



Number 141, February 2023

The foot man

February is the month when vets, auctioneers and politicians wonder if they can squeeze in another skiing trip whilst, meanwhile, the peasant farmer is wondering if the waterproof clothing will ever be dry again, or if those socks that Father Christmas brought will do until the cows go out in May or will they need a wash sometime in March? I used to work for a chap who never bathed or showered all winter because “our bathroom’s t’coldest room in t’house.” He lived in a draughty and very damp old farmhouse and claimed the only dry part was in the Rayburn.

At Bleak Bank, February means we are in deepest darkest winter and the days are full of enjoyable routine work. Our animals are dependent on us keeping our end of the bargain. Don’t tell my wife, but it involves us putting them first in everything we do (I suspect she may already know) with jobs such as cleaning out, feeding and milking cows, as well as taking hay out to the sheep every day due to the grass being on its winter break.

Recently the cows have had their half yearly pedicure and this is quite a busy day for the peasant, the cows, and Isaac Bargh who does the foot trimming. Isaac is just back from several weeks in Vietnam. As Jane Austen said, “why is everyone so infected with this wanderlust?” Our cows are always excited to see Isaac and all his hi tec equipment. Or at least they appear to be judging by the way they evacuate their bowels as he arrives. Luckily our cows do not give very much milk, so Isaac is able to set up and be ready to start just after morning milking, about 7am.

Each cow enters the crush individually and is held tight. This keeps her safe, preventing injury to themselves (really bad) or Isaac (fairly bad). Next she is lifted up hydraulically, so her feet are at a height to make working easier. Each foot is trimmed in turn, using an angle grinder designed for feet.

I believe the chiropodist who sees to my mother’s feet has a similar piece of equipment. Goggles are essential as bits of hoof fly off in all directions (cow hoof, not my mother’s).

My job during the day is to keep cows and brews flowing at the correct rate which I do with enthusiasm. The Christmas cake and ginger biscuits take a hammering throughout the day, but luckily all the vets are skiing and will never know. The conversation on foot trimming day is far ranging and deep. Above the noise of angle grinders and hydraulic motors we discuss everything, from digital dermatitis, the world cup, even the love life of Isaac Bargh. He is on an eternal quest to find love and throughout the day I make very constructive, well thought out suggestions regarding this. After careful consideration he dismisses my thoughts, and I even wonder if he takes my contribution seriously.



By 4.30pm the job is done, with hardly a break and certainly not a sit down. Every single adult cow foot has been trimmed. The theory is that any early sign of trouble, such as a sole ulcer, is dealt with before it develops into lameness. Often a tiny road chipping that has been picked up during the summer is dislodged before it can work further into the foot and cause the mayhem it would like to. Incidentally, I was always taught that a peasant farmer should wash his or her feet after haytime whether they need it or not.

The afternoon milking is a nervous affair, not much milk but plenty more muck. The cows are convinced Isaac is lurking somewhere, and they refuse to accept my assurances that he has gone home to soak in a hot bath and plan another foreign sojourn. Similar to myself visiting the dentist, the cows are happy when the torment is over and they are safely back in their shed. Speaking of the dentist, I received a Toblerone for Christmas that weighs in at nearly a kilo. So far I have only looked at it but am thinking it needs to

Continued on p5

Welcome to the February edition

Newsletter Production Deadlines for Early 2023

Due to family commitments, the editorial team need to work to exceptionally tight deadlines for the next two issues - April & June 2023. In short, we'll be unable to process any submissions that arrive after the respective deadline dates - 20 March & 20 May - and it would be a great help if you could get items to us much earlier than usual to buy us a bit more time. If you have anything to include, then please let us know as soon as possible and then ensure that we get the final copy in good time.

Our apologies but we should be back to normal by the middle of the year.
The Newsletter Editors



April 2023 edition

Deadline date: 20 March

Email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter information

Editions are produced February, April, June, August, October & December. Next issue: **April, 2023. Deadline: 20 March.**

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 £11. 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 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 – please get in touch.

Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Website

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

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Curlew and Farm Wader Survey update



It is one year since the first meeting was arranged by the Clapham Sustainability Group with farmers, landowners and the RSPB in Newby Chapel, followed in March by a larger public meeting in Clapham Village Hall. From these meetings 18 volunteers and

10 farms were organised to complete RSPB farm wader surveys, with 2 further farms organising their own surveys, from April to July 2022. From the survey results we had an estimated 33 breeding pairs of waders. In the 8 farms that had breeding curlews, 10 chicks were seen, and 5 nests found.

There were problems with finding the nests, so it is likely there were more that went unnoticed and we don't yet fully understand chick survival. Other issues included curlews nesting just outside the area being monitored. This year the survey areas will be increased and there are additional neighbouring farms.

The problem with poor curlew productivity in the UK has been found to be mainly due to agricultural practices and predation. One of the aims to increase survival had been to try and get funding through the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme. It was hoped to be able to offer farmers flexible payments for delayed silage cutting where curlews were present. However, DEFRA would not agree to this so, instead, the RSPB have secured FiPL funding to help with more accurate data gathering by providing up to 20 nest cameras, 20 electric fence kits and 4 thermal imaging cameras. These will all contribute to a better understanding of the causes of nest predation.

Alongside the wader survey work in 2023, a Masters student from Lancaster University will be looking at the data and completing field work. Through the University, we will also be able to use temperature data loggers to monitor incubation and help identify the timing of nest failure. This will help to give us a clearer picture of our curlews in 2023 and better understand their productivity.

Farm and volunteer engagement was excellent in 2022 and the enthusiasm and interest continue. It is this partnership within the community which gives this project its strength and viability to support our waders', and particularly curlews', continued survival amongst us..

