcertingly mild autumn: wet and windy but definitely warmer than we might have expected. At the beginning of November, we still had red admiral and comma butterflies flitting about our garden and the smooth newts in the pond were showing little inclination to head for their hibernation hiding holes. There were even sprigs of blossom and a few new leaves appearing on some very confused trees.

However, despite the attraction of the unseasonably warm weather, it is extremely unlikely that any of our visiting swifts have extended their holiday in the Dales through to late autumn. Almost all of them will have returned to sub-Saharan Africa by the end of August. Imagine Tim Hutchinson's surprise then, when he spotted that familiar scimitar-winged silhouette swooping over the village in the first week of November. Further sightings over Bentham were reported and it quickly became apparent that this was one of the

100+ pallid swifts blown in over the coast on strong, warm south and south-westerly winds. These are rare visitors to our shores and the fact that so many have been seen this year suggests that we are experiencing some very unusual weather patterns.

Fortunately, there have also been more predictable signs of the passing of the seasons. The first redwings and fieldfares started flocking into the area at the beginning of October, appearing in significant numbers by the middle of the month. I always think of these winter thrushes as the swifts and swallows of winter, and this year there are plenty of berries on the trees to keep them happy through to Christmas. Some of you may also have been lucky enough to spot a few brightly coloured bramblings joining the chaffinches in your gardens over the last few weeks. Although most of these wary little *mountain finches* will be keeping to the copses of beech around the village, there's always a chance that they will be tempted by the fallen seeds on offer beneath your bird feeders, particularly if/when we get an especially cold snap.

To my mind, some of the more reliable signs of autumn are provided by many of the most familiar of our local birds. The rain-soaked fields at this time of year offer easy pickings for foraging flocks of rooks and the breezy weather is equally suited to the joyous antics of show-off jackdaws and the determined, arrow-straight flight of carrion crows.

There are eight species of corvids in the UK, and these three superficially similar black birds are the ones we see most frequently.

Common they may be, but that doesn't mean that they are always reliably identified. Too often they are simply lumped together as plain old black crows, despite some obvious differences in character and appearance. 'One rook's a crow,' my Dad used to say, referring to the fact that rooks are very sociable, and crows tend to prefer their own company. That's not a bad starting point but it's probably more helpful to look for the greyish face and beak and feathery *trousers* of the rook, as opposed to the scaly bare legs and all-black outfit of the crow. Jackdaws are significantly smaller, with a distinctive silvery shine to the back of their heads and will often gather together on rooftops or make a nuisance of themselves by trying to nest in your chimney! The chattering *tchack tchack*



Jackdaw, crow, rook & raven.
Image: RSPB

call that gives them their name echoes round the village every autumn evening as they wheel away in large flocks to their night-time roosts.

There is, of course, a fourth, rather more elusive black corvid that you can encounter locally – especially if you venture a little way up into the hills. The raven is a massively powerful creature: more than twice the weight of a rook with a wingspan half as long again. At this time of year young birds tend to go exploring, wandering a little further from their nest sites, so a walk up the hill out of the village towards Newby Cote might just offer a sighting of that unmistakable silhouette with its distinctive diamond-shaped tail. Listen out for a deep, *cronking* call and be prepared to be surprised by the sheer size of the bird.

If you have news of any other interesting or unusual sightings in the area, please send me an email (bc.riverside28@gmail.com) drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply stop and chat if you see me around the village. Photographs are always welcome and, as ever, I'll continue to post regular local nature updates on Twitter: @bc_riverside

You might also be interested in adding your input to the Woodland Trust *Nature's Calendar* citizen science project. To contribute, all you have to do is visit <https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk> where you can record your observations of signs of the changing seasons.

Brian Christian

Pregnant again

By December, all the sheep should be in lamb, or at least had the opportunity to be, if the tup (daddy sheep) has done his job. The sheep breeding cycle is triggered by the decrease in daylight hours, and she will come into season every fourteen days if not pregnant. There are many moments of crisis for the peasant who keeps sheep, and it is always a tense few days at the end of the first two weeks of tugging time, particularly if there is a new boy or two on the tugging team. By now all the sheep will have been visited by the tup for a candlelit supper (dinner if you live on Cross Haw Lane) and most of those visited should now be pregnant.

