

Number 143, June 2023

Coronation celebrations at Ingleborough Hall



The colour printing of this edition is sponsored by Newby Landowners

Welcome to the June edition

We would like to start by thanking Clapham Village Store's Community Fund for granting us funds to purchase new desktop publishing software. We hope to trial this new software when producing forthcoming editions, with a view to going live with it by the end of the year. Your support is much appreciated.

If you would like to contribute to the August edition please see the information given below.

Please remember the Newsletter is also available online on the village website, see: https://claphamyorkshire.co.uk Thank you.

The Newsletter Committee



Email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter information

& December. Next issue: August, 2023. Deadline: 20 July.

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 Contact Andy: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Editions are produced February, April, June, August, October 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.



Volunteers' Week 1-7 June

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who give so much time, energy and commitment to our shop. New volunteers always welcome. A baker urgently required for one morning a week. Call in and speak to Helen.

Summer Opening Hours please refer to our website for any further changes Mon to Fri: 8.30am – 5.30pm Sat & Sun: 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

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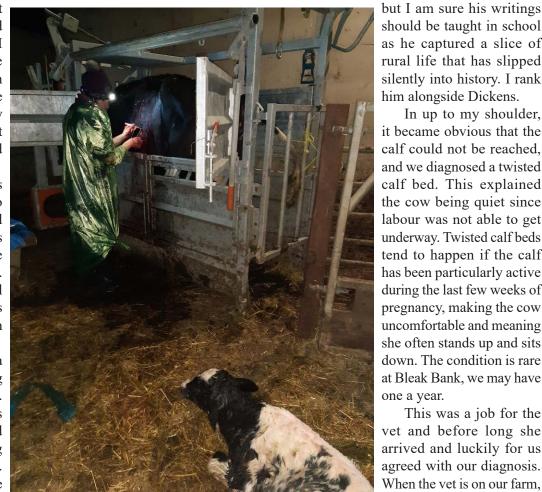
Emergency exit

The adult cattle at Bleak Bank are all mothers and it is not unusual for us to have mothers, daughters and granddaughters in our dairy herd at any one time. The whole herd is made up of individual cow families. Our aim is for each cow to

have a calf every year, just as they would if they lived on an African Savannah. I am confident the cows are happier at Bleak Bank than in Africa, partly because we have fewer lions and partly because it is not quite as hot so they, and me, do not need to wear a hat.

Getting cows in calf is a constant challenge and to help us in this we have a bull who is known as Billy, He is always up for the challenge of getting cows pregnant. We also practice artificial insemination which allows us to use bloodlines from around the world.

Putting calves into a cow is one thing but getting them out is quite another. Luckily, we keep meticulous records regarding bulls used and cows served, along with the date they are due. We have a calendar in the dairy, known as the dairy



calendar, on which we record world events such as the death of Elvis, (if indeed he is dead) as well as farm events such as feed deliveries, service dates for the cows and their dueto-calve dates. I imagine that in the centuries to come our dairy calendar will become as historically significant as the diaries of Samuel Pepys.

We have many years of experience regarding calving cows and there is no situation in which we do not know what to do. I tell the cows not to worry as we are always aware of their situation and are never off duty regarding their health. I think they find it reassuring but it is not always easy to tell.

Incidentally, I recently had an appointment at a Women's Institute meeting (don't ask) and on the front row was a heavily expectant mother who was just about due. I told her not to worry she was in safe hands, at which point she moved to the back of the room and nearer to the door...

One of our older and more experienced cows was due to calve only a few days ago, and normally an old hand like her has little trouble. Like my mother, they've seen it all before and take it in their stride, out comes the baby and all is well. On this occasion though, it was a little different. She became unhappy (the cow not my mother) and generally had a quiet day. We were marking and vaccinating lambs with one eye on her.

First thing to do is investigate, which involves an arm length glove and a goodly squirt of lubricant. My childhood hero was James Herriot, and he always said, "Nothing tells you quite so much as putting your arm up a cow". I digress,

In up to my shoulder,

This was a job for the

should be taught in school as he captured a slice of rural life that has slipped silently into history. I rank him alongside Dickens. it became obvious that the calf could not be reached, and we diagnosed a twisted calf bed. This explained the cow being quiet since labour was not able to get underway. Twisted calf beds tend to happen if the calf has been particularly active during the last few weeks of pregnancy, making the cow uncomfortable and meaning she often stands up and sits down. The condition is rare at Bleak Bank, we may have one a year. vet and before long she arrived and luckily for us agreed with our diagnosis. When the vet is on our farm,

> she takes charge of animal health and makes decisions accordingly. It was decided the twist was a "full twist" and it was necessary to carry out an emergency caesarean for the safety of both mother and baby. This is major surgery which is carried out in a farm building that is not altogether clean.

> It always surprises me how placid a cow can be, she stood patiently in the crush whilst the vet unwrapped what is basically a mobile operating theatre (they carry three), and which had everything she might need. First the site is clipped, and she is given local anaesthetic (the cow not the vet). The incision is made, and all the time the cow is trying to see what is going on, completely unfazed. Within ten minutes of starting, we lifted a live and healthy calf out of mum. The most difficult bit was persuading the cow to stand still for another twenty minutes whilst the womb, then the muscle and finally the skin, is sewn back together, as she was anxious to get to her calf and could not understand the holdup.

> The calf had a feed of colostrum from our store in the freezer and all was well by 12.15 am. We were discussing a brew and ginger biscuit when the vet's phone rang, and she was off to another calving. Never mind, I had her biscuit ... John Dawson

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Age UK Group trip

Shop goes greener



The picture is of our group setting off in the minibus for our day outing to Grasmere on Thursday 11th May 2023. Actually, it isn't because I was supposed to take a picture during the day of members enjoying themselves, but I forgot about it until we were about to set off home, so apologies. It was a day of bright sunshine and sharp showers, but we were fortunate to miss most of the showers when we were in the minibus or indoors. The ride to Grasmere itself, through the spectacular mountain scenery and past the lakes which were busy with boats of various kinds, is a treat. Grasmere was bustling but very enjoyable, lots to see, with a variety of shops and eateries to cater for every taste.

