



Number 142, April 2023

Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan

After over 4 years hard work, and interruptions by COVID lockdowns, the Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan is ready for pre-submission consultation.

Every home in the village should have received a flyer detailing the consultation process and notification has been given on the Clapham website and local Facebook pages. There will be drop-in sessions to discuss the plan with the team in Clapham, Newby and Keasden. See details at the end of this article.

The formal consultation process began on Monday 27 March and will end six weeks later, on Monday 8 May.

The full document is available - see: www.claphamplan.net and printed copies are available to

borrow from Ken Pearce in Clapham, Rob Klottrup in Newby, Anne-Marie Bond at Clapham Station, and Ann Sheridan in Keasden. If you want to borrow a paper copy, please contact us by email info@claphamplan.net or call 07866 096215. If you wish to comment please either email comments to the email address above, or drop off your written comments at Clapham village store.

Ann Sheridan



Photo: Ann Sheridan

Drop-in sessions

Keasden - St. Matthew's Church, Saturday 15 April 11am until 1pm

Clapham - Clapham Village Hall, Tuesday 18 April 5pm until 7pm

Newby - Newby Methodist Church, Saturday 22 April 11am until 1pm

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Bring a picnic lunch and join us for

our Parish celebration of

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

in the grounds of Ingleborough Hall
Civic Service and Community Picnic
11am onwards Sunday 7th May

Refreshments will be provided (bring a glass/mug)



Welcome to the April edition

Thank you for all the support given to the production of this issue. Due to family commitments, the editorial team need to work to exceptionally tight deadlines again for the June 2023 edition. In short, we'll be unable to process any submissions that arrive after 20 May - and it would be a great help if you could get items to us much earlier than usual. If you have anything to include, then 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 August edition.

Also, from the end of March, we have closed the Newsletter website as it received very little traffic. The

Newsletter will continue to be available online on the village website, see: <https://claphamyorkshire.co.uk>

The Newsletter Editors



June 2023 edition

Deadline date: 20 May

Email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter information

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

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.

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). **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 at the beginning of every publication month. If you would like to help with distribution – please get in touch.

Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Happy Easter from



We have a lovely range of Easter gifts, cards and treats and we are open throughout the Easter Bank holiday.

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Field trip

Firstly, I have to apologise to all of you that are looking for my dad's usual article - there isn't one. I am sure you are both bitterly disappointed.

Sometime in early January, Lynda Christian came into the shop to tell me about an event that the National Sheep Association, yes there really is such a thing, was going to be running. It was for those with a sheep farming interest aged between 18 and 25 to go to London to meet with officials from Defra (Department for the Extinction of Farmers and Rural Affairs) and the Department for International Trade to discuss the future of sheep farming in the UK. There would also be some members from the House of Lords and lunch at the M&S headquarters.

I was given one of the twelve places available so on 7th February I headed down to London, bound for the glitz and glamour of the Waterloo Travelodge which was where the group was to meet and stay overnight. That night we dined in the Farmers Club in Whitehall, which was slightly higher brow than the Travelodge, and discussed our strategy for the next day's meeting.

I found using the underground late at night not unlike the first ten minutes of a jumble sale. The whole chaotic scene of society was represented in various states of dress, or undress, whilst trying desperately to avoid eye contact with people closer to them than their own shirts.

After breakfasting at the NSA's expense - always eat as much as you can when not at home - we headed for Westminster. It is surely impossible to stand out in London - there is too much carnage, noise, and clamour to notice the individual. Yet, as eleven tweed-clad young farmers took part in the morning rush hour commute, some Londoners actually looked at us, for a split second, like a wildebeest thinking it saw the grass move suspiciously. Then, realising we posed no immediate threat, they resumed their usual, and seemingly constant migration.

Arriving at the Houses of Parliament for official business felt very serious. A good frisking later and we were shown through into Westminster Hall to begin the tour. Our guide was enthusiastic which unfortunately made him do accents and voices when referring to Churchill or Thatcher. I passed Sir Lindsay Hoyle and Lord Blunkett in the corridors but there was no time for introductions as we were on a strict timescale.

The tour over, the meeting portion of the morning began. We were collected from the Hall by Lord Inglewood who,

perhaps appropriately, shepherded us to the committee room. Lord Inglewood is the president of the NSA, and we had an opportunity to discuss his work as a peer and how he views the future of the sheep industry. Then Defra joined the meeting. It can often seem that Defra and the farmers over whom it has so much authority could not be more different.

I had never really understood the chasm that exists between us before this visit. Four professional meeting goers, each with personalised water bottles and vast notebooks to display their wealth of knowledge, came in succession. I had spent 24 hours on manmade surfaces, which felt like a long time, but these were clearly people who hadn't trodden on uncut grass for months or years. A heated and passionate, sometimes personal, discussion took place. The main subjects were about how more young people can be enticed into agriculture; how future government schemes can be developed to help family farms in particular; and what are the implications for Britain's farmers of new trade deals with Australia and New Zealand? Perhaps it was typical of a civil service meeting that much talking was done without any shared or clear aims to come away with, but it was good to at least talk, and I have long hoped to be able to work more closely with policy makers. The relationship between farmers and their often London-based policy overseers



needs to be improved.