Sarah Smith

Clapham Sustainability Group



Photo: RSPB © Katie Gibb

Settle Orchestral Society



Did you know that there is a full-sized symphony orchestra based in Settle? Settle Orchestral Society began life in 1967, when a small group of local musicians who provided the music for Settle Amateur Operatic Society productions decided that they would like to keep playing together. The numbers were further increased thanks to a collaboration with Settle High School.

The orchestra has developed enormously since those early days, to a large extent thanks to Howard Rogerson's 15-year tenure as conductor. Howard was particularly keen to provide opportunities for youngsters to experience orchestral playing.

In 2017 we developed a partnership with the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), who recommend each year a conducting student. This season's conductor is Xinjie Yang from China who has already made her mark with an ambitious programme of Schubert and Tchaikovsky. The partnership gives us access to some very talented

instrumental and vocal soloists, another way of encouraging young musicians.

We are fortunate in having two very experienced co-principals – Anne Heaton (violin), who has for many years taught in music centres in the region; and Bob Buller (cello), who will be playing Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations at our next concert.

We are always glad to hear from anyone who might like to join Settle Orchestra or write music for us. We particularly welcome young instrumentalists and composers, and currently have vacancies for string and brass players. Rehearsals take place on Friday evenings in Settle. We sometimes need additional players for specific concerts and would be happy to hear from any local professionals interested in playing.

Why not come along to one of our concerts, in Settle or in Skipton, to enjoy an exhilarating evening, support local musicians and help keep music live?

Full details of future concerts and contacts are on our website www.settleorchestra.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Easy Church



A service with a difference at St. James'

It's always a surprise when things are changed up a bit in church and Sunday 15th January saw the first "Easy Church" at St James'. Gone was the usual order of service, the sermon, the communion. Gone was sitting in pews and the usual up, down, up, down that comes with a more traditional morning service. Instead, we were guided by Reverend John in a relaxed, informal discussion around leaders and followers. From the incomparable Pelé to David Attenborough, from TikTok influencers to people we know and admire locally, we chatted about what inspires us to follow people (or not to follow them as the case may be) and how that can affect our life, and perhaps theirs, in different ways. The discussion was interspersed with time for quiet reflection.

The format of Easy Church will, no doubt, evolve and we're all invited to have our say. The first session was refreshing and gave us all something to think about. Easy Church will take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month, and everyone is welcome to come and add their voice to the discussion.

Maria Farrer

Handcrafted blanket - winner

I would like to thank all who took part in the raffle for the knitted blanket to raise funds for Cancer Research. £115 was raised. The winning ticket drawn by Helen at the shop belonged to Pam Summers.

Liz Mason

The foot man

Continued from p1 go through the mincer or I may well be visiting the dentist.

Sometime ago, I was given a watch that measures the distance I walk (I think it may also have a tracker) and during the foot trimming day I walked eight miles moving cows and cups of coffee.

For many years our cows have had their feet well cared for: far better than mine but that is another story. All we had to do was pay Isaac at the end of the day and all was well. Nowadays he has to produce a printout with a detailed account of any treatment carried out, which we then forward to our dairy company to prove that he has actually been. If they could see what is left of the Christmas cake that would remove any doubt. Now, where is that Toblerone?

John Dawson

Farm Grant update meetings

Join us for the latest grant updates and what help we can offer you.

We will discuss Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Land Management (ELM) Schemes, Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF), Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL), Woodland Grants, and more!

Refreshments will be provided at all venues.
Booking strongly advised.

Thursday 9 Feb, 7-9pm	Hawes Market House, DL8 3QN
Monday 13th Feb, 7-9pm	Orton Market Hall, CA10 3RU
Wednesday 15th Feb, 7-9pm	Sedburgh Peoples Hall, LA10 5DQ
Monday 20th Feb, 7-9pm	North Ribblesdale Rugby Club, Settle, BD24 9RB (Bar available)
Wednesday 22nd Feb, 7-9pm	Reeth Memorial Hall, DL11 6QT (Optional Supper at The Buck Inn at 6pm, booking required) A Tees-Swale Naturally Connected programme event.
Tuesday 28th Feb, 7-9pm	Online

Please book by contacting Vanessa-

farming@yorkshiredales.org.uk
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www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/farm-events

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Saturday 18th March, 7.30pm
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Mendelssohn

Fair Melusine

Tchaikovsky

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Beethoven

Symphony No.2

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Leader - **Anne Heaton**

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Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of 14 December 2022. Due to the adverse weather conditions only two members of the public were in attendance. Also present was PC Ian Hunt of the neighbourhood policing team.

PC Hunt delivered his report to the meeting. This described 15 matters that had required police attention between 19th October and 12th December 2022, the most notable being vehicle thefts. He reported that 6 arrests had been made in relation to these thefts and that, since that time, the number of incidents had reduced significantly. He also reported that, with the Ingleton Police Station closing, he would be commencing monthly drop-in sessions in Ingleton, Bentham and Settle and, depending upon popularity, these may be extended to other locations. PC Hunt mentioned that on the back of the Home Safety mailshot, the neighbourhood team would be coming door to door to promote the initiative and answer any questions people may have.

Numerous reports had been received regarding highways matters:

Newby Bus shelter - This has been passed to "Passenger Transport" at NYCC who had agreed to take the work forward and had already replaced the actual sign.

The Ingleborough footpath sign at Newby Cote - This has a rotten post, and the Clerk was asked to raise the matter with YDNP.

Newby Street lights - The Council resolved that one of the lights be cleaned out and that the Clerk obtain a quote for trimming the tree surrounding the second.

The clerk had been asked to request a grit bin for Station Road Clapham, and also additional bins for the Keasden road beyond the crossroads, but NYCC have declined. Alternative options will be considered in due course.