Apart from the monthly trips our meetings are held on the first Wednesday morning of every month in the Village Hall at 10.30. We have a speaker or an activity, followed by a splendid two-course lunch cooked by the wonderful Lorraine Wildman. We know there are new residents in the village who may not know about our group, and we would love to welcome new members. If you intend to come to one of our meetings to try us out(!), please telephone me on 015242 51816, because I need to give Lorraine numbers for the meal. We would love to see you – please give us a try. *Brenda Pearce*

Shop volunteering opportunities

If you would like to get involved with our award-winning village shop, please get in touch. You may not feel that a face-to-face role working behind the counter is for you - although we would love to see you if you do! However, there are a range of other opportunities on offer. You may be an 'early bird' and be willing to help sort the daily papers or bake lovely, fresh pastries. You could come in and help with the regular date checking which is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge – as soon as you get to the end you have to start all over again! You might be willing to help with a bit of DIY or you like numbers and would enjoy being part of the cashing up and banking team.

If you want to support this important community asset and be part of a friendly team which is at the heart of our community, come along and have a chat with us.

> Helen Rawlinson, Shop Manager



...and it's not just the new aprons! Clapham Village Shop is committed to minimising its environmental impact and works hard to ensure as little waste as possible.

"On a larger scale, this has involved thinking about the building itself," says Iain Crossley who has been overseeing renovations. "We knew the roof was going to be replaced so we took the initiative to apply to the National Lottery for grant funding for solar panels." With the new roof, improved insulation, secondary glazing and solar panels now in place, the shop is far more energy efficient than before.

In store, shop manager, Helen, works hard to source local products where possible. Our motto is, "Less miles, more smiles". Our fresh vegetables and fruit are sold loose to minimise plastic packaging and our "Clapham Village Store" bags for life are very popular. Larger weekly orders are always packed in cardboard boxes from deliveries.

We also have charging points for electric bicycles in the garden, free to use for shop customers and we are actively campaigning for a more pragmatic use of "use by" and "best before" dates to further reduce unnecessary food waste.

We recycle everything we possibly can, and many people make use of our used battery collection point. We are particularly excited to be working with Settle College on recycling crisp packets so please bring all your empty crisp packets into the shop - they don't even have to be cleaned out!

Every single action, be it large or small, makes a difference.

Maria Farrer





To mark the occasion of the crowning of Charles III, John Town plants the Coronation Oak on the green triangle by Clapham station. *Julie Town*

Photo: Julie Town



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Parish Council news

The Parish Council met on the evening of 27 April 2023. With one member of the public in attendance. Also present was PC Jayne Grace of the neighbourhood policing team.

PC Grace reported that the Settle team currently comprises of 3 response staff rather than the requisite 8, with the shortfall being covered by Skipton. Despite this shortfall, other than one new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) being appointed there will be no further recruitment due to budget cuts.

9 incidents had been reported over the previous month, (including an abandoned call) 3 suspect vehicle reports, theft of a vase, an unwanted call, a bank fraud phone call, a road related offence and a motorbike road traffic collision (no injury). PC Grace advised that the Home Safety initiative is still available. For further details - please see the poster elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Clerk and individual councillors had received correspondence from parishioners regarding the number of signs around the village for "The Old Sawmill", the view being that there were too many. The matter was discussed by the Council who felt that it was important to support local businesses and employment; given that there were still numerous instances of tourists asking locals for directions it was thought that there were not too many signs.

It was noted that 18 bags of rubbish had been collected from the litter pick on 15 April. Thanks to North Yorkshire Council for providing the necessary equipment and picking up the collected rubbish on the following day; as well as to all the individuals who undertook the litter pick.

Two planning applications, 2023/24881/FUL for the conversion of Laithbutts barn, Laithbutts Lane, Clapham to a 4 bedroom dwelling and 2023/24912/HH for an extension to Wenning Hipping, Keasden Road, Keasden had been received and the council had no comments to make regarding these. It was also noted that application 2022/24253/HH Lower Hardacre House, High Bentham had been approved.

A review of the full year spend was undertaken with an overspend of £3,053 being reported. There were three principal components to this; £995 for the Jubilee Tea Party was merely a timing issue as a grant for this amount had been received in the previous financial year, £720 with regards to the Neighbourhood Plan to be recovered in the year end VAT reclaim and, finally, £1,673 as a result of the unbudgeted tree planting at Toll Bar Wood, £548 VAT would be reclaimed in the new financial year making the final overspend £1,115.

The Parish Council met on the evening of 18 May 2023. Present, besides Parish Councillors, were eleven members of the public.

Two meetings were held: the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the ordinary meeting of the Council.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman provided a report on the activities of the Parish Council since the last Parish Meeting in March 2022. Reports were also received from the County and District Councillors present, followed by reports from representatives

of various groups and organisations active within the parish. The groups represented in person were:

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, St. James' Church Clapham, St Matthew's Church Keasden, St James' Church Bell Ringers, The Friends of Clapham Station, Ingleborough Estate, The Cave Rescue Organisation, Clapham cum Newby Village Hall, Age UK (Clapham Group), The Clapham Association and Clapham & District Newsletter.

Written reports from:

The County & District Council, The Police, The Clapham Park Association, The Digital Equipment Workshop Dropin, Clapham Village Store, the Lecture Group and The Sustainability Group were read to the meeting.

More details will appear in the minutes of the meeting which will be published on the village website:

www.claphamyorkshire.co.uk.

Parish Council Meeting

The issues regarding the sewage discharge from Austwick pumping station were discussed, recognising that this was a wider issue and a matter of current national news.

A response had been received from Julian Smith MP (who had raised the matter with the Secretary of State for the Environment), but no acknowledgement of the Council's correspondence had been received from United Utilities (UU).

The Clerk was asked to write to UU again, and also to write to Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) stressing the concerns, given that Austwick had been included as a site for future home building in the YDNPA Plan.

The Chair expressed his thanks for the efforts of all councillors in making the Picnic Lunch to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III such a success, and also for the generous sponsorship from the Clapham Community Shop Fund that enabled the Council to provide drinks at the event.