The peasant knows that a battle-hardened veteran tup who has proved himself over many seasons will get the job done. They are as reliable as Father Christmas or Stuart Marshall. It is the new, untried tups in their first season that require particular attention since they may have an undiagnosed fertility issue which only becomes apparent at the point of use. Sheep who have been served in the first fortnight continue to come into season, that's trouble. Any tup that has "missed" does not usually get offered treatment or even counselling, instead the breeder refunds the purchase price and off he goes to the meat pie factory. (The tup not the breeder).

A tup that has missed can have repercussions that last all year. For instance, lambing time is now going to last several weeks longer, meaning sheep are on the lower in-by ground for longer which can delay grass harvesting. The lambs are unlikely to be of a good size for the autumn sales, and mum may not be in top form for next year's breeding season because her family have needed her help for several extra weeks. No wonder peasants have a furrowed brow and little hair. So, the peasant hopes rather than expects that all those "Super Comfort Ram Harnesses" with "click in click out crayon removal system" will once again be hung on the rusty nail in the coal house by early December having done the job.

The cattle are all inside and chomping their way through mountains of mediocre silage. The dairy cows are much like me and enjoy the daily routines of eating, (like me) sleeping (me again) and giving tiny amounts of milk (not me). The settled routines and expensive diet help them to come into season, which they will do every twenty-one days, and then hopefully getting back in calf. It is quite remarkable how much time we spend making sure animals are going to have a baby. The peasant farmer's knowledge of the female reproductive system is pretty extensive.

I was in the auction mart at Bentham a week or so ago selling a few calves. It was a very wet day, and I am always amazed by the variety of (semi) waterproof clothing in the agricultural world, many of which require baler twine. I remember my dad wore ex-RAF greatcoats in winter. They soaked up a lot of water during a wet day and steamed like some kind of kitchen sauna in front of the Rayburn overnight. And they were still damp and steaming in the morning. His cloth cap was the same. I remember him wringing the water out of it before putting it back on.

After the war, the government sold off army surplus and my granddad was one of those that benefited. The chap that came farm-to-farm was known as "partly not new" and sold everything from surplus army clothing to paraffin and sweets that tasted of paraffin.

Uncle Bill showed us bullet holes in his ex-army coat and insisted he took it off a dead German, but dad assured us the bullet hole was where he accidentally put his lit pipe back in the pocket. Uncle Bill also took great delight in pointing out to visitors that he went through all of the second world war without a scratch. He never mentioned the fact that he was fourteen when it ended.

The farm man at Bleak Bank wore an ex-army greatcoat and over this, on his shoulders, he wore a heavy hessian sack for extra waterproofing protection.

The whole ensemble was held together with sisal string. A scarf held his cap in place and homemade leggings completed the outfit. I am told it took twenty minutes to get it all into place. One day, after dinner, he got all the gear on while my dad and his brother Bill, who were children at the time, watched in awe. Just as he was about to leave the kitchen and brave the winter weather he announced, "I think I need the toilet" and began to disrobe.

Of course, there is a different crisis every day on the family farm but the biggest of the year is beginning to loom. It is known as Christmas and even the mention of it is enough to fill the peasant with dread. The torment of the present buying season is almost upon us, but last time I checked there was no evidence of our local agricultural supplier bowing to public pressure and dedicating a large section of the store to suitable Christmas gifts from which the uninformed but hugely well-intentioned peasant may choose.

Happy Christmas anyway I suppose.

John Dawson



*Pregnant again
Photo: John Dawson*

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Forty-three zips

One day when staying with my elderly parents in Oban, Argyll, my mother asked if I would help her to clear out her capacious sewing drawer. I readily agreed hoping there would be things I could take away and use. We laughed when I'd counted the number of zips that lay waiting for a second or third life. There were forty-three.