YDNP Car Park, Clapham - Cllr Farrer will discuss the deterioration of the white lines with the Authority.

The defibrillator unit intended for "The Old Saw Mill" has been received and now requires an electrical supply to be provided before it can be installed.

Cllr Sheridan informed the meeting that the Neighbourhood Planning report had only been received that day following a need for amendments to the initial draft. The final consultation on it will commence in early 2023.

Cllr Dawson informed the meeting that all work has been completed at the Platinum Toll Bar Wood and the Clerk confirmed that the grant application had been submitted and approved by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

The Council had no comments to make regarding the planning application relating to land to the south of Fountain House Farm and noted that Craven District Council had approved the application in respect of Brock Cottage.

The Parish Council met on the evening of 18h January 2023, with seven members of the public in attendance. A police report had been received and this detailed six incidents between 13th December 2022 and 17th January 2023: two animal related, one Road Traffic incident, one false report and one sexual crime. One of the animal related incidents referred to the dumping of the dead rheas in Crook Beck and the Clerk was asked to contact the Environment Agency's pollution hotline to request that the birds be removed.

There were three main items for discussion on the evening, the first of these relating to electric vehicle (EV) charge points. The council had received notification that Craven District Council was included in a scheme that might allow these to be installed at no cost to the Council, and yet who would, in due course, receive a 10% share of the revenue. EV charge points are something that the Sustainability Group have been pursuing for some time without being able to secure an appropriate site. The Clerk was asked to engage with YDNPA over the siting of the chargers in the Car Park, and request that local residents be allowed to use these without having to pay the parking fee as well, if, in return, the council agreed a revenue share arrangement with them.

The second topic for debate related to a planning application for the former goods yard adjacent to Clapham railway station. There were significant concerns with this proposal, ranging from numerous marked inaccuracies in the application, a previous Secretary of State decision preventing a similar development in 2021, the developers being the same individuals who had built the Great Harlow Lodge development and are in contravention of several regulations for that development, as well as due process not appearing to be followed given that several neighbours (in the same postcode) had received no notification of the proposed development and neither were there any "white notices" posted at the proposed site. Again, the Clerk was asked to draft the objection.

The final item for significant discussion was the re-emergence of "The YDNPA (restricted byway and byway open to all traffic at Thwaite Lane, Clapham-cum-Newby and Austwick) modification order 2007". This looks to potentially redesignate the current bridlepath to be a BOAT "Byway open to all traffic" allowing 4x4s and trail bikes to use the lane along with the walkers, cyclists, horse riders and farm traffic that do so currently. Strong objections were voiced, and the Clerk will be consolidating these along with concerns from Ingleborough estate and Austwick Parish Council in the Council's response.

For information on the work of the parish council use the parish council information link at: www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk. Parish Council meetings will generally be held in Clapham Village Hall at 7.30pm on the **third Wednesday of each month**. There will be no meetings in August and November and the December meeting will be on 13 December 2023. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15 February 2023.

The Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Steven Culver can be contacted:
By email: parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com or telephone: 015242 51862

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An introduction



I am Steve(n) Culver, the Parish Clerk since 1st November 2022. My wife Alison and I, along with our dog Willow, moved to Newby in March 2022 after spending twenty-five years on the other side of the Forest of Bowland in Garstang. However, my links to this area go back to the late 1980's as Alison's parents had a bungalow in Ingleton when I first met her, and her Mum still lives there.

We have two children who love coming to visit us in this beautiful location.

I have spent the last thirty-three years working as an accountant, and was approached by John Dawson to consider the role of Parish Clerk when he heard that I would be taking (very) early retirement, having been made redundant after twenty-six years with BT.

Alison and I enjoy ballroom dancing, still going back to Garstang every week for a lesson. I am a keen cyclist and am looking forward to getting back in the saddle after most of my spare time last year was spent decorating. I'm also an armchair supporter of Sale Sharks but try to catch a couple of games a season in person. You'll see Willow and me out along "the Old Road" most mornings.

Steve Culver

Friends of the Dales - free events

Digital Talk: Raptor Persecution

Wednesday 22 February 2023, 4.30pm

Investigations Officer for the RSPB, Howard Jones will bring to life the cases and day to day work of fighting wildlife crime, with a focus on North Yorkshire – the worst place in the UK for bird of prey persecution. This talk is free and accessible from home using Zoom: please email me to book a place.

Social Stroll:

Wednesday 22 March 2023, 9.30am – 1pm

The first of our Social Strolls, created for people who want to walk over less arduous terrain with time to chat and socialise.

This walk promotes the benefit of using buses to get out into the Yorkshire landscape, this one incorporating a linear route back. After meeting at Skipton Bus Station, walkers will take the bus to Gargrave, returning to Skipton by the Leeds Liverpool canal tow path. This walk is free, but booking is essential as numbers are limited: please email me to secure a place.

Victoria Benn

victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Christmas Greenery

Once again Jess and Chris of Riverside would like to acknowledge the generosity of neighbours and visitors who left donations for Charity in return for holly prunings, artichokes and bay leaves during the run up to the festival. Over £70 (which includes the value of a few bank notes found blowing around in the Village in November!) has been sent to Christian Aid.

Jess & Chris Hart

Keasden rainfall report

	2021	2022
November	5¼" or 13.335cm	13½" or 34.29cm
December	9" or 22.86cm	9¼" or 23.495cm
Annual total	92¼" or 2.343m	81½" or 2.063m

Improved access at St. Matthew's Church, Keasden



St. Matthew's, Keasden has been able to improve the access to the church thanks to a donation from the Clapham Village Store Community Fund.

Before, it was difficult for those unsteady on their feet or for those requiring wheelchair access. During the work, kerbstones, tarmac, and additional drainage were installed.