A quick dash across London, made more complicated by a surprise visit from President Zelensky (he must have heard I was going to be there) and we arrived at M&S HQ for dinner. We then heard how M&S are marketing British lamb, a big part of which is research into the carbon footprint of British meat, before watching a butchery demonstration which showed us the cuts that M&S sell most.

It had been a very busy first trip to London. I know it's hard to believe such a tremendously cultured and handsome (not to mention modest) young man hadn't been to London before. I would like to thank Lynda for telling me about this trip and pressuring me to apply. She and Brian came with me to keep me on the right trains and teach me about Oyster cards and not talking to strangers on the street. I am very grateful to them both.

The young farmer group has stayed in touch and further meetings are inevitable, though maybe not always in the House of Lords.

Will Dawson



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Scandimoot 2023



Frederik Lundberg playing for dance in Victoria Hall 2022.
Photo: Phil Keen

April is an exciting month for Scandimoot organisers because we are putting the final touches to our planning for this year's event, our fifteenth. We'll be back in Clapham from Friday 28th April to Monday 1st May, and as usual our final concert - free to all Clapham residents - will be in St James' church 2.00pm to 3.15pm on Monday 1st May.

We have a very special group of artists coming from Sweden, Norway and the UK. Ami and Håkon Dregelid are our dance teachers this year and they bring with them Frederik Lundberg, who was with us in 2022 and is as delighted to be returning as we are to have him back. Their performance is not to be missed. Then we have three young fiddle players, Olof Kennemark and Pers Alexander Olsson from Sweden and John-Francis Goodacre from the UK who now lives, works and performs in Sweden. They will play and teach music from Dalarna and Värmland.

This year we also have singer and storyteller Kersti Ståbi who, in contrast to John-Francis, is from Sweden but now lives in Cumbria. Kersti's workshop will focus mainly on singing for dancing. There is a strong tradition of singing for dancing in both Sweden and Norway where the geographical isolation of many small communities sometimes meant that there was no fiddler to play for dancing when they had a get-together.

We're so excited about this that we've decided to open the workshop up to singers who haven't booked for Scandimoot. The workshop will take place on Sunday 30th April from 3.30pm to 5.15pm in Ingleborough Hall, Clapham and will cost £12 per person/£10 concessions (for those in receipt of benefits, NOT including state pension). If you're a singer and think this sounds interesting check out the details on our website and contact Jan Harrison to book a place at jnhrrsn@gmail.com

And, as always, we are holding our Sunday evening concert in Victoria Hall, Settle, where you can see all the artists perform and, after the interval, listen or dance to the music of the Scandimoot students as well as the artists. Tickets are discounted to local people. You can book through the website, or through Victoria Hall. Remember to ask for your resident's discount! <http://scandimoot.org.uk/>

Pat Goodacre

Make your verges living verges

Did you know that species-rich meadows are not only more resistant to climate change, and store more carbon than non-biodiverse grasslands, but they also support hundreds of varieties of plants, myriad insect life and dozens of bird species.

The good news is that there is something we can all do to help and prevent further decline in biodiversity – we can look to protect and enhance those former strips and remnants of traditional grassland that have survived as roadside verges.

The principles of nature-positive verge management are simple:

- Cut verges or other village grassland no later than April and clear cuttings away to prevent the build-up of thatch, which increases soil nitrogen levels and can encourage docks, nettles and thistles to take hold.
- Do not cut the grass between May and August (inclusive) to allow plants to flower and set seed.
- If cutting can't be avoided, consider mowing paths or narrow edge strips but leave some areas uncut as a wildlife refuge. This can also help to address concerns about untidiness and safety.
- Remove invasive weeds (nettles, thistles, docks) by chopping down/uprooting, not spraying.
- Do a second cut in September – clearing all cuttings away.

In other words, Cut Less, Cut Later, Takeaway!



We have several resources available on our website - address given below - to help you get started. There you will find our Village Guide; Monthly Planner; a Link to a campaign video by our Living Verges campaign champion, Dr Anne Readshaw and a 'No Mow' sign you can print off to let your neighbours know that you are managing verges for nature.

Do let us know if we inspire a change of approach – and please send any photos of any

botanically rich verges and grassland you encourage!

For all questions, comments and feedback please email me at the address below.

Victoria Benn

victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

website: <https://friendsofthedales.org.uk>



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Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of 15th February 2023, with three members of the public in attendance.

The police report was read out to the meeting and this detailed five matters that had required police attention in the period between 18th January and 15th February 2023. These were one theft of a JCB and trailer, two instances of fly tipping of used tyres, a report of door-to-door sellers and one vehicle behaving suspiciously.

With regards to highways matters, a new pothole had appeared on Clapham Old Road between Bleak Bank Farm and Crooklands and this was reported by the Clerk and filled in within the week.

There had also been a road closure on Keasden Road with no prior warning given and the Council resolved to keep a watching brief on this.