It was also noted that an oak tree had been planted by John and Julie Town on the Coronation Day on the grassed area adjacent to Clapham Station. Thanks were expressed for this also.

For more information on the work of the Parish Council and full meeting minutes, use the parish council 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 meetings will be on Wednesday 21 June 2023 and Wednesday 19 July 2023.

The Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer **Steven Culver** can be contacted..

By email: parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com or **By telephone**: 015242 51862

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Want to make space for nature?

Event: Saturday 1 July, 2023

10am - 2.30pm, Addingham

Environmental campaigning charity, Friends of the Dales is offering a unique opportunity for villages, parishes, environment groups and fledgling environment groups to find out practical and replicable ways to create more space for nature.

In collaboration with Addingham Environment Group (AEG), they will showcase AEG's journey from inception to current times, along with information about its aims for the future and successes and challenges along the way. There will also be an opportunity to join one of two guided walks through Addingham village to see the nature-positive actions taken to improve and increase habitats, support clean water and increase biodiversity.

There will be an opportunity for ideas sharing and discussion over a light, complimentary lunch. Event timed to coincide with public transport from Keighley, Skipton and Ilkley.

Places limited to two people per village/parish/group. To take part in this FREE event please send me an email.

Victoria Benn victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk www.friendsofthedales.org.uk





Play Park update

You may have noticed there has been some activity up at the park in recent weeks. New bark has been laid, new sand added, the bins moved (to avoid passing dog walkers using them as dog waste receptacles) and the benches repaired. There is more to do as ever, including the rope equipment being fixed in the coming weeks.

Behind the scenes, the play park committee has also had a refresh. We'd like to thank Tracey Bilton for all her work over the years. The committee is now: Secretary: Eleanor (Nell) Whitley (The Beeches), Treasurer: Amanda North (Saw Mill Cottage) and Chair: Amy North-Johnson (Sunnybank).

You can contact us by email and there is a *WhatsApp Noticeboard* for regular updates, let us know on the email below if you'd like to be added. Otherwise look out for notices at the park or in the newsletter.

We are now planning some fundraising activities starting with a group of us doing the 3 Peaks Challenge on 30th July! If you would like to join the walk, drop us an email. We'll be organising an end-of-walk community BBQ - everyone welcome. Donations for the walk welcome: www.gofundme.com/f/clapham-park-donations. There are now fundraising posters up at the park, to encourage visitors to contribute to its upkeep.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has helped with the recent and ongoing work – especially Bernard Ashurst!

Eleanor (Nell) Whitley Email: claphamparkassociation@outlook.com

Eddie & The Gold Tops

This hilarious comedy is brought to you by Badapple Theatre. It is set against the backdrop and dynamic music of the 'Swinging 60's', was written by artistic director Kate Bramley (formerly of Hull Truck Theatre) with original songs and music by Jez Lowe (SONY Radio Academy Award Winner/BBC Radio 2 Radio Ballads).

This tale follows our Eddie, a much-loved milkman from a family of great Italian milkman - who finds himself becoming a chart-topping beat-group star, quite by accident. Having inherited the family milk round from his father, Eddie has fulfilled his deathbed promise to never miss a delivery for the good people of the Village of Bottledale. But suddenly things are on the up! His songs are heading up the charts and if he can get there by tonight, he'll be on the brand-new Top of the Pops!

Kathy Hall

Keasden rainfall report

	2022	2023
March	2 ¹ / ₂ " or 6.35cm	12" or 30.48cm
April	2" or 5.08cm	5¼" or 13.34cm





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Beethoven Fidelio Overture

Dvořák Violin Concerto Soloist - Anna Tulchinskaya

Schubert **Unfinished Symphony**

Dvořák Slavonic Dances Op.72, 1,2,6,7

Conductor - Xinjie Yang Leader - Anne Heaton

Tickets £15, students £7.50, children free Available from: Forage and Feast, Settle: Bentham P O: via www.settleorchestra.org.uk: from orchestra members: or on the door. Cash or card payments on the door.

Reg. charity 1025554

Summer Concert

Saturday 17th June, 7.30pm

Saturday 24th June, 7.30pm Christ Church, Skipton

Settle Parish Church



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Church news

John's Notes: the forever-function and creating something Anglican Services more

As society changes, our churches gently adapt, often to offer people something needed, however modest that may be. In our present time, food banks are often, (not always), based in places of worship, commonly because these are the parish's sole public building, which can be offered rent-free (meaning that the church or local donors pay for the heating and lighting). As provision for public amenities shrinks, it's becoming increasingly common for churches to host community facilities of one kind or another.

St Giles, Langford, Essex run a community shop called 'Heavenly Supplies' from the church vestry; when the villagers of Stannington, Northumberland, said they needed access to computers and IT tuition, St Mary's Church responded by installing an IT suite at the bottom of the bell tower. Now that the community is up to speed with IT, the room has been converted to an office and print room, whilst the building has also hosted a Post Office, as well as continuing with regular worship services and social events.

What conclusion is this article heading towards? You may be wondering. Am I about to announce a proposal for the opening of St James' Clapham Health Centre with Coffee Shop? Well, no. (Though don't we already offer that on Sunday mornings: a 50-minute spiritual-health recharge session with refreshments afterwards?).

We are blessed here to have a community shop, a pub, bar and café, a pretty decent rural bus service, and a good range of local traders of various specialisms (just look at the advertisers in this newsletter). So, our churches continue with their forever-function of being a place of worship, gathering and refreshment, and with events like the recent popular Keasden Exhibition at St Matthew's church, we gently adapt and innovate.

I'm simply saying that this topic shows how churches throughout the land, though maybe low in numbers of regular Sunday worshippers and scraping around for financial support to survive, are nevertheless still at the heart of their communities. We are around when local people sometimes say: 'Our village really needs ... such and such', and we're ready to join in the conversations around the questions which follow: 'How and where could we do that?' If you have such questions on your mind, please don't hold back on starting the conversation it deserves. It might result in an illuminating realisation that as a community, with the church, we can create something more.