After completion, the path and gateway are now much more accessible to all members of the community.

Grateful thanks to the Clapham Village Store Community Fund for the valuable support given.

Angela Peach



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Church news

John's notes: Seeing the light - a break with business as usual

'The people sitting in darkness saw a great light, and light dawned upon those sitting in the region and shadow of death.' [Matthew 4.12-23]



We're stuck in this field and there's no way out

It's undramatic to say that we are living through dark times right now; so many are seeking the light of comfort, help, and the hope of new beginnings.

Every day we hear of people like Rona, a disabled mother and her daughter who has special educational needs, who sat in the cold and dark over Christmas because, without warning, her supplier switched their smart meter to prepayment mode, leaving them without gas and electricity. They are among the 3.2 million people across the UK who ran out of credit on their prepayment meter last year and were thus brutally switched into instant darkness.

Sometimes we're in the dark because we simply won't open our eyes. Like the group of sheep stood frozen behind a farm gate, saying 'We're stuck in this field and there's no way out!', unable to see that there is open space all around the gate into which they could freely roam.

In a time of darkness, what is Christianity for? I would say that it is to be a source of light to those who sit, currently, unable to see how they can make ends meet, paralysed by anxiety about their future. For into a world whose leaders, then as now, would bleat, 'We're stuck in this field and there's no way out!', Jesus came preaching 'Good news to the poor... recovery of sight to the blind'. Into a world where country girls like Mary were powerless to effect change, she saw in God's choosing her his intention to 'cast down the mighty from their thrones and lift up the lowly,' to 'fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty.' Christianity began on a shore of Lake Galilee where Jesus met a group of men at their workplace, a family fishing business, and called them to a new vocation: to spread light into the darkness of their place and time.

Some would say that an institution which has for centuries cosied up to power and wealth, is today incapable of bringing light into darkened corners of our troubled world. But at the grassroots this is disproven by the plentiful activity of those in and around our churches who feed the hungry, work supportively with those in debt, campaign for the renewal of broken public services, give their spare

rooms over to refugees, host meetings for recovering addicts. Sometimes they're criticised for what they do; sometimes they meet fierce opposition. But they keep reaching for the light.

For as Jesus' first followers found, so might we: that the call to discipleship demands more than an assent of the heart; it invites an uncompromising break with business as usual.

Revd John Davies

john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

01524 805928

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

Anglican Services

February

5th: 9:30 Austwick (Revd Mark Evans), 9:30 Eldroth (Revd John Davies), 11:00 Clapham Holy Communion services

12th: 9:30 Austwick, 11:00 Keasden Holy Communion services

19th: 9:30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11:00 Clapham 'Easy Church'; 6:30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

Ash Wednesday 22nd: 10.30 Holy Communion at Austwick School

26th: 9:30 Austwick, 11:00 Clapham Holy Communion; 7:00 Keasden Evening Service

March

5th: 9:30 Austwick (Revd Mark Evans), 9:30 Eldroth (Revd John Davies), 11:00 Clapham Holy Communion services

12th: 9:30 Austwick; 11:00 Keasden Holy Communion services

19th: 9:30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11:00 Clapham 'Easy Church'; 6:30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

26th: 9:30 Austwick, 11:00 Clapham Holy Communion services; 7:00 Keasden Evening Service

Wednesday 29th: (morning: time tbc) Austwick School Easter Service in church

Also each Wednesday: 10.30 Austwick Holy Communion service

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

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

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The painter and the peer

Surfing the internet, you may come across the unusual name of 'Katherine Euphemia Farrer.' 'Farrer' is well known to us of course – but Katherine and Euphemia are not so familiar.



Katherine Euphemia Farrer, seated with her sketchpad, photographed amongst the other house guests at Campsea Ashe High House, Suffolk, home of William Lowther the diplomat and the MP for Westmorland. Undated, but probably in the 1890s

Euphemia is an unusual name today, more common in Victorian times, and is taken from the Greek, meaning 'of good report'. Further surfing suggests that 'Katherine' must be a typing error for 'Katherine'. But who was she? The name was encountered in association with a number of small paintings of scenes in the Clapham area.

More digging revealed that Katherine was the wife of a Thomas Henry Farrer.

She had been born in

Bloomsbury on 8th September 1839, one of the six children of Frances and Hensleigh Wedgwood (Hensleigh was the son of Josiah Wedgwood the famous pottery manufacturer). The decorative schemes for some Wedgwood pottery were named after Katherine and she later wrote at least one book about Josiah. She was affectionately known as 'Effy' or 'Effie' and sometimes signed herself "Steppy" in later life.

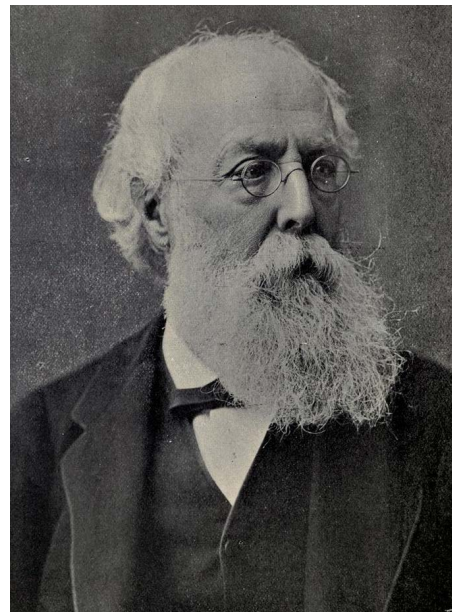
She and Thomas were married on 30th May 1873 at Portland Street Chapel in Marylebone. She was 33 - a little late in life for that era – and bore Thomas no children. Nevertheless, she had children to care for. Thomas had been married before to Katherine's half cousin Frances 'Fanny' Erskine, Edinburgh-born daughter of William Erskine of the India Civil Service. Thomas and Frances had married in January 1854 when she was 29 and they went on to have 4 children, Emma Cecilia born 1854, Thomas Cecil born 1859, Claude Erskine born 1864 and Noel Maitland born 1867. Sadly, Fanny died soon after, in May 1870 aged 44. We have little additional record of her life but know a great deal more about Thomas.