The Clerk reported on the previously raised item regarding the grit bins for Station Road and Keasden Road. This comprised a detailed response as to the reasons why these roads were not appropriate for the provision of grit bins. The Council has now asked that this matter be raised to Councillor David Ireton to see if he is able to provide any support to the requests raised.

Three quotations had been received for the trimming of the horse chestnut tree surrounding the street light in Newby. The Council selected the cheapest quote, and the work was completed that weekend.

The defibrillator unit for Newby will soon require new pads and the Council agreed that these should be purchased, with the current pads being donated to assist with training programmes.

Cllr Sheridan informed the meeting that the final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan report was now being reviewed.

The Council reviewed the Parish Charter Consultation documents. Concerns were raised around the possible benefits and how they would be measured and realised. Concerns were also expressed regarding the likely distances that would be involved for centralised functions to cover the whole area, and also the potential impact caused by the disparity in size of town/parish councils within the larger authority. The Council also stressed it believed that liaison meetings needed to be in person rather than virtual and would need to rotate around the geographies.

The Council had received an email from a couple of parishioners who would like to plant the triangle of grass at Clapham Station with spring bulbs and also an oak tree whip. The council acknowledged this generous offer and raised no concerns.

The Parish Council met on the evening of 15th March 2023, with three members of the public in attendance.

The police report was read out; this detailed four matters that had required attention in the period between 15th February and 10th March 2023. Two enquiries from other police forces, the theft of a jewellery box from a vehicle parked in Clapham Car Park and a Road Traffic Accident (Single vehicle) on Newby Moor.

The state of various potholes and blocked culverts was raised to the Clerk for reporting to the Highways team. There was also a request for the Clerk to contact Yorkshire Water given the ongoing road closure in Keasden with the potential 28 mile detour needed to avoid it. The length of time this work is taking, and the damage caused to the chapel lay-by as vehicles attempt to avoid said detour, are unacceptable and the situation needs resolving (including the making good of the potholes) as a matter of urgency.

The only planning application received was for the conversion of Cross House Barn in Clapham to a single dwelling for either local occupancy or as a holiday home. The council raised no concerns on the proposal provided that the conversion was undertaken sympathetically. The Clerk was also asked to check upon the status of the proposed development of the former goods yard at Clapham Station which the Council had objected to in January. At the time of writing this is still "awaiting decision".

The amount of litter on the roads in the area had been raised for the council's attention and Cllr. Farrer is organising a volunteer group. A first litter pick had been undertaken and a further one is planned for 15th April.

The Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion and public consultation meetings will be held during April prior to finalisation.

One final point related to phone coverage in the village. It follows a recent incident where an individual was taken ill at the Village Shop during a period when the B4RN broadband network was down. As a result, the VOIP (voice over internet protocol) phone system was not working, and the lack of a mobile signal meant it was not possible to easily obtain the code for the defibrillator at the Cave Rescue Station. The matter will be brought back to the next meeting with the Clerk attempting to discover what solutions other rural villages have found in light of the PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) system being removed by BT by 2025. Should anyone have any information or knowledge please do contact Steve Culver (details below) ahead of the next meeting.

For more information on the work of the parish council and full meeting minutes, please 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 **Thursday 27th April 2023** and the Annual Parish Meeting will be on **Thursday 18th May**. (Please note new dates).

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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St Matthew's Church, Keasden

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Easter Sunday 9 April

4pm - Easter Praise

4.30pm - Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Eggs for all children - refreshments for all!

Sunday 23 April

6.30pm - Spring Saunter
a short walk across the fields
tea, coffee and cake provided!

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 May

10am-12noon & 2-4pm

Our 150 Keasden Exhibition
refreshments available for all!

Sunday 14 May

7pm – Lambing Service
tea, coffee and cake provided!

Newby news



Thank you to all who supported the coffee morning in Newby Chapel on 18th February. Folks were very generous with donations received of £1314 for the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. Special mention must go to Kath Richardson and Joshua Grace of the HSBC bank in Settle who have donated their staff charity match funding to the event, boosting the overall total sent to the DEC appeal to £2314. A real community effort.

Judith Dawson

Keasden rainfall report

	2022	2023
January	4½" or 11.43cm	14" or 35.56cm
February	11¾" or 29.845cm	¾" or 1.9cm

Craven Reboot

A North Yorkshire Community Partnership distributing recycled IT equipment to people in need across Craven.

Do you have a spare laptop, tablet or smartphone gathering dust at home? If so, you could help tackle social & digital isolation!

What items can be donated? Any smartphone, tablet or laptop donations would be appreciated, with any chargers or cables where possible.

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We are Craven Reboot!