> Revd John Davies john.davies@leeds.anglican.org 01524 805928 Notes from a small vicar: bit.ly/johndavies-talks

Churches Weekly Newsletters are available free to collect from church porches each Saturday or to view online at bit.ly/churches-newsletters

Contact Revd John to sign up to the Churches weekly email for all the latest churches' news and information: john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

June

4th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

11th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Keasden 150th Anniversary Walk from Keasden to Newby Chapel in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of both churches, all welcome.

18th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

25th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion; 7.00 Keasden Evening Service

July - some details to be confirmed

2nd: 9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

9th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

16th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 2.00 Eldroth Summer Family Celebration (TBC or 6.30 Evening Prayer)

23rd: 10.30 Austwick Benefice Communion (TBC)

30th: 10.30 Eldroth Benefice service; 7.00 Church in the pub, New Inn Clapham

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

Bleak Bank BBQ Saturday 12th August 6.30pm onwards **Everybody welcome** Save the date - look out for further details

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Sunday services 11am & 6.30pm. Junior Church 10am. Fridays - Clapham Tots 9.30 to 11am Alternate Fridays - kmotion (primary school ages) 6 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 Saturdays 17 June and 15 July 10.30 to 12 noon. Sportreach Soccer & Netball school 2nd to 6th August. 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, Tillman Close, Settle, BD24 9RA Usual service times: Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Sun: 11:15am, Tues & Thurs: 10:00 am Parish Priest: Father Frank Smith, Phone: 01729 822525 Email: stboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk Website: www.ssmaryandmichael.co.uk

Wordsearch

Solution to the April 2023 puzzle:

Alder, Aspen, Beech, Bird Cherry, Black Poplar, Crab Apple, Crack Willow, Douglas Fir, English Elm, Field Maple, Hazel, Holly, Hornbeam, Horse Chestnut, Juniper, Larch, Lime, London Plane, Mountain Ash, Norway Spruce, Sallow, Scots Pine, Sessile Oak, Silver Birch, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Walnut, Western Hemlock, Whitebeam and (for some reason, though it broke my own rule on minimum word length!) Yew.

By some fluke PALM mysteriously appeared in the grid too though it doesn't count as it isn't really a British tree.

First past the post this time was Martin Roxburgh, but special mention must go to seven-year-old Lauren Ketchell, pictured, for her excellent attempt!

There is no puzzle this time around, but we hope to be back when the darker evenings draw in.

Andy Scott





How do you measure the success of a community litter pick? Logic suggests that it should be by happily noting a lack of litter - pristine verges, no piles of bottles behind trees, no nappies tossed out of cars. So, it was with a strange mixture of frustration and satisfaction that our eagle eyed and enthusiastic group of 21 litter pickers managed to fill 18

Litter picking and helping out

sacks of the stuff. It may not be the most glamorous job, but I think everyone felt a huge sense of achievement and it was great to see so many young people joining our happy crew and doing their bit for village and planet. A huge thank you to all who helped out on the day and all those who regularly pick up litter as they walk.

We've heard a lot about "helping out" in recent weeks and, when you look at our parish, the army of people who help out is absolutely extraordinary. Whether it be for an organisation or on an individual basis, people just step up to do things that need doing, often going above and beyond. From the play park to the village hall, from the community shop to the PCC, from Cave Rescue to curlew counting (the list could go on and on), the collective spirit of goodwill and voluntary endeavour is phenomenal.

There is something about volunteering that lifts the spirits. It is an opportunity to learn, to build confidence, to make new friends and to make a difference. So, if anyone has a spare moment and is wondering whether to give it a go ... whatever time you can give will be welcome somewhere! Maria Farrer



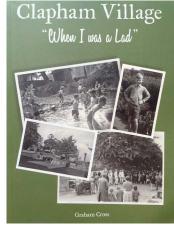
I was born and brought up in Clapham with family connections to the parish going back many generations. As I have got older, I have realised that everything I had, I took for granted. It was a fantastic place to be raised and how lucky I had been.

I have six grandchildren and I often reminisce to them how very different their lives are from mine growing up.

When I was a lad

The idea of writing a book about village life was born. I hope for my generation it will fetch back many memories and for younger people an understanding of village life in the 1950s and 60s, showing how things have changed and not always for the better.

Copies of the book can be bought in Clapham, Austwick and Settle.



Graham Cross

Nature notes

One of the frustrations shared by nature watchers across the UK is that so many of our wild animals, including some of the relatively common ones, are reliably elusive. We know that that they are out there, but it is entirely possible to walk the Dales footpaths day after day without ever coming across a weasel, stoat or badger. Even the fox, now such a common sight in some of our cities, is almost invisible here. Wary of contact with humans and naturally creatures of shadow and darkness, it is hardly surprising that sightings of most of our wild neighbours are rare. And some are more rarely seen than others:

'This shapeshifter's a sheer breath-taker, a sure heart-stopper – but you'll only ever spot a shadow-flutter, bubble-skein, and never (almost never) actual otter.'

Robert Macfarlane, The Lost Words

Fifty years ago, the otter was on the brink of extinction in the UK and the survival of this sleek, sinuous predator has to be one of the conservation successes of recent times. It is hard to believe that otter-hunting was only banned in 1978 and that it was only in the nineteen nineties that the most harmful chemicals leeching into our rivers were banned so that the slow road to recovery could begin. You are now more likely to see an otter than at any time over the last sixty years. Though still regarded as rare, today the species is widespread and can be found in almost every county in England, including ours.

Recovering, perhaps. Widespread, maybe. But still, the day you see an otter in the wild is a very special one. I can count my own encounters with this 'shapeshifter' on one hand. You can imagine my jealousy then, when Tim Hutchinson sent me a message – and some photographs! – to report that he'd just seen one hunting in broad daylight on the Wenning. You 'never (almost never)' see an *actual* otter!

At long last, we are being told much more about the contamination of both our fresh and our coastal waters, and we can no longer ignore the health-threat of sewage discharge into our rivers but perhaps the Wenning – like our own Clapham Beck – is bucking the trend. Otters are arch predators and if the rivers cannot support healthy populations of their prey they stay away.