Thomas Henry Farrer was born in London on 24th June 1819. He would have become a first cousin to today's Philip Farrer, though 'four times removed' by the intervening generations. He was nicknamed 'Theta', became an enthusiastic amateur botanist, a committed Liberal and trained as a lawyer before transferring to the Civil Service where his legal training was put to good use in the Board of Trade. He was asked to help with the drafting of the complex Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, working under W E Gladstone who was President of the Board at the time. In 1867 Thomas became Permanent Secretary to the Board, a post which he held for 20 years.

The following year he purchased the Abinger Hall estate in Surrey where he lived for the remainder of his life. Just two years later, in 1870, tragedy struck when his wife Frances died early as mentioned above, leaving her children motherless. We can probably assume that he employed help to care for the children, even after 1873 when he married his second wife Katherine Wedgwood.

In 1882 he was working under Joseph Chamberlain who suggested that Thomas should receive the honour of KCB (Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath) in recognition of his 30 years work at the Board. Gladstone, by then Prime Minister, thought such an honour premature and suggested a CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath). Thomas considered this to be insufficient recognition and he declined the honour.

Nevertheless, he went on to do a great deal of work on Chamberlain's Bankruptcy Bill as well as reforming the Board itself during the years 1881-84. He described this as "the most troublesome task I ever undertook". The wrangle over an appropriate honour in recognition of Thomas's work rumbled on and was eventually resolved only by Gladstone's offer of a baronetcy. This honour Thomas accepted, becoming in 1883 the first Lord Farrer of Abinger. He retired from the Board of Trade in 1886 but 3 years later became an Alderman of London County Council and in 1890 was elected its



Thomas Farrer, First Baron Farrer, Liberal 'free trade' politician, Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade from 1867 and President of the Royal Statistical Society from 1894 until 1896

Vice Chairman, later resigning over issues of policy. In 1893 he was raised to the peerage as Baron Farrer of Abinger. He was also elected President of the Royal Statistical Society for the years 1894-96 in recognition of a working life heavily engaged in statistics.

In their leisure time Thomas and Katherine followed the normal social routine of moderately

wealthy families at that time. Katherine's uncle Charles Darwin visited in August 1877 and Katherine and Thomas paid him a return visit in November of that same year. The Farrers' eldest daughter Emma, known as 'Ida', married the Darwins' youngest son Horace in January 1880.

In September 1889 Katherine again went visiting, this time to see Thomas's relatives James and Elizabeth Farrer at Ingleborough Hall. It appears that she was not accompanied by her husband Thomas on this trip. She paid further visits

The painter and the peer

to Ingleborough in September and October 1890 and again in July 1891, all apparently unaccompanied.



Ingleborough Hall by Katherine Euphemia Farrer, dated August 12th 1893
On the back of the picture, the house guests at the time have all signed it:
Francis Jay Thomas, Bepie S Farrer, Harry Fletcher, E A Di Hibbert,
John H Monckton, J A Farrer, Christopher F Roundell, Ralph Payne, Minna Farrer,
Flora Meynell Pack, Frank Farrer, W Brodick, Thomas Percy, J Hilehut &
Lucy J Thomas

In September 1892 she visited again, this time as a member of a house party of 10 or 11 guests. While at Ingleborough Hall she occupied herself in executing paintings of the lake which was such a feature of 'The Grounds'. The first was a work in pencil and watercolour, 120mm X 175mm, landscape format. Members of the house party signed the back of the painting. Two days later Katherine produced another painting of the lake, this time larger and with a vertical format. Later that year she was photographed visiting Ryston Hall near Downham in Norfolk but there is no record that she painted views of the Hall - or of Campsea Ashe High House in Suffolk where she was also photographed with a house-party which included the owner, William Lowther, MP for Westmorland. The following August she returned to Ingleborough, again as a member of a considerable house party, this time painting watercolours of Ingleborough Hall and of Trow Gill, all modest in size.

In the 18th and 19th centuries many leisured ladies busied themselves in watercolours and it would have been nothing unusual for Katherine to spend her time in this way though very few women became well known for their sketching and painting at this time. Visiting and the social round were much more customary.

Katherine came back to Ingleborough Hall in August 1896 when she and members of the Wedgwood family had sole use of the house for much of the month. Two years later she came again, this time apparently with her husband Thomas who signed himself simply 'Farrer'. But Thomas Henry, the 1st Lord Farrer, by then sporting a magnificent fulsome white beard, was running out of time. Aged 80 he died at Abinger Hall on 11th October 1899 when the hereditary title which had been the result of so much aggravation was taken by his son Thomas Cecil who thus became the 2nd Lord Farrer (1854-1940).

Thenceforward something of a pattern was established where Katherine visited Ingleborough and Thomas Cecil would come two or three years later. Their regular visits seem to have never coincided. He always signed himself 'Farrer' of 'Abinger Hall,' Dorking, while she signed herself 'Katherine E. Farrer' from 'Idlerocks', Staffordshire. This latter address was the Wedgwood family home and in her later years Katherine spent more and more of her time there.



Katherine, Lady Farrer, at the age of eighty-eight, with her great-granddaughter (through Thomas's first wife) Shirley Bridges, at Abinger Hall. Katherine was an original member of the Bach Choral Society and hosted many musical soirees.