Citizens Online



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By Email donate@cravenreboot.org.uk (donation enquiries)

Or help@cravenreboot.org.uk (device requests)

By Phone: 01756 802212 (Please ask for Craven Reboot)

St George's Day

Ceilidh

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Summer Concert

Saturday 17th June, 7.30pm
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Saturday 24th June, 7.30pm
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Leader - **Anne Heaton**

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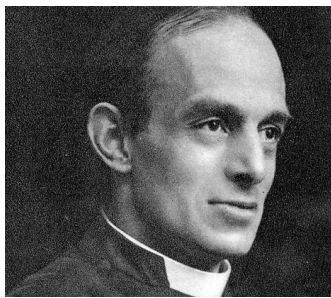
Church news

John's notes: God in a workman's jacket

During February's exceptional Church in the Pub at The Lake House - my, how we sang! - one hymn particularly stood out for me. It was requested by John Casson, fondly remembered from his schooldays. It begins:

*When through the whirl of wheels, and engines humming,
Patiently powerful for the sons of men,
Peals like a trumpet promise of His coming,
Who in the clouds is pledged to come again...*

Its words are all the more powerful for their strangeness to our ears; for this is a rare hymn of Christ the Worker - full of the eschatological hope that when Christ returns, he will come alongside the factory workers, the labourers, the miners, 'God in a workman's jacket as before'.



The hymn is the creation of Geoffrey Anketel Studdert Kennedy, born in 1883, the seventh of nine children born to Jeanette Anketell and William Studdert Kennedy, vicar of St Mary's, Quarry Hill, a deprived Leeds parish. Following his father's

vocation, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy became known for his chaplaincy to soldiers in the trenches during WW1 where his generous distribution of cigarettes earned him the nickname 'Woodbine Willie', and where his reflections on the intense suffering of all around led him to develop his idea of God as being the 'comrade' of those who struggle, as in this poem: 'Only with Him, my Comrade God, beside me, Can I go forth to war with sin and pain.'

In poor parishes and industrial chaplaincy Studdert Kennedy dedicated the rest of his life's work 'with affection and respect' to 'the working men of Britain: they were soldiers once'. In his writings and speeches Studdert Kennedy often lamented the gulf between the Church and working people ('If finding God in our churches leads to us losing Him in our factories, then better we tear down those churches, for God must hate the sight of them,' he said). He devoted himself to bridging the gulf between the organised Church and organised labour, and his poetry and song lead us into the heart of a God who is immanent in a world of working people's struggles.

*Then will He come with meekness for His glory,
God in a workman's jacket as before,
Living again th' eternal Gospel story,
Sweeping the shavings from His workshop floor.*

Studdert Kennedy wrote for his times. Who is composing the holy songs for the working people's struggles of today - and who will sing them?

Revd John Davies
john.davies@leeds.anglican.org
01524 805928

Notes from a small vicar: bit.ly/johndavies-talks
Listen to Van Wagner sing
'When through the whirl of wheels'
at bit.ly/whirl-of-wheels

Anglican Services

You are welcome to all our services. 'Easy Church' at Clapham is 'church for all': no previous church experience required! All dates are Sundays unless otherwise stated.

April

2nd: (Palm Sunday) 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Revd Mark Evans); 9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Service (Revd Steve Rathbone); 11.00 Keasden Service
6th: (Maundy Thursday) 6.30 Eldroth Last Supper
7th: (Good Friday) 2.00 Austwick Devotions
9th: (Easter Day) 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion (Revd Mark Evans); 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion; 4.00 Keasden Easter Praise 4.30 Easter Egg Hunt
16th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer
23rd: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion; 6.30 Keasden Spring Saunter
30th: 10.30 Eldroth Messy Church; 7.00 Clapham Church in the Pub

May

7th: 9.30 Austwick Coronation Holy Communion; 9.30 Eldroth Coronation Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Coronation Celebration Service
14th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 7.00 Keasden Lambing Service
21st: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer
28th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion; 7.00 Keasden Evening Service
Also, each Wednesday: 10.30 Austwick Holy Communion service

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

Services take 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 plus Easter Monday Special from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Alternate Fridays - **kmotion** (primary school ages) 6 to 7pm & **Encounter** (secondary school ages) 7.30 to 9pm.

Prayer meeting on Mondays 7.30pm.

Coffee evening 4th Thursday of the month 7.30pm.

Coffee, Chat & Cake & Foodbank 15 April 10.30 to 12 noon & 1 May Open Day (more details to follow).

Gospel concert - the Montgomery Sisters from Ireland 29 April at 7.30pm.

For further details and up to date information see:

www.bethelchapelclapham.org or follow us on Facebook.

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, Tillam Close, Settle, BD24 9RA

Usual service times: Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

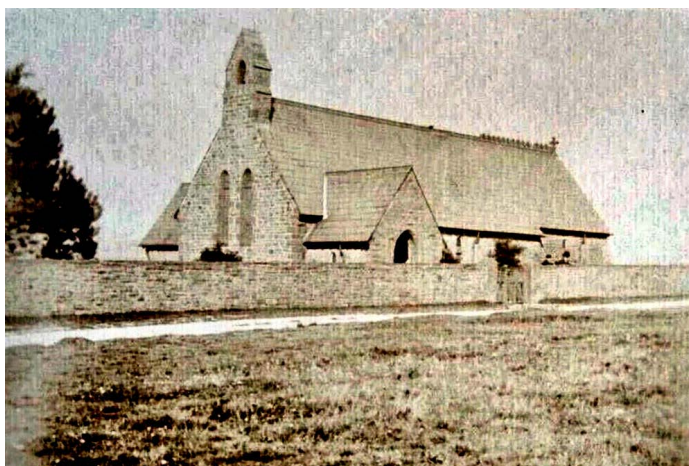
Sun: 11:15am, Tues & Thurs: 10:00 am

Parish Priest: Father Frank Smith, Phone: 01729 822525

Email: stboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Website: www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk

Then and Now



St Matthew's at Keasden celebrates its 150th anniversary this year so it is only fitting that it features in this issue's Then & Now. Various celebrations are being planned in recognition - see page 9 for details of those taking place in April and May.