We are used to hearing bad news about the state of our nature-depleted country, but the recent history of the otter is not the only positive conservation story out there. While it is true that that we have lost many of the birds that bred in our area in the nineteen seventies, others are beginning to gain a foothold here.* Siskins and goldfinches are now frequent visitors to our garden bird feeders and, as I did just a week or so ago, you are quite likely to see a goosander fishing on the beck. Only today I was told about a Little Egret seen near Mafeking Bridge, a sighting that fifteen years ago would have brought twitchers from miles around to our little village.

I think it is fair to say that we are living through a period when there are still more losers than winners in the world of nature, but it is sometimes good to recognise – and to



Photo: Tim Hutchinson

celebrate – the fact that rare success stories do exist. Even if they are as rare as encounters with otters!

* To find out more about the changing state of the bird life in our area it's well worth visiting the interactive BTO 'Birds on your Doorstep' website: https://data.bto.org/doorstep-birds/ And if you would like to contribute to our understanding of the way things are changing, do join thousands of others by submitting your sightings to the BTO citizen science project, 'Bird Track.'

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

Fund raising for the Fire Fighters

We would like to say a very big thank you to all who attended, gave donations, raffle prizes, made cakes etc and helped out on the day to make our Afternoon Tea fundraising for the Fire Fighters Charity, Bentham on Saturday 13th May, such a success (on the hottest day of the year so far!)

We made $\pounds 1,100$ for this well deserving charity – these firefighters had a mammoth task of extinguishing the fire at Fall View in October 2021, with the help of more firefighters from Yorkshire and Lancashire.

We are now back in our house with a few unopened boxes in every room but are definitely settled-in and very happy to be home again. Without the support of all those who came and willingly gave of their time we could not have done so well on the day – a perfect afternoon for a chat, a cuppa and cake.

Many thanks to all again.

Justina & Richard Sexton and family

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Then and Now



This pair of rural scenes show the view towards the village from the Bentham Road and, although the old postcard is undated, I would guess that about 100 years separate the two. They are taken from beside the road, just on the Green Close side of Crook Beck Bridge: the crossroad just visible in the middle distance is that which goes to Newby on the left and down to the station on the right. The Brickkiln Plantation has sprung up between the two images, as has the inevitable overhead power line. Closer inspection shows that the road has been widened and the bridge replaced too. At the time of writing, the whole length of the main road here has just been resurfaced.



Between the position where the photographers took these pictures and the bridge lies the line of the leat (head race) that once supplied the water which drove the long-gone Newby Mill. This mill served the whole community for many centuries but, by the mid-19th century, it had fallen into disrepair and was demolished. The mill was located on the southern edge of the Mill Field, which is off to the right of these images, and the leat must have been culverted under the road, though even the "Then" image appears to show no trace of it. My thanks to Sarah Cowin for sharing the old postcard.

Andy Scott

Clapham Lecture Group

The group held its AGM on Tuesday 9th May and took the opportunity to review its activities over the previous year and begin to make plans for the one ahead. Whilst the group's principal officers were all re-elected to serve for the year ahead (Chair: Andy Scott, Treasurer: Judith Dawson and Secretary: Jeanne Carr), Ken Pearce had indicated his wish to step down as Vice Chair and, with no-one coming forward to take on the role, it was decided to continue without one. Ken has been a stalwart of the group for many years and was formally thanked for all he had done during that period. Ann Gorner has kindly offered to continue to represent the group on the Village Hall Committee.

It was decided that we would run the lecture series for this year with a single break for half term. Accordingly, we should be restarting on Tuesday 26th September and running through until 5th December, with a single break on Tuesday 31st October. (Dates still to be confirmed!) Suggestions were sought on topics and lecturers and a programme will be put together in due course with a mix of local speakers and those from further afield. The AGM was rounded off by an illustrated talk about the Norfolk Broads.

Members of the group from last year are invited to join us on a field trip to Tom Lord's to see the work he has done, and the wildlife thus encouraged, at Lower Winskill on Tuesday 13th June – if interested in coming along then please contact one of the officers.

Farming Community Network



Fundraising in Newby for the Farming Community Network

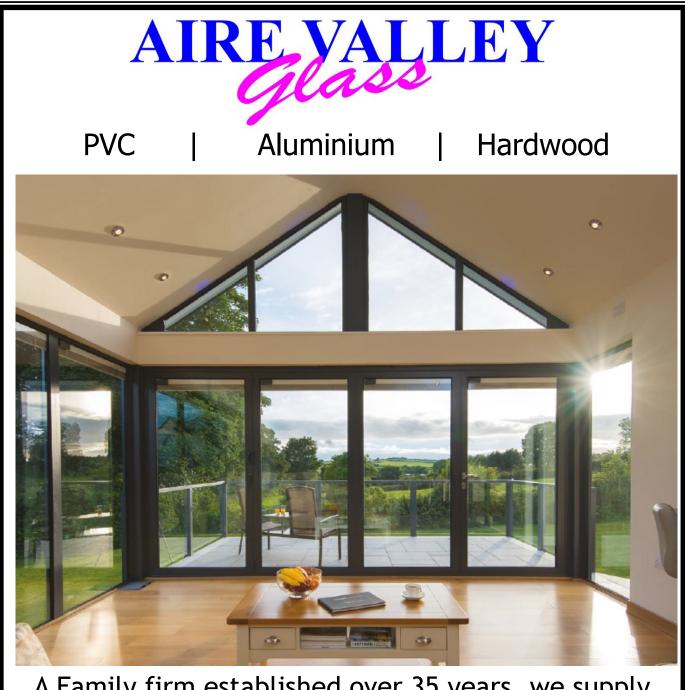
Newby residents decided to make the most of the Coronation weekend to have a get together and to raise funds for this important charity at the same time. FCN supports farmers and families within the farming community on a range of matters, whether personal or business.

The rain on Monday morning put paid to the original idea of a barbecue and everyone sitting around on the Green enjoying the sunshine. However, all was not lost – the butties were cooked in someone's kitchen, and everyone gathered in the chapel to eat them, drink coffee and, above all, have a good old natter – as you can see from the picture.

A total of \pounds 330 was raised on the day, increasing to \pounds 412 by the time the donation was made to FCN.

Sue Mann

Andy Scott



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Steam update

our railways safe to travel on. Most will be familiar with either the old swinging arm style of signal – either in red and white, or yellow and black - or the more recent colour light style of signal like a traffic light. Their purpose is to control entry to a "block section" of track, such that only one train is in the section at any one time and the possibility of a collision removed. It follows that any train in a block must then leave it before another is permitted to enter it. Signals are such a common sight that we take them for granted. Yet if you look out for the ones at Clapham Station, you'll realise that there aren't any! In fact, there are no signals at all for the whole length of the line between Settle Junction and Carnforth. This is because the whole of that line is considered as a single "block section" and its claim to fame is that it is the longest such double-track single block section anywhere on the whole railway network. As soon as a train sets off towards us from Carnforth, the block becomes occupied, and no second train can follow until the first has got beyond Settle Junction (or vice versa).



115 Scots Guardsman rattles along towards Clapham Viaduct on route back to her Carnforth base. Photo: Andy Scott

Obviously, this impacts on the number of trains that can be run along the line and, thus, the frequency of the service that can be offered. It makes our line the quiet backwater that it is. Yet there are ambitions to improve the service on the line in a number of ways. One suggestion is to extend the working day so that we have earlier morning, and later evening, services. Another is to increase the number of through destinations that can be reached from the line including, for example, direct trains to Windermere. A third is to increase the service frequency, though to do that, the line would probably have to be split into two or more blocks and our claim to fame thus lost. Perhaps we will see signals at Clapham again?

On the steam front, there have been a number of loco movements though the station over recent weeks. 60103 Flying Scotsman has passed through twice - the first, just as our last issue went to print on Sunday 26th March, had some advance publicity that brought a fair crowd out to watch her passing. Earlier on the same day, 46115 Scots Guardsman had rattled through in the opposite direction. On 1st April, 44932 returned to Carnforth following her filming duties at

Signalling provides one of the key features which help make Hull. An expected visit by 45596 Bahamas on 14th April our railways safe to travel on. Most will be familiar with never happened as the engine was reversed at Hellifield



Ever popular, centenarian 60103 Flying Scotsman passes through Clapham as she heads to the Railway Museum at York to take pride of place on display. Photo: Andy Scott

and then travelled onwards via Blackburn. Fri 21st April saw two passing locos: 44932 returned to York for duty on the multi-day Great Britain steam tour whilst later, we had a rare visit by a Great Western Railway loco as 7029 Clun Castle passed through prior to heading an excursion over the Settle &Carlisle line. On 2nd May, Flying Scotsman passed through for her second time – this time somewhat unpublicised – whilst on Sun 7th May, 45212 passed through on the first step of her journey from Keighley to Fort William where she will supplement the engines already up there that operate the Jacobite service to Mallaig. Looking ahead into June sees the start of the more intensive summer programme of excursions up to either Carlisle or Appleby, but details of locos or of the routes to be taken are yet to be published. Andy Scott

A date for the fete!

Saint James' Church, Clapham and Saint Matthew's Church, Keasden are well underway with plans for this year's Parish Fete. The date for your diary is Saturday, July 22nd between 10 and 2:30 in the church and the churchyard.

You can start your day with a bacon butty, and you can get tea, coffee and cake in church. There will be a range of stalls to peruse as well as activities for children (of all ages!) including the return of Teddy Zipwire! The Three Peaks Players are planning some pop up 'Graveyard Theatre' and we will round off with the Duck Race at 2:00pm.

There will be something for everyone and, as ever, that great opportunity to meet up with and chat to friends and neighbours. So see you there!

Clapham Community Shop Ltd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 11th July 2023 6.30 pm in the Village Hall

All welcome whether or not you are shareholders

Refreshments will be available from 6.00pm. Come along and have a glass of wine or a soft drink and sample some of our snacks in stock in the shop.

If you have any questions or you are interested in finding out more about joining the shop Management Committee, please email the CVS Secretary for details prior to the meeting.

Email: cosec.cvs@gmail.com

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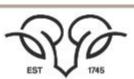
Tickets £12.50 available from 1st June at Clapham Village Store or Denise Wilson on 01524 251104 Ticket price includes Pimms, sweet & savoury party food Proceeds to St James's Church, Clapham

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Mystery still unsolved after 76 years

After the austerities of the Second World War people began once again to travel and indulge in recreational sports, including caving and potholing in the Dales. Men newly demobbed from the Forces, perhaps looking for fresh excitements, began to pick up the threads of pre-war exploration underground.

On a Sunday afternoon in August 1947 two potholers from the Northern Pennine Club, Harold Burgess and Jim Leach, were exploring among the many shake-holes to the north of Trow Gill. They were searching for any hole which looked as though it might lead underground, perhaps to a new cave system or even to join up with the famous Gaping Gill. They scrambled down into one such shake-hole, only to find a small shaft which led them to the partly walled-up entrance to a larger passage. They carefully removed rocks to gain access. To their shocked amazement they found their way blocked by the remains of the very dead body of a human being - a skull and other bones among scattered objects which included the decayed remnants of garments, two pairs of shoes, a handful of coins, a wristwatch, a mineral water bottle, a toothbrush, shaving kit and, more puzzling, a small glass bottle containing a white powder.

The two men backed off in haste and made their way back to Clapham, to the offices of the Dalesman magazine, where they telephoned the local police to report their grisly discovery. A police officer was instructed to keep watch over the site that night, possibly the scene of a crime. CID and forensic specialists arrived the following day and by the Monday evening the remains of the corpse had been gathered into a sack and all available evidence had been removed from the cave. A distinguished pathologist, Professor P L Sutherland, came to examine the scene and later performed a post-mortem.

There followed weeks of speculation and investigation. By November, all feasible enquiries had been completed. An inquest was held at Skipton Town Hall on 25 November under the direction of Coroner Stephen E Brown. The details which emerged make mystifying reading. The body was that of an auburn-haired man aged 22 to 30 years old, 5ft. 5 ins. tall, who had died between 2 and 6 years prior to discovery, probably in 1941. Lewis Nickolls, a forensic scientist, had examined the body and found it to be wearing a blue shirt and tie, a grey/blue suit with red and white stripes, an overcoat of herringbone tweed material and a grey trilby hat. The shoes dated from 1938 or 1939. There was a plum-coloured scarf wrapped around the head, possibly over the mouth. This man was definitely not out for a walk or a day underground. The mystery deepened.

The items he had with him included a handkerchief, shaving cream, toiletries, collar stud or cuff link, fountain pen, propelling pencil, key, box of matches, torch – and a compass! The mineral water bottle proved to be of a type supplied to hotels in Ingleton, Morecambe and Lancaster in 1940 or later, the coins totalled 11 shillings 5 and a half pence, none dated later than 1939. The item which caused most debate was the small glass bottle of white powder,

After the austerities of the Second World War people which turned out to be sodium cyanide, a deadly poison. began once again to travel and indulge in recreational There was also an unbroken ampoule of the same lethal sports, including caving and potholing in the Dales. Men substance.

> There was a lot of speculation as to whether the man was a German spy parachuted into the Dales. Enquiries with MI5 produced a list of 18 possible suspects of which 4 were deemed to be realistic possibilities though the Intelligence people were felt to be "evasive" as to the likely identity. German intelligence documents found after the War did not support the 'German spy' theory.

> This strange and perplexing story refused to die down. In 1948 it appeared in a book by Albert Mitchell, "Yorkshire Caves and Potholes", in 1963 in a book by James Lovelock, "Life and Death Underground", in 1984 in Howard Beck's "Gaping Gill", in 1989 in issue no. 87 of the caving journal "Descent" an article by E C Kenyon dealt with the mystery and in 1990 issue no.92 of the same journal carried another article on the same topic by Alan Jeffreys. In 2009 Nigel Ibbotson retold the story in his book "Exploring North Yorkshire's History". That same year an item appeared on the Wikipedia website "Trow Ghyll Skeleton found." This year (2023) a couple of items can be found on Wikipedia, "Trow Gill Skeleton Unsolved Mystery" and "Trow Ghyll Skeleton", while "Descent" has published yet another account of the find, this time an update called "Body Pot in Clapham Bottoms" written by Alan Jeffreys - the site of the original find was some time ago, unsurprisingly, given the name 'Body Pot'. And yet not one of these accounts has been able to identify the person who apparently, many years ago, crawled into a difficult and dirty hole on the moors near Clapham while wearing suit, overcoat, trilby hat and his best Oxford shoes, perhaps intent on committing suicide. Was his disappearance hidden by the chaos of war? Can more information now be revealed after 70 or 80 years? Who has the facts on their mind?

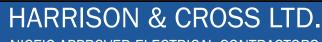
> The position might be very different if the body had been found more recently, in the era of DNA. One wonders whether any of the remains have been squirrelled away in some police storeroom or pathology lab, saved for the day when advances in forensic technology would make it possible to identify cause of death, race, colour, origin or other pointers to the man's identity. Meanwhile the mystery remains. Does any reader have further clues?

> > Ken Pearce



The entrance to Body Pot - thanks to John for his assistance with this article. Photo: John Cordingley





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New work by Annie Farrer

To celebrate the 150th Anniversaries of St Matthew's Church, Keasden and Newby Methodist Church in 2023

You are invited to join in our Keasden to Newby Walk on Sunday 11th June



Starting at St Matthew's Church Keasden, 11.00am Finishing at Newby Methodist Church, approx 2.00pm

With refreshments and a prayer and a hymn or two at each end of the journey, and good conversation along the way

Come along and celebrate 300 years of Christian witness in our area A riot of colour and buzzing with life, Bowland's traditional hay meadows are true havens during the summer months – and there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy them this season.

The Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust are joining forces once again to offer a host of events designed to get people exploring and appreciating this rare and valuable habitat.

Bowland Hay Time Project Officer, Carol Edmondson, said, "With these events we want to give people the chance to immerse themselves in the wonderful world of wildflowers; whether that's through experiencing a meadow at the height of the season, seeing traditional scything in action, getting creative with arts and crafts, or learning how to grow their own wildflower plants."

The series of events begins on 9 June with a meadow inspiration walk at Gisburn Forest and continues throughout the summer, including National Meadows Day and the Northern Scythe Festival over the first weekend of July, plus a second meadow walk and BioBlitz at the Crook o' Lune, Lancaster later that week. A textile workshop, photography walk and tutorial on how to grow your own plants and manage a mini meadow are also being planned as part of the programme, with information coming soon.

Full details and booking information for the Bowland Hay Time summer events will be available on the Festival Bowland calendar at:

www.forestofbowland.com/Festival-Bowland-Events.

The Hay Time project is being supported by the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

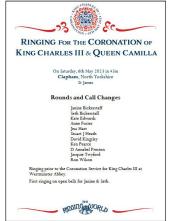
Sandra Silk sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk

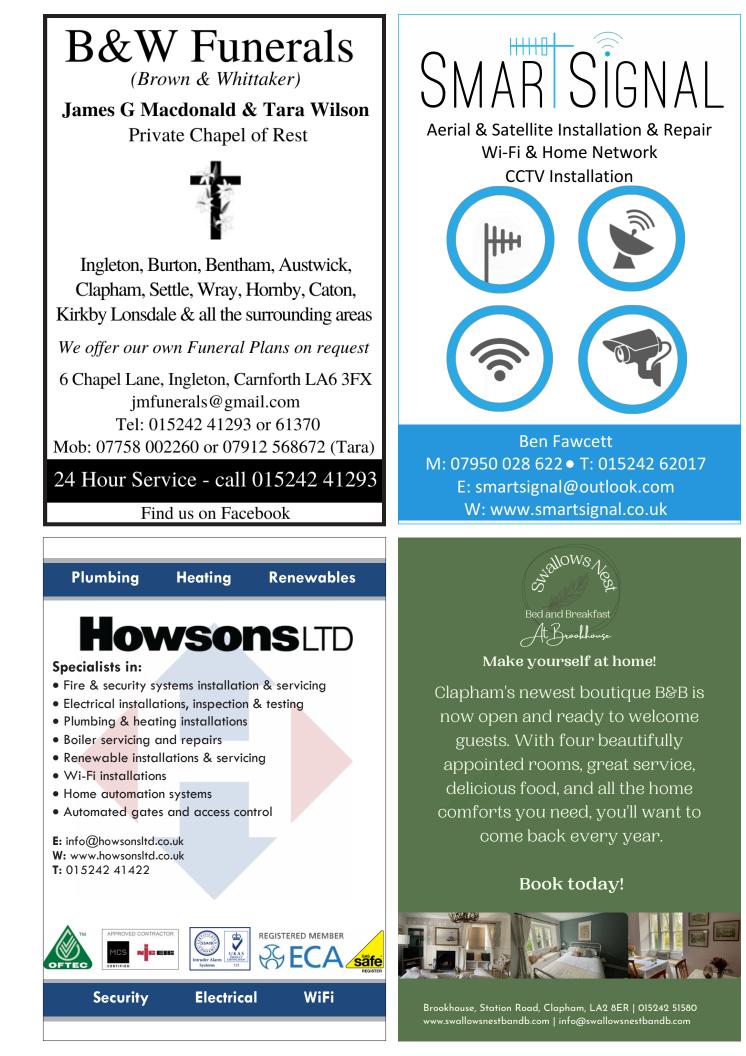
Bells ring out for Coronation!



On Saturday 6 May 2023, Clapham bells rang out to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Clapham ringers took part in this very special occasion, ringing at 10.00am prior to the service at Westminster Abbey. Our 45 minutes of ringing was one of over 3000 ringing performances that took place across the globe on this momentous day.

Annabel Preston





Village hall news



We were pleased to host another ceilidh evening on 21st April. Although a couple of days early to celebrate St. George's Day, this themed event was a great success with music and dance instruction from the Batty Moss Ceilidh Band, an English-focussed picture quiz (rather challenging!) and a tasty supper 'on the hoof.'

It was lovely to see young and old alike enjoying the music and dance – such fun for all ages! Many thanks go to all who helped put the wheels in motion and those who supported us on the night. Like a well-oiled machine, the team worked to make this a success and we even came away with a profit of just over £230.

Just to remind everyone that the Art Exhibition in the village hall is still running and will be open to the public until Sunday 4th June. Well worth a visit if you haven't already called by, and as always, there will be refreshments available in the supper room to raise funds for the church.

The next open event in the hall is a touring production on Sunday June 11th when Eddie and the Gold Tops (from Badapple Theatre) will be performing for us. (See page 9).

Other events for later in the year are in the early stages of planning but include a Domino Drive on 22nd September and a Stuart Marshall Quiz Night on 3rd November. Watch out for details in future newsletters.

The Hall will be holding its AGM on September 27th so we will be approaching all our local community groups to see if they would like to nominate a representative to join the committee for the year ahead. Those who nominated a rep last year will know what that entails and may, if they wish, keep the same rep or nominate a new one.

If your group didn't have a nominee last time around then we'd encourage you to take the opportunity – its your hall and we'd like to ensure you get a voice in its running. We'll be sending out an email/letter to each group asking for their nominee shortly.

If you would like to see what is involved, you'd be welcome to attend and observe our next committee meeting – which is on 27th June, at 7.30pm in the hall.

Angie Martin, Hall Secretary

Village hall regular events

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 (Next two meetings are 28th June and 2nd August) 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 – July, Sept, Nov, etc.) Jill Buckler jillbuckler@me.com

Board Games Group

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

Keasden 150 Summer Walk & Barbecue Saturday 29th July - 6pm onwards

Keasden Head Farm, LA2 8EZ

By kind invitation of all at Keasden Head we will be holding our much loved walk and barbecue.

Contact Angela Peach 015242 51108 or angela.peach@e-l-c.co.uk

Save the date - look out for further details!

Craft and Chat



On 6th April a group of twelve attended a Fused Glass workshop at the Village Hall, run by Ann Somers whose ARK Glass Studio is located in Hornby. After a short introduction to cutting techniques, we began the process of selecting colours, cutting and assembling our individual designs onto a clear glass base. One of the group opted to create coasters. Once we had completed our designs, we carefully glued each piece of cut glass into place; this was particularly important as the finished panels were transported to Ann's studio to be fired. It was a very absorbing process of cutting and creating an image and the time flew by. There were trays of offcuts that we were able to utilise, and I think we may have added to them as we learnt the technique of cutting and shaping.

A subsequent session was arranged at her studio in Hornby on 2nd May, which was another successful and enjoyable workshop. We are hoping to hold another session in the Village Hall in the autumn with a view to making Christmas decorations.

You can see the range of designs we produced in the accompanying photograph. Participants could choose whether they wanted to hang the panel or for it to be free standing using a wooden support, all of which fittings were included. One of the group opted for a curved panel which was very effective.

Anne Douglas

Keasden 150 Exhibition & Lambing Service



Keasden Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary. An exhibition of local artefacts was well received and attracted over 200 visitors. The Church also held its annual Lambing Service. The guest speaker was Stephen Dennis from Bentham Aucton Mart. All attending much enjoyed this special occasion and the refreshments served.

Angela Peach



Photo: Ann Sheridan



Project.com

Did you know crisp packets were an underused material? Clapham Village Store has kindly agreed to be the collection hub for a recycling initiative called *Crisp Packet Project*. This small charity takes used crisp packets and turns

them into sleeping bags and other survival essentials for the homeless.

Settle College prefects have been looking for a way of supporting people during the current financial crisis and discovered this idea. We organised ourselves into working parties with direct responsibilities to make the initiative sustainable and each prefect's aim is to create a hub local to them that can be the collection point for used crisp packets.

I got to know the Shop when they kindly hosted my work experience and continue to volunteer when I can. Helen Rawlinson agreed this project supported the shop's ethos and has made a space for the collection box at the front counter.

If you have any used crisp packets, please drop them into the collection box. I will empty it regularly and forward the crisp packets on through School.

> Fleur Hudson Prefect Settle College