She died at Idlerocks on 2nd September 1931 aged 92. Her fine watercolours are little known but they are now being returned to Clapham where they will become familiar to a fresh generation. Her husband Thomas, faithful civil servant though he was, had to struggle for his recognition and may not get such a second chance.

Ken Pearce

KMotion and Encounter

KMotion: 6:00pm - 7:00pm for those at Primary School

Encounter: 7:30pm - 9:00pm for those at Secondary School

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 24th February
 10th March
 24th March

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Opera for the people

Opera for the People, Nicola Mills

Friday, March 17th, 7.30pm Clapham Village Hall



The audience is in the driving seat with this 'Choose Your Own' evening of popular classics. In this 'Design Your Own Concert' format the audience chooses from a song menu including popular opera and classical songs, songs from musicals and even a 'Pavarotti 'Pop' section.

Nicola Mills worked in Opera Houses around Europe for 10 years, before getting the opportunity to start 'Opera for the People' and she has loved it ever since. She creates community and shares her love of music in everyday settings. She's sung all around Europe (Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Dutch National Opera, to name a few), in Canada and in New York, and never stopped in lockdown either, where streets became theatres. She is down to earth and friendly and loves telling stories, and nothing makes her happier than singing for people and meeting people.

It's uplifting, friendly and down to earth. It's **Opera for the People**. Come along and enjoy the fun!

Tickets are £10 and available from Clapham Village Store from Friday, February 17th or from Sue Mann.

Phone: 015242 51792 or 07456 855749 or

Email: suemann.wyvern51@gmail.com

Sue Mann

Cinderella – Eco Warrior!

There wasn't a glass slipper in sight when Same Difference Arts presented their take on 'Cinderella' on Monday January 2nd this year.

Cinderella was struggling to outwit her nasty stepsisters, get to the Prince's Ball and save the enchanted forest. But how could she get there when she was forced to work all day? Well, of course she did! With the help of Buttons (who was also an Ugly Sister) she was able to win over Prince Charming (who was also an Ugly Sister). Alongside this interesting and hilarious take on the traditional story there was all the usual fun of the pantomime – hissing, cheering, booing and loads of laughter. A good time was had by all.

It was great to have the panto back in Clapham.

Sue Mann

Then and now



Photo taken c1972



Photo taken 2023

There are few places in the district which have changed so entirely that a pair of "Then" and "Now" photos would have no visual reference between the two. Yet that is what we have here, despite just 50 years separating them. The original Clapham Garage was built by Claude Barton, the agent for the Ingleborough Estate, shortly after World War I. He was planning on a second source of income should anything happen to the estate. As the popularity of motor cars rocketed, so the garage became ever busier, selling, hiring out and maintaining vehicles, mending punctures, supplying their fuel, and even providing a taxi service.

During the Second War, the business was sold to the Lamb family, from whom it passed to ES "Simmy" Hartley who was a Volvo dealer and had a second garage in Skipton. In the late Sixties, the original building was destroyed by fire and the "Then" photo, taken in about 1972, shows the newly built replacement structure. This was later extended with a second "bay" in front of the one on the left of the picture, making the offices appear more set back.

In 1986, the premises were taken over by HL Gerner who ran it as a Mercedes Benz and Daihatsu dealership until it closed – a victim of centralisation into large city-centre dealerships – in June 2003. One of the two dealerships under Gerner's roof was called Dalesview, and that name continues, of course, in the current housing development on the site as seen in the "Now" photo.

Andy Scott

Are you interested in starting a fun beginners class learning to *SALSA?*

No partner required, one evening per week, at the Village Hall, Clapham

Contact Jennie by WhatsApp or text on 07954 786242, or email: jenn1e999@hotmail.com

A silhouette of a person in a dynamic dance pose, likely salsa, against a background of stylized leaves.

CLAPHAM-CUM-NEWBY VILLAGE HALL

A colorful graphic of a bingo board with the word 'BINGO!' in the center, surrounded by numbers and stars.

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Steam update



*On a wintry day in December, 46115 Scots Guardsman heads back to Carnforth from York after an excursion from there to Edinburgh and return. In the past, engine and empty carriages have usually travelled back separately: perhaps the high cost of coal has meant that more has been asked of the loco?
Photo: Andy Scott*

It's that quiet time of the year again, with no planned steam through the station until April and only one or two steam excursions on the Settle & Carlisle line in the interim.

But there are also issues which may impact on activities further into 2023 too. Steam engines, as every schoolboy knows, burn coal. But not just any old coal – it has to have specific qualities to be able to burn effectively, at sufficient temperature and without fouling up the fire grate. Only one remaining mine in Britain – Ffos-y-Fran in South Wales - produces such coal and the only alternative is to buy it in from abroad. Yet that mine has a problem too in that it is fast running out of reserves and plans to extend it are running into fierce opposition on environmental grounds. Factor in that alternative supplies from Russia have also come to a halt and it will be no surprise to learn that, at the time of

writing, the cost of steam coal has risen from just over £200 per ton to around £600 per ton.

Given that a mainline steam locomotive with a decent load will get about 40 miles to a ton of coal, by my estimate that makes for a fuel cost alone of some £2000 for a round trip from Hellifield to Carlisle and back.

Coal is, of course, a fossil fuel and therefore a “bad thing”. Steam loco operators are well aware of this and, coupled with the high prices, are actively looking at ways around the problem. Various options are being considered but, at the end of the day, whatever it is that you burn is likely to increase the CO₂ in the atmosphere, and we are going to have to weigh up between climate impacts and heritage loss.

Andy Scott

Toll Bar Wood

In order to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Parish Council has worked closely with the Ingleborough Estate to establish “Platinum Toll Bar Wood.”