The church was built by James Farrer to provide the people of Keasden with a better place to worship than they had had previously. It, and its accompanying burial ground, were consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Ripon in September 1873.

The building itself is little changed but it now stands in a much more verdant situation. The roofline at the eastern end has lost the original decorated ridge tiles but the image has

gained the inevitable telephone wires! Unfortunately, there is no date on the postcard to say when the older image was taken but I suspect it was around 1900. I wonder who those two dark-hatted individuals just to the right of the gate were?

Correction: Many thanks to Olwyn Price for pointing out an error that crept into last issue's Then & Now. After editing, the item read as if Hartley's operated their Clapham garage as a Volvo dealership when, in fact, that was only their Skipton branch. The Clapham garage was a dealership for British Leyland and Mercedes, and as Olwyn reports, they sold Morris and Wolseley cars before the fire and Mercedes Benz afterward. My apologies for the mistake.

Andy Scott

Time to get walking again!



With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

The website Walking in Yorkshire,

details below, has loads of walks to download and print, *free*, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group - all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Yorkshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the website and get walking!

John Harris

Email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/yorkshire

A new village resource



Members of Clapham Association have been working on an Information Directory for newcomers to the village and surrounding area. Indeed, some not-so-new residents may also find the list of twenty-six topics useful. The subjects range from Surgeries, Vets, Libraries and Recycling, to Churches, Community Groups, Local Shops and Garage Services. This initiative follows the welcoming example of the late Joan Farrer, but its emphasis is different.

There are often requests for information about services on the *Clapham Families* and *Keasden Community* Facebook pages, so this could provide you with most of the answers you're looking for.

Now in its final stages, this Directory will be available from Clapham Village Store and the Clapham Village website. We hope that most households will take a copy to keep and/or give to a new neighbour or long-stay visitor. The information will be updated every six months.

Ann Stewart

on behalf of Clapham Association

Nature notes

Spring? It doesn't feel like it. Looking through the window as I write, I can see one or two splashes of colour, but the daffodils are bent low in the wind and the sky is a glowering grey. There's still snow in the forecast and even the most impatient gardeners are holding back, knowing that a killer frost is quite likely to thwart any attempt to kick-start the new growing season.

Listen, though, and you might well catch more hopeful notes carried loud and clear on the breeze: a song thrush doing what a song thrush does best. Even if the weather is telling a different story, this most welcome of garden buskers knows that it's time to dust off his most exuberant set-list and claim his pitch or risk being sidelined by more energetic rivals. After all, he's well aware that he's not simply singing for his supper!

Robert Browning considered the song thrush a 'wise thrush' because 'he sings each song twice over, lest you should think he never could recapture the first fine careless rapture' but there are some who suggest that this distinctive repetition (sometimes phrases are repeated five or six times, not just twice) detracts from the song's musicality. It certainly lacks the fluting melodic flow of the blackbird's song but, since a mature male is capable of mastering more than a hundred different phrases, it has few rivals in terms of virtuosity. Some of those phrases will have been passed down through the generations while others will be much later additions to the repertoire. It's amazing to think that a bird singing in Clapham today will be using phrases familiar to Victorian villagers interwoven with 'new music' picked up by mimicking 21st Century car alarms and mobile phone ringtones!

Sadly, although a female will typically lay a clutch of four or five sky-blue, black-speckled eggs and a single pair might produce three or possibly even four broods between April and August, survival rates are very low. At fourteen days old, fledglings can barely fly when they leave the nest and young birds are especially vulnerable throughout their first winter. To make matters worse, breeding populations have been in steep decline across most of the UK since the nineteen sixties. For half a century the loss of hedgerows and the use of pesticides in farms and gardens had a devastating impact and numbers plummeted to the point where the song thrush became a red-listed bird of the highest conservation concern. Thankfully, the last decade has seen a slight turnaround and numbers, though still precarious, are very

slowly beginning to creep back up again. Long may this continue.

Song thrushes tend not to travel very far, often living their whole life within a mile or so of the nest they fledged from and only venturing further afield to escape the privations of prolonged spells of extreme weather. Conversely, many of their wandering cousins, the fieldfares and redwings who flew in on biting late autumn winds, are already on their way back to their breeding grounds in Northern Europe. Like the Scandinavian blackbirds who spent the winter here, the last of them will be gone by the end of April.

Fortunately, though, there's quite a lot of incoming avian traffic too. Curlews and oystercatchers have returned from the coast and are beginning to reclaim their traditional nesting sites; lapwings are displaying noisily, flinging themselves frantically across the sky to impress potential partners; and golden plovers have cast off their winter grey, settling back on the upland moors in their smart summer colours.