Many more than forty-three zips lay within the bags and boxes of unwanted but very good quality items of haberdashery brought home after a recent *Craft and Chat* session in the village hall. Members had responded generously to my call for items such as sewing threads, scissors, buttons, cord, decorative binding, velcro, snap fasteners, ribbon, elastic, thimbles, and zips, etc. for a Settle man to take to a *Refugee Sewing Group* in Nelson, Lancashire. This group makes clothes and useful items to sell to raise funds. Thank you, members of *Craft and Chat*.

Thanks to Jill Buckler of the Sustainability Group, links were made at our *Give and Take* morning in June when furnishing fabrics and other materials were taken by someone collecting on behalf of the Nelson Group. Currently, fabrics are not required, but equipment as listed above will be warmly welcomed. A surplus electric sewing machine was donated. It was received with thanks and a request for others if any become available.



Photo: Phil McCarthy

The *Craven Refugee Support Group* is one of the many groups set up to provide practical, financial and language support for Syrian, Eritrean, Somali, Kurdish and Ukrainian refugees and asylum-seekers in the area. Group outings have been arranged by Settle residents to Malham, Airton and Settle. The photo shows the gymnasium where the sewing group is beginning to gather and where there is also a food bank.

Ann Stewart

Keasden rainfall report

| | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| September | 5" or 12.7cm | 5" or 12.7cm |
| October | 12½" or 31.75cm | 12½" or 31.75cm |

Newsletter group AGM



The Committee at the coffee morning

The newsletter group held its AGM on 10th November and here is an extract of the report on the group's activities as presented to the meeting.

The Newsletter exists to inform you, our readers, of what is

happening, or has happened, in and around our community. It provides a channel to share ideas and information and, indeed, relies on those contributions since it isn't really geared up to generate content of its own making. So, for that, we thank you all for the contributions. The feedback we receive is generally favourable, but we also value constructive criticism since that is the means by which we can improve. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes since we have both a management committee and a production/distribution/website team, with some members taking on multiple roles. All are thanked for all that they do.

We would also like to thank all those who choose to advertise their businesses and commercial ventures through our pages. The income from sales of this space is crucial to our ability to keep going and we like to think we help support their businesses in return.

The move to colour, bigger issues (we regularly produce 24 or even 28 pages now) and increased print run means that our print costs have gone up considerably. Revenue from advertisers alone no longer covers costs but we don't want to alter the balance between adverts and content. To help offset the discrepancy, we offered the opportunity to sponsor individual issues and have been delighted with the uptake. For the last couple of years, we've managed to have a sponsor come forward for each issue and some choose to sponsor us year after year. Others have gone way beyond what we would normally expect of a sponsor and have been particularly generous.

We'd like to thank everyone who has supported us in this way. As yet, however, no-one has agreed to sponsor issues for the beginning of 2023 so can I urge folk to come forward or help us identify likely contenders!

Which brings us neatly to the final group of individuals we'd like to thank – those who join us for coffee mornings and support us through cake and coffee sales, the bookstall, the raffle, and those who choose to pay to have their Christmas Greetings conveyed via our pages. Between you all, you narrow that gap between costs and revenue even further, so it is much appreciated.

Nevertheless, even after advertisers, sponsors and fundraisers, each issue still costs a little bit more to produce than we have in income. As a result, we have had to look at options for increasing the monies we receive and have concluded that a small increase in advertising rates is justified, though we still wish to provide very good value and help support local businesses both now and in the future.

The Newsletter Committee



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Steam update

This time of the year it is generally quiet on the steam front here at the station. This year it is even quieter since the closure of the Settle and Carlisle line – usually so popular with steam excursion fans - has reduced the traffic even further. That closure has occurred because of an accident which happened mid-October and, at the time of writing, will still take a further few weeks to clear up.



Upturned wagons in the River Eden and damage to tracks, bridge and formation.
Photo: Network Rail

A freight train from Clitheroe derailed at Petteril Bridge Junction, just south of Carlisle, shortly after 8pm on Wednesday 19th October. The train comprised 14 tanker wagons, each holding 60 tons of powdered cement. Initial investigations suggest that the cause was a faulty wheel on one of those wagons striking one of the sets of points at the junction. Five of the wagons came off the rails, destroying much of the trackwork and damaging the embankment. Some hit the parapet of the bridge over the River Eden and then toppled into the river below. The accident's location is where the Settle and Carlisle line and the one from Carlisle to Newcastle both join, so the damage to the tracks had resulted in the closure of both routes.

The clear-up has resulted in a huge effort. The derailed wagons have all had to be emptied before they could be moved, with particular care taken with those in the river because of the threat of pollution. A huge crane has had

to be built on adjoining land to do the heavy lifting. Even when the wagons have been recovered, work will be needed to restabilise the embankment, repair the bridge (including strengthening the buttresses in the riverbed which have suffered some washing-out as a result of the altered water flows) and then re-lay all the bent or broken tracks. "On the rare occasions trains leave tracks like this, it can cause extensive damage, and unfortunately, this incident is no exception", said Phil James, Network Rail's North West route director. "I understand this will be extremely frustrating on this crucial rail link from east to west linking Carlisle and Newcastle, as well as south to Skipton. Across the rail industry, we're working as fast as we can to restore the railway for passengers and freight."



The damaged wheel thought to have been the cause of the incident.
Photo: Rail Accident Investigation Branch

We have, however, seen some steam action. A couple of evening movements have returned locos from Carnforth to the Wensleydale Railway and the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, including 45407 *The Lancashire Fusilier* on November 2nd, un-named Black 5 no. 45212 on November 10th and 45596 *Bahamas* on November 19th though, of course, there is not much to see in the dark! The only recent daytime movement was a test run from Carnforth to Hellifield and back for 34067 *Tangmere* prior to that engine's trip up to the capital for an excursion from Victoria.

Andy Scott

Blister pack update



There is a small piece of good news regarding recycling used medicinal blister packs now we can no longer leave them at Ingleton Community Centre.

Any Superdrug outlet with a pharmacy attached will accept your used medicinal blister packs. Our nearest Superdrug stores with a pharmacy are to be found in Lancaster, Leeds - Kirkgate, Leeds - Merrion Centre and Keighley.

Alternatively, St. John's Methodist Church in Settle will accept your used blister packs. The packs are regularly taken in bulk to the Superdrug store in Keighley which is

happy to accept them and in return provide large bags for their next bulk delivery. St. John's host a coffee morning on Wednesdays between 10.30am-12pm.

The Methodist Church, Station Road, Bentham is another church accepting blister packs. Packs can be left in the porch of the church.

*Jill Buckler,
Clapham Sustainability Group*



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Then and now



One might suppose that the green at Newby would have changed very little over the last century and, in many respects, that would be correct though two large trees now dominate where none once stood. The old postcard from around 1900 depicts a wide-open space, barely cluttered by the presence of several hen coops, and with the village's buildings looking out over it. Unfortunately, the presence of one of those trees makes it hard to get a modern comparative photo from the exact same place, whilst the other tree obscures some of the

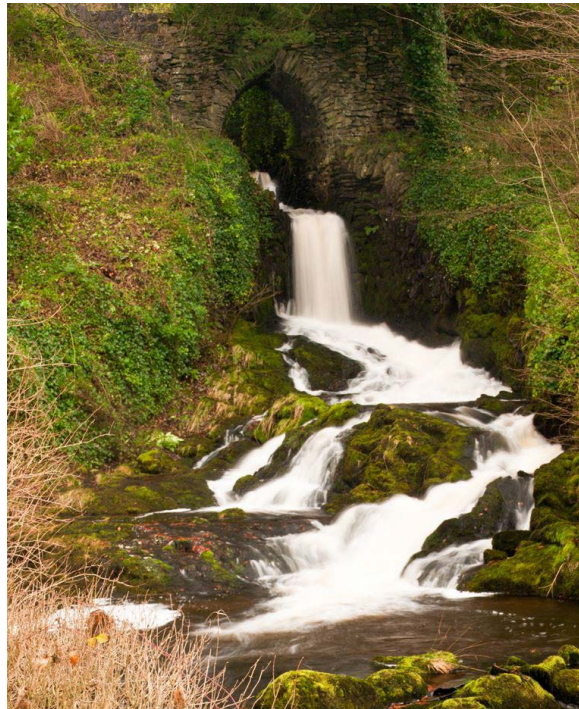
more distant buildings. There are one or two subtle changes visible to the observant eye. For a start, a telephone wire now drapes across the full width of the photo, whilst the chapel has now lost its little cupola. But much more significantly, the route of the trackway across the space has changed, such that where once was grass there is now gravel. Even so, it is readily apparent that these images are both of the same, almost timeless, place.

Andy Scott

Clapham needs you!

In December 2020, a short article about the Clapham Association (formerly Clapham Development Association) appeared in the Newsletter. It told us about the viewing platform by the waterfall and improvements to the wooden steps leading down to the waterside. These works were started by the CDA back in 2005, when the beck-side by the waterfall was laboriously stripped of its 'coverall' snowberry to better reveal the falls. They were finished frantically, just in time for Prince Charles (as he was then) to cut the ribbon and declare them open on 22 March 2005.

Sometime before that date, the CDA had helped to organise the Magic, Myths and Legends festival in 2004 and paid for the erection of road signs on the A65 and the road from Bentham. It went on to publish the familiar folding street-map of Clapham, with advertisements for local businesses printed around its margin. This was followed by the wonderful Clapham by Candlelight event in October 2006. Next came the Clapham village website, reaching a much wider audience., and which Edward Sexton still manages on our behalf. In 2016, the road signs were updated and replaced. Now it is time for the village leaflet to be brought up to date and for village street maps to be fixed at points around the village – all this to serve the needs of Clapham's many thousands of visitors, to



make Clapham a better place to live, to promote the Clapham area and to support local businesses.

Alongside these events there has been a long-running series of litter-picking sessions and weeding around the waterfall and viewing platform (the most visited spot in Clapham?) as well as replacing and later repainting the railings beside the beck on Riverside.

All this has been undertaken over the years by many willing volunteers with financial help from the Ingleborough Estate. Now, inevitably, those volunteers are getting a bit long in the tooth and are no longer as nimble at keeping their footing on the slopes above the beck. The Association, now known simply as Clapham Association, is in danger of fading away. Who will then ensure that the village and its publicity are

maintained? It's time for new and younger blood to step up to the plate and lend a hand, bringing fresh ideas. Can you help us, will you help us, to keep Clapham looking good, a better place to live, a draw to visitors from near and far?

If you would be willing to attend just three or four meetings a year to keep things rolling, please contact either Di Elphinstone on 015242 51813 (dianeelphinstone@gmail.com) or Ken Pearce on 015242 51816 (kenpearcela2@gmail.com).

Ken Pearce

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Friends of the Dales - free talks



Panorama of Ingleborough. Photo: © Joseph Gray

Environmental campaigning charity, Friends of the Dales free autumn and winter events programme features the following talks which are being held online; joining instructions will be emailed to those who contact Victoria to book.

Talk: Capturing the Past

Wednesday 7 December 2022, 4.30pm

Learn about the origins of the Capturing the Past project - Friends of the Dales long term community archive set up as part of Heritage Lottery Funded Stories in Stone. Project leader, John Cuthbert will give an overview of the archives it now contains as well as insight into some stories, photographs and documents with a 'winter theme'.

Talk: Wild Ingleborough

Wednesday 18 January 2022, 4.30pm

Wild Ingleborough is a multi-partner, landscape-scale conservation project aiming to create a wilder future for the Ingleborough area. Ellie Parker, Community Engagement Officer, will showcase the team's ongoing work to combat the impacts of the climate crisis by protecting fragile upland habitats, increasing the area's biodiversity and establishing more habitats for key endangered species.

For bookings email: victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk
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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Coffee Morning - Saturday 10 December 10.30am to 12 noon

Carol Singing around the Keasden area – Thursday 16 December meet at church at 6.15pm

Carols Round the Crib – Thursday 22 December 7.00pm

Family Communion Service – Christmas Day 11.00am

Keasden 150 New Year's Walk - New Year's Day at Keasden Head meet 10.30am Track end, 11.00am at the Farm

St. Matthew's Church, Keasden



Christmas Events at St. James' church, Clapham

Christmas Coffee Morning
Saturday 3rd December 10.00am to 12 noon

Christingle Service (Austwick School)
Monday 12th December 2.00pm

Community Carol Singing
Friday 23rd December 6.30pm
at The Lake House



Christmas Events Methodist church, Newby

Clapham & Newby Carol Service
at St. James' Clapham

Sunday 11th December 7.00pm
seasonal refreshments will be served

Community Carol Singing
on Newby Green
Tuesday 20th December 6.30pm
including tea, coffee & mulled wine



Bethel Chapel's - Christmas Events Do come along and join us

Christmas Dinner with an After Dinner Talk
1st December at 12:30pm

KMotion and Encounter Christmas Special
2nd December at 6:00pm and 7:30pm

Clapham Tots Christmas Special
16th December at 9:30am

Christmas Celebration with Wray Young
People
16th December at 7:30pm

Nativity Service
18th December at 11:00am

Carol Service
18th December at 6:30pm

Christmas Day Service
25th December at 10:30am

Keasden 150 – a year of celebrations!

Save these dates for 2023

New Year's Day

Keasden 150 Parish Walk from 10.30am to include the launch of the Keasden 150 Grand Draw – fabulous prizes

Sunday 23rd April

Keasden 150 Spring Saunter

Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th May

Keasden 150 Exhibition

Sunday 14th May

Keasden 150 Lambing Festival Service

July (date to be confirmed)

Keasden 150 Summer BBQ

Saturday 23rd September

Keasden 150 Celebratory Supper where the Keasden 150 Grand Draw winners will be announced

Sunday 24th September

Keasden 150 Anniversary Service & Consecration of the New Burial Ground at 11.00am

Village hall news

The Clapham cum Newby Village Hall Committee held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 28th September, just as the previous issue of this newsletter was going to press. The AGM went very well, and we were delighted to note that twelve of our community groups had accepted our offer to provide nominees, all of whom have now joined the committee. Six additional members were elected from those present and a further two individuals were co-opted, meaning that the committee is now twenty strong and hopefully so much more representative of the parish as a whole.

The new committee then elected its officers, with Judith Dawson becoming the Chair and Margery Dowling the Vice Chair, whilst the Treasurer (Anne Lawler), Secretary (Angie Martin) and Bookings Secretary (Zoe Richardson) were all elected to continue in office.

One of the new committee's first tasks was to set up a working party to look at all the policies, procedures and licences that need to be in place to ensure that the hall, as a registered charity, keeps abreast of all the necessary legal requirements. This will be an ongoing task that will take us through the next few months.

While this work is going on in the background, the hall continues to be a popular venue for private bookings as well as a hub for our regular users. We are pleased to see that usage has increased and is now actually higher than it was before Covid struck.

Tickets will soon be on sale for the pantomime on Monday January 2nd (see advertisement on page 6). Another date to put in your diary is Saturday 28th January when local amateur dramatic society the Three Peaks Players will be performing 'Last Tango in Little Clapham' (see details elsewhere in this issue).

Also, starting in 2023 we hope to see the return of some of our popular social events such as the Domino Drive, Village Quiz and Ceilidh dances along with other new initiatives.

*Angie Martin,
Hall Secretary*



Photo: Annie Farrer

Village hall regular events

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 2-4pm (re-starting on 9 January)
David and Jackie Kingsley
07711 730819

Clapham & Austwick Guides & Brownies

Mondays 5pm - 6.30pm Brownies
Mondays 6.30pm - 8pm Guides
Karen Fielding 07748 164409
claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com

Clapham Lecture Group

Tuesdays 7pm
(until 6 December)
Andy Scott
015242 51749

Age UK

Wednesdays 10.30am
(1st Wed of the month)
Brenda Pearce 015242 51816
kenpearcela2@gmail.com

Clapham Art Group

Wednesdays (mornings)
Linda Clemence 01729 823767
linda.clemence@googlemail.com

Clapham DEW Drop-in

Digital Equipment Workshop/computer support group
Wednesdays 7pm
(Usually 1st Wed of the month)
Andy Scott 015242 51749
claphamdewdropin@gmail.com