The wood is situated at the end of the old road on the site of Toll Bar Cottage which was demolished in 1963.

On 19 March, 2022 volunteers helped plant cherry, common lime, English oak, sycamore, hornbeam and Norway maple, a grand total of 320 trees.



The project has been part funded by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. Don Gamble of YDMT said: “I’m delighted that we have been able to support this community-led project, which will provide a quiet spot for Clapham residents, as well as

visiting walkers and cyclists, to sit and enjoy the scenery.”

The Estate has granted public access to the wood in perpetuity.

John Dawson

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Word Search is back!

By popular request – and given that the weather is keeping us indoors at this time of the year – here’s another word search for you to try. Hidden in the grid are the names of 45 countries of the world, with at least one beginning with each letter of the alphabet (except W and X!). Each country name is four or more letters long, and there are no abbreviated names like "UAE". As usual, the answers can be up & down, left & right, or on the diagonal. There’s no prize - but do let us know how you got on so the best effort can get the kudos of a mention in the next issue. Good hunting! *Andy Scott*

T	F	D	A	T	H	R	M	B	E	D	Z	Y	U	U	I	I	A	D
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Z	I	W	J	I	J	H	W	R	F	J	O	P	L	I	T	A	L	Y
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T	U	U	E	O	K	X	D	P	D	Q	X	F	Z	N	A	I	I	R
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A	L	E	U	Z	E	N	E	V	E	W	B	A	B	M	I	Z	L	H

Church Coffee Mornings

When Saint James’ church started holding regular Coffee Mornings some years ago, we put them in as part of our regular fundraising programme. However, we also thought that this would be a good thing to do in the winter when people didn’t get out as much and saw one another less frequently. It provided somewhere to meet up and have a proper chat rather than a quick ‘hello’ and move on to get out of the cold and rain. Of course, COVID interrupted that. So, it has been really good to be able to get back into routine and start these events again. We did wonder whether anyone would come but the two coffee mornings held in December and January were both great successes with the hall crowded and lots of chat and laughter.

Many thanks to everyone who supported these in any way – by coming or by helping. The two events together raised nearly £1,100. A great boost to our coffers, yes, but what is much more important, they did what we set out to do - gave us all a chance to see one another face to face and have a good natter! They really put the FUN into fundraising!

Sue Mann



Visit the newsletter website
clapham-news.net

Nature notes

Here we are again: the first Newsletter of 2023 and the beginning of another year of *Nature Notes*. Perhaps it's a good omen that as I write the sun is beaming through the window on one of those blue-sky January mornings when everything looks bright and clear.

I wonder how many of you can remember your school physics lessons well enough to know why the sky looks blue on days like these? My recollection is a bit patchy, but I think I can recall being told that, while sunlight may appear to be white, it is actually made up of many colours. I can see those colours now in the mini rainbows thrown on the wall by the prism effect of the kitchen window. White light from the sun is scattered in all directions as it passes through the gases and particles of the earth's atmosphere and this scattering increases as the wavelength of the light decreases. Violet and blue lights have the shortest wavelengths (red has the longest) and are scattered more than the other colours so the sky appears to be blue during the day.

Which brings me to my next question. What colour is a kingfisher? Some of you may have spotted the one that has been fishing near Brokken Bridge over the past few weeks and will feel fairly sure of your answer. The RSPB website might even confirm it: *kingfishers are small unmistakable bright blue and orange birds of still or slow-moving water...* The truth is that the flash of cobalt blue streaking down the river is an illusion. Just like this morning's blue sky. There is no blue pigment in the feathers of a kingfisher - remove them from the sunlight and they are a plain, dull brown.

The illusion is the result of something called structural colouration. We don't see light reflected directly from a kingfisher's back and wings because the particularly complex structure of the feathers scatters light in the same way as the earth's atmosphere does. The longer wavelength colours are absorbed but blue is scattered and reflected back.



Female kingfisher near Brokken Bridge.
Photo: David Crutchley

The individual that appears to have taken up residence on the beck is a female: in David Crutchley's excellent photo you can see that the lower part of her long sharp beak is

orange, unlike the all-black beak of a male. She may be a temporary visitor driven away from her usual territory by the cold weather but, if we are lucky, it's possible that she might find a mate and nest in the area. Keep an eye out for her as you walk along Riverside and keep your fingers crossed!

Another bird that has been driven from its regular haunts by the recent cold snap is the normally shy and rather elusive snipe. With the ground frozen hard these beautifully camouflaged medium-sized waders have been forced to seek out any remaining damp, boggy areas where they can use



Snipe lying low.
Photo: David Crutchley

their long bills to probe the soil for the insects and worms that make up their diet. Those bills are highly sensitive with a flexible, nerve-filled tip designed specifically for feeding in muddy ground.

A number of small flocks – known as wisps - have been seen in wetter parts of the fields around the village recently, particularly along Laithbutts Lane between Clapham and Newby where some of the streams running down the hillside have continued to flow despite the icy night-time temperatures. On one particularly cold morning I saw no fewer than eleven birds shoot up noisily from a small soggy patch of ground along the footpath, quickly gaining height and zig-zagging erratically across the sky before eventually settling down again three or four fields away. I'm sure that some of these will have been winter migrants but we are fortunate enough to have a fairly good local resident population so you may well hear their distinctive *drumming* as the breeding season gets underway at the end of March. If you do, you'll know that we've left winter behind us.

Happy New Year!

Brian Christian

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

Caving Club Huts

The December 2022 edition of the caver's magazine, Descent, carried an article which outlined the history of the various caving club's "huts" dotted throughout the dales – and it surprised me to see that so many more than I had realised were, at one time or another, in Clapham. Many readers will no doubt be aware that the Northern Pennine Club still have their base at Green Close, whilst the Yorkshire Ramblers still have premises at Low Stern, but many other clubs have come and gone over the years.