Perhaps it really is spring after all – almost time to start looking out for that first swallow!

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](https://twitter.com/bc_riverside)

Brian Jackson

Dave and Denise Pickard have written to us to pass on the sad news that Brian Jackson, formerly of Gildersbank, Clapham but more recently of Settle, passed away on Saturday 4th February. If anyone has any stories or reminiscences about Brian that they'd like to share, could they please send them to us so we can see if we can put something together about him in the next issue.

Please get back to us on claphamnewsletter@gmail.com but definitely no later than 14th May.

The Editors



Song thrush doing what a song thrush does best!
Photo: Brian Christian



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Steam update

This year sees the 100th anniversary of Britain's most popular steam loco, *Flying Scotsman*. Built in 1923 as the third member of Sir Nigel Gresley's new A1 class of pacific (4-6-2 wheel arrangement) locomotives, the train didn't actually receive her name until the following year when she was prepared for display at the British Empire Exhibition where she was the showpiece of the London and North Eastern Railway which, itself, had come into being that same year. Originally numbered 1472 in the Great Northern Railways numbering scheme, she switched to 4472 after the merger that had led to the LNER's formation. Like most of the rest of her class, she was rebuilt to the new A3 designation in 1928. She became a record holder in 1934 when she was the first loco to be officially timed at over 100mph, and again in 1989 when, during a visit to Australia, she achieved a non-stop run of 422 miles. Renumbered twice in 1946, with the formation of British Railways in 1948, she was renumbered yet again to 60103 and this is the number she is carrying at the present time. She was retired in 1963 and is currently owned by the National Railway Museum.

To celebrate her anniversary, a wide programme has been arranged including mainline tours and visits to heritage railways. One of these latter will be an extended stay on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway from 1st to 24th May. There are also no less than four trips over the Settle and Carlisle – on 9th July, 6th August, 10th September & 14th October. Hopefully, we will see her pass through Clapham as she moves from one of her duties to another throughout the year.



44932 simmers at Hull's Paragon station ready for her role in Steve McQueen's new film "Blitz" for Apple TV. One hopes they will edit out the rather anachronistic British Railways logo having gone to the length of getting the green Southern railway coaches!



Flying Scotsman passes through Clapham in Dec 1982. At this date, the platforms were still opposite one another and stretched over the road bridge rather than out towards Bentham. Photo: David Ingham

We have had a couple of steam movements through the station over the last few weeks. On 13th February, Black Five No. 44932 passed through on route to Hull where she was taking part in the filming for *The Blitz* much of which is being shot in the city. Interestingly, her train included a number of green-painted ex-Southern railway coaches: is this the first time that such stock has passed through Clapham? She returned to Carnforth three days later. Finally, late at night on 6th March, Black Five no 45407 *The Lancashire Fusilier* passed through on route to Keighley to take part in their steam gala. She returned on Monday 13th together with sister loco 44871 and Jubilee class No. 45690 *Leander* in a train comprising two coaches and three steam engines, all travelling tender first. That's not something you see every day.

Andy Scott

Fancy fishing locally?

Is your old fly rod languishing in the back of the shed – why not dust it off and try wild brown trout fishing on our local streams? Better still – introduce your children and grandchildren to the joys of fishing. With just sheep as company, the curlew and lapwing calling across time, it's an idyllic way to spend a warm spring day or beautiful summer's evening.

Ingleton Angling Association now look after our local fishing on the upper part of the river Wenning from above the railway viaduct to the confluence with Clapham and Austwick Becks. This local fishing area was run for many years by Settle Anglers although fell into disuse during Covid and now the stiles and fences need attention; this will be done over the summer.

We are a small local club based in Ingleton and Clapham with a passion for wild trout fishing on upland streams. The



Wenning adds to our waters on the rivers Twiss and Doe, which meander across Kingsdale and Chapel-le-Dale and down Ingleton Waterfalls before forming the river Greta below Ingleton.

New members are always welcome and fishing permits are available for a modest sum either online at:

<https://bit.ly/ingletonangling> or the Tourist Information in Ingleton Community Centre.

Remember, the season runs from 15th March until 30th September and you need a permit and an Environmental Agency licence to fish. Our waters are catch and release and fly fishing with barbless hooks to protect the environment and safeguard the fishing for the future.

Iain Crossley

email: ingletonanglers32@gmail.com

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Flushed with pride



Walking round Clapham, you have to watch where you are putting your feet, especially if you have achieved the stage of senior citizen and are a bit wobbly. If this is you, then you may have noticed an interesting manhole cover set in the tarmac beneath your feet. The inscription cast in the iron boldly announces that it was made by “T. CRAPPER & Co., SANITARY ENGINEERS, MARLBORO’ WORKS, CHELSEA, LONDON.” That’s a long way from Clapham, so what is the story behind it?

Thomas Crapper was born in 1837, the year that Victoria came to the throne. He was born in the hamlet of Waterside beside the river Don near Thorne, South Yorkshire and was destined to become one of those Victorian entrepreneurs who did so much to create modern Britain. Like ‘Penny Bun’ Farrer here in Clapham he walked to London in search of work. Thomas was then just 11 years old, and the date was 1848. He found work with a master plumber in Chelsea and by 1861 felt sufficiently confident of his skills to set up on his own as a ‘sanitary engineer’ in nearby Marlborough Road. 1861 was a good year for sanitary engineers in London. Bazalgette was installing the first part of his 83-mile sewerage system in the city in an effort to rid the

burgeoning capital of the appalling stench. Plumbers and sanitary engineers were in great demand.

Crapper’s significant contribution was the invention of the ‘wastewater preventer’, a combination of ballcock, plug and chain. This simple device made the newly invented flushing toilet a practicable proposition. It released water to flush away the waste only when required, thus avoiding a vast amount of water running to waste. Two of his apprentices, Frederick and Alfred Humpherson, later patented their first pedestal wash-down WC while Crapper notched up nine patents including one for an improved S bend.

Crapper and Humpherson became constant professional rivals, producing a number of technical refinements. Crapper tended to concentrate on better cisterns and ‘wastewater preventers’ and at some point between 1886 and 1909 installed drains and sanitary fittings at Sandringham (“more than thirty toilets”) after securing a Royal Warrant. His reward there included the contract to supply a lavatory pedestal emblazoned with the Prince of Wales feathers. Later warrants were granted by Edward VII and by George V. News of such accolades may have reached Farrer ears in far-off Clapham, leading to the firm being engaged to undertake work on what were here described as “the offices.”

Thomas retired in 1904 and died in 1910. The firm of Crappers was taken over by John Bolding in 1950 and liquidated in 1969 only to re-emerge in 1998 in South Africa where the trademark had lain dormant for many years before heralding a re-born “Thomas Crapper & Co. Ltd., Producers of the World’s Most Authentic Period-Style Sanitary Ware”.

Incidentally, just in case you were wondering, the term ‘crap’ is a 15th century English word meaning “dregs”, “cast-off”, “residue”, “something worthless or offensive”. The family name of Crapper is said to be a corruption of ‘cropper’, the description given to a person who raises a crop, especially of a particular variety or in a particular way.

Ken Pearce

The five 'P's

**St. James' Church, Clapham invites you to enjoy
Poetry, Prose, Pies, Peas & Puddings
Saturday, April 15th, 7.30pm Clapham Village Hall**



Come along and enjoy listening to Clapham's literary talent read from their own work. Alternatively, bring something of your own to

read that has been special to you. You might also like to take part in our 'Write Your Own Doggerel' competition. Or you can just sit back and enjoy the company of friends and neighbours along with a supper of Pies, Peas and Puds (there is a bar too!). There could be a lot worse ways to spend an evening! Tickets just £10 from Clapham Village Store or myself.

Sue Mann

Tel: 015242 51792

or email: suemann.wyvern51@gmail.com

Vacant allotment

There is an allotment coming available from April at the site off Cross Haw Lane, Clapham. These are small plots, approximately 10ft x 20ft, for a rent of £10 a year plus insurance & other costs, for a current total of £20 p.a. If you're interested, please contact Kirsty Rothwell on kirstyroth@hotmail.com

John Elphinstone

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

**Saturday 15th April 2023
at 10am outside Glencroft**

Please come and help do your bit for our local environment

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CLAPHAM LECTURE GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 9th May
7pm

Clapham Village Hall

To be followed by a short talk

“The Norfolk Broads”



All invited – refreshments – free entry



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Wordsearch

This issue's offering is British Trees – mostly native ones, though there are some that have been introduced. There are just 30 to find this time, many of which have two part names such as Dog Rose. None has a total of less than 4 letters. As usual, they can go up or down, left or right, or diagonally. No prizes – just the kudos of winning, just as Martin Roxburgh did last time with his complete solution delivered just a day after we appeared in people's letterboxes! *Andy Scott*

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Solution to the March 2023 puzzle: Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Fiji, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Laos, Malawi, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Togo, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Let's Talk Climate - have your say



On 1st April Craven District Council, along with 7 other local councils, will be incorporated into the new North Yorkshire Council. The new authority plans to adopt a climate change strategy to promote measures to prevent greenhouse gas emissions,

prepare for a changing climate and help nature thrive in North Yorkshire.

In July 2022 a Climate Emergency was announced for North Yorkshire, and the climate team created a draft Climate Change Strategy to enable North Yorkshire to reach Net Zero by 2030 and be the first Carbon Negative region by 2040. This ties in with the Government's aim for the UK to be Net Zero by 2050. This strategy is now out for public consultation until 7th April. There are three ways to respond to North Yorkshire draft Climate Change Strategy.

- **NYCC website.** A full digital copy of the Strategy (57 pages) is here. See: https://bit.ly/NY_Climate_Strategy and open to responses from a group and/or individuals which can be emailed to: climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

- **Let's Talk Climate.** Aimed at residents – it includes a summary text of the consultation and opportunity for 'quick' responses. See: https://bit.ly/NY_Proposals
- **In Libraries.** A paper reference copy and response forms available in libraries, are aimed at residents without internet access or would find responding to Let's Talk– more difficult

Communities across North Yorkshire are set to play a major role in helping tackle climate change as grassroots projects will provide the momentum needed to achieve ambitious goals to reduce harmful greenhouse gases.

Have your say by taking the council's latest survey. Go to: https://bit.ly/NY_Climate

A groundswell of support across all sections of society will be required to ensure that carbon dioxide emissions are curbed to halt the threat of climate change. There is a wealth of schemes already under way involving communities across England's largest county which have laid invaluable foundations for work to progress.

*Jill Buckler
Clapham Sustainability Group*

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North Yorkshire Council

From 1 April 2023, the county council and seven district and borough councils have become one – North Yorkshire Council. The council has become the geographically largest council in England.

It is committed to working closely with town and parish councils, as well as wider partners and communities to ensure that local priorities drive locally led decision-making and local action via community networks.

Staff who currently serve residents will continue to provide the services that they deliver now. A main office will be retained in each former district area and will be supported by a further 30 local customer access points in places people visit in the future. There will be one phone number and one website, making sure access to support and services will be easier whilst ending the current confusion that exists over which council does what.

By making this change now, it gives North Yorkshire Council the best possible chance to protect our valued services at a time of exceptional financial pressures and

high demand. Joining up services will allow the council to maximise spending power, meaning there are potential savings of between £30 million and £70 million which will then become annual savings. This money can be used to protect some of the most important local services at a critical

time when everyone and every organisation is feeling the pressure.

The Council will have a strong voice and will work with the county's six MPs to ensure that Government understands and acts on the issues that affect residents and businesses. It will advocate for the best possible opportunities. A clear

economic strategy that plays to the county's strengths and supports environmentally friendly business growth means it will be business friendly. By having one council, we can strengthen the county's cultural offer, lobby for a greater share of funding for arts and culture, and support a year-round visitor economy. To find out more, visit:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/newcouncil

North Yorkshire Council



Dales landscape by Margaret Blackburne

Clapham Art Group - 70th Art Exhibition

Clapham Village Hall
Sun 27th May to Sun 4th June
10am to 5pm daily

Entry 50p (accompanied children free)

Originally founded by the artist Peggy McDonald and art teacher Cyril Harrington shortly after the Second World War, Clapham Art Group first showcased their work in 1951. Its aims of fostering and encouraging the practice of drawing and painting informally among likeminded people from the North Craven area have stood the test of time and still serve the membership well today.

The Group, which meets regularly in Clapham Village Hall, comes mainly from the north Craven area. Meetings comprise a programme of artwork plus experimental workshops, all devised and run by members. There will be an exciting and eclectic selection of all new framed paintings, mounted works and drawings on display and for sale.

Delicious homemade refreshments will be available in aid of St. James' Church.

Everyone is very welcome.

B&W Funerals

(Brown & Whittaker)

James G Macdonald & Tara Wilson

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Village hall news



Nicola Mills with Opera for the People
Photo: Angie Martin

Hall usage is really on the increase just now. We get new enquiries and bookings almost every day and, especially when we include our regular users, there are very few days when the building goes completely unused. It is so good to see the hall so well used by our community.

In the background, our policies and maintenance groups have been busy researching and following up on our projects to improve the hall. This will be ongoing for several months so look out for changes.

The hall's latest community event on 17th March was a joint one with St. James' Church where local opera singer Nicola Mills raised the roof with a selection of songs from her repertoire.

This was a return visit for Nicola following a taster 'Warm Spaces' event run by Craven District Council with a Soup & Singing session on 9th February, which was well supported. Many thanks to McConnell Homes Ltd. for sponsoring the 'Warm Spaces' event and to Nicola for keeping everyone entertained.

The joint Rural Arts productions over the past year have put forward a number of different events (Bard in the Yard, Killer Question etc.) and we are grateful for all the hard work done by Sue Mann and Kathy Hall in getting these productions off the ground. The money raised will be split between the church and the hall.

Our next community event is a fundraiser purely for the hall - a ceilidh to celebrate St. George's Day with an accompanying supper and bar. This will take place on Friday 21st April. In a new initiative to encourage youngsters along - we are trialling a new pricing model for this event. See the advert on p9 for details. We hope that this will be a really fun occasion for everyone so get your dancing shoes ready!

Angie Martin,
Hall Secretary

Village hall regular events

Yoga

Mondays 9.30am
Brooke Chenoweth
yoga@braveenterprise.com

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 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

SAVE THE DATE!

**Eddie &
The Gold Tops**

Sunday June 11th
Clapham Village Hall





Just a Little Thank You!



We wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last 3 years. It's certainly been an interesting journey, and throughout this time we have been lucky enough to be supported by this wonderful community.

We wanted to give you a token of appreciation and at the bottom of this advert you will find a voucher for 25% off your food bill when you dine with us.

Over the last year we have gone from strength to strength, and this is very much due to our head chef, Tomasz, who has already gained quite the reputation, just check out our TripAdvisor page.

With a new menu on the horizon we hope to see you all over the spring and summer. Once again, thank you for your support and we hope to see you all soon!




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