Clapham with Horton WI

Wednesdays 7pm
(2nd Wed of the month)
Lorraine Wildman 015242 51219

Yoga

Thursdays and Fridays
Contact Brooke for session timings
Brooke Chenoweth
yoga@braveenterprise.com

Tai Chi

Thursdays 9am - 10.30am
Tony Bennet
taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com

Craft & Chat

Thursdays 2pm - 4pm
(1st & 3rd Thurs of the month)
Chris Horsewill 015242 51716
ajhnottm@gmail.com

Sustainability Group


Thursdays 7.30pm onwards
(2nd Thursday bi-monthly – Jan, March, May, etc.)
Jill Buckler
jillbuckler@me.com

Board Games Group

Fridays 2pm - 5pm
(2nd & 4th Fri of the month)
Jackie Kingsley
jackieanddavid@yahoo.com

Christmas greetings

Our thanks to these readers for supporting the newsletter with these greetings to their friends.



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| Scott & Harriet Fell Brook | John & Clive Low Lea | Jackie & David Kingsley Dalesview Close |
| Annie The Beeches | David & Denise The Green | Janet Raine Clapdale Way |
| John & Pat Sanders Tinklers Cottage | Lynda & Brian Eggshell Lane | John, Lorraine & Fred Station Road |
| Brian Sunnyside, Newby | Nell, Robin, Bessie, Eddie & Xander, The Beeches | Kathy Hall Cross Haw Lane |
| Mark, Lucy, Tom, Jamie, Will & Mollie, Station Road | John & Sheralee Dovenanter Barn | Chris & Jess Honeywood |
| Margery Dowling Sandy Bell, Cross Haw Lane | Everyone Clapham Village Store | Mavis, Glenys, David & Danny Gilgen, Cross Haw Lane |
| The Coultherds Beck Cottage | Wendy Jennings The School House, Keasden | Rosie & Ray Park View |
| Liz Wake Old Mason's Yard | John & Ann Norris Beckfield House | Norma & Michael Stephenson Jack Beck House |
| Sally & Bailey Old Mason's Yard | Sheila Flying Horseshoe Cottages | Ann Stewart Dalesview Close |
| Louise & Tobi Ivy Barn | Angie & Andy Station House, Clapham | Ken & Brenda Stonegarth |
| Anne & Poppy Dalesview Close | Pam Summers Clapdale Way | Isobel, Grace & Flo Bridge Cottage |
| Richard & Jayne Gildersbank | Elizabeth & George Greenbank Wenning Bank | John, Diane, Jack & Rusty Crooklands |
| All staff at the Trail, Cave and Old Sawmill café | Dave Gildersbank | Anne & David Eggshell Lane |
| Inki & Howard Jacques Barn | Justina, Richard, Edward, Ruth, Martha & Phoebe | Mrs Betty Lovett & family Kirkdale |
| Philip, Maria & Family Hall Garth | Kate & Derrick Butcher | Margaret & Dennis Brookside |
| Jill, Iain, Chloe & Emily Old Manor House | George & Ann Sheridan Dovenanter | Linda & Colin Lindens, The Green |
| Thomas & Carol Reeby's, Keasden | Kevin & Anne Lawler Dalesview | The Chenoweths Swallows Nest |
| Simon & Angela Rantree Middle Barn | Nick & Linda Baxter & Chester Dalesview Close | Stuart & Barbara Bramall |
| Helen & John Green Acre | Martin & Christine Wilcock Yew Tree Cottages | Anne Park House |
| Liz Mason Clareson | Ian & Suzanne Liddle Barn Cottage, Riverside | John, Judith & William & all the animals at Bleak Bank |
| Gerald & Diane South View | Ron & Denise Tinkers Ford | Sue & James Gildersbank |
| Alan & Sylvia Dalesview | Bryan & Joan Close Giffords | John & Marilyn Flying Horseshoe Cottages |
| Chris & Tony Horsewill Long Barn | | Val & Eddie Ex Clapham now Kirkham |