An aerial view of the 'Shoe', clearly showing the outbuildings that provided shelter for visiting cavers and storage for their club equipment in the 1950s and 60s.

Perhaps the best known of the "now gone" huts was that of the Bradford Pothole Club (BPC) who had space in the buildings behind the Flying Horseshoe before they moved to their current base at Brackenbottom in 1963. The Happy Wanderers Cave and Pothole Club held various buildings in the village at different times, including a cottage behind the New Inn until 1957, when they moved firstly into what is now the CRO headquarters and then into buildings behind the Flying Horseshoe, before taking up premises in Ingleton in around 1960.

Lancaster University Speleological Society also used rooms at the New Inn until 1969 before moving up to Clapdale Farm which they occupied into the early 1970's. For some of the time, the space at the New Inn was shared with the Manchester University Club, but this club then relocated to a "ruinous barn" also behind the Flying Horseshoe. The 'Shoe' was also home to the Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club from about 1957. They were thus the BPC's neighbours for some of the time until they moved to their present base at Bull Pot Farm in 1967.

Toll Bar House very nearly became a club hut too, as it had been offered by JA Farrer to both the Craven Pothole Club and the BPC though neither took it up.

Andy Scott

Protect your Home

'Protect your Home' is an initiative from the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner but only in a few parishes in North Yorkshire, of which Clapham is one. It is a free service provided by police-vetted contractors.

Two men came, checked downstairs windows & doors, fitted window locks & a video doorbell. They also replaced the conservatory door lock with one that would prevent a burglar removing it. All at no charge. The full service with the doorbell does involve a fee, but that's optional.

This was all completely free of charge, was professionally done and, therefore, it makes sense to take the opportunity.

John Elphinstone

North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
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Zoë Metcalfe
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire

"There is no greater priority than protecting your family, your home, and your community."

"That's why we are investing in your area with this project, to cut crime."

Zoë Metcalfe

SCAN TO SIGN UP



Clapdale
Photo: Annie Farrer

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Village hall news

Our hall has been invited to be one of the venues to host an event organised and run by the Cultural Services Team from Craven District Council. Funding has been secured to offer a “warm place” for many vulnerable members in our community. They will be able to enjoy a hot soup, join in with some communal singing, and socialise during the short daylight hours of winter. This is a FREE event, running from 1pm to 4pm on Thursday 9th February, so if you wish to meet up during the day and enjoy the company of others in a warm hall then please let us know so that we have an idea of numbers and can contact the team. Nicola Mills (a local opera singer) will lead the sing-song and this will pave the way for our musical event on 17th March when the Hall will be hosting Opera for the People. See the article on page 15. Other events in the pipeline include a glass fusing session run by a local artist Anne Somers which forms part of The Forest of Bowland’s Dark Skies Festival (see notice elsewhere in this issue) and a hall-run Bingo Evening on 24th February. Looking further ahead (aren’t we all!), on Friday 21st April we will be having a ceilidh to celebrate St Georges Day – more details in the next issue of the newsletter.

Finally, for those who use the Hall’s wi-fi, please note that this has now been extended into the supper room to improve reception. You will need to re-enter the new ID/ password in order to use it – see details on notice boards.

*Angie Martin,
Hall Secretary*

Village hall regular events

Yoga

Mondays 9.30am
Brooke Chenoweth
yoga@braveenterprise.com

Indoor Bowls

Mondays 1.30 - 4pm
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

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

Clapham cum Newby Parish Council

Wednesdays 7.30pm
(Usually 3rd Wednesday of the month)
Steve Culver 015242 51862
parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.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



SOUP & SINGING
with world class Opera Singer
Nicola Mills

Clapham Village Hall
9TH FEB 1:00PM - 4:00PM

**Free community lunch and sing-along
coming to a Craven venue near you!**

 SKIPTON TOWN HALL
Culture, Heritage & Community

Fifth Bowland Dark Skies Festival



Join the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership during half-term (11th – 19th February) and raise your gaze skywards to celebrate the beauty of Bowland after dark.

This year's Bowland Dark Skies Festival not only offers a helping hand to navigate the stars, it's also the perfect chance to indulge your creativity, delve into the history book of local astronomy and get all a flutter with Bowland's marvellous night- (and day-!) time moths. We'll be hoping for good weather when scientist and amateur astronomer, Robert Ince, sets up his camera on the evening of the 12th of February for a virtual tour of the late winter planets.



Monday 13th sees Graham McLoughlin, of Preston and District Astronomical Society, looking back online at the history of what could be the oldest public observatory in the UK – originally named the Deepdale Observatory. For family-friendly fun, the festival will be linking with Lancashire library service and storyteller, Sue Allonby, for dark skies tales on a moon theme on Tuesday

13th, followed the same evening by a closer look at some of the area's beautiful moth species, thanks to ecologist Rob Foster.

If you've ever tried to capture the ethereal beauty of the night sky on camera and wished you had a bit more know-how, why not join Robert Ince for his popular online introduction to astrophotography using smartphones on Wednesday 15th? Saturday 18th sees Hornby artist, Anne Somers, at Clapham Village Hall for an absorbing and fun afternoon of fused glass on a nocturnal theme. Whether you choose wildlife, starscapes or twilight landscapes, this is a fantastic chance to create a beautiful piece to take home.

Online events are free to attend, but there will be a charge for face-to-face sessions. All events need to be booked in advance, as some have limited space. Details and booking information for all the Dark Skies Festival events are available at:

www.forestofbowland.com/Festival-Bowland-Events

Sandra Silk
sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk

