



Number 145, October 2023

Keasden 150 - a time to celebrate

Nearly 10 months after the Keasden 150 New Year's walk was held in brilliant, winter sunshine, celebrations came to an end with the wet and windy consecration of the new burial ground.

On Sunday, 24 September a service led by Rt. Revd. Nick Baines, Lord Bishop of Leeds was followed by the consecration of the New Burial Ground. The consecration means that burials can now take place at the new ground and follows five years of hard work by the church members.

The church was gifted the land by the Cornthwaite family and many generous offers of support have made the project possible. The church service celebrated 150 years almost to the day since the first service was held at St. Matthew's. The Lord Bishop reflected on the many events over the years that have shaped the lives of the church and people of Keasden.

Keasden church shared its 150 anniversary year with the Methodist church on the green at Newby which also opened in 1873; on page seven, John Dawson takes a break from news on the farm to describe their own celebrations.

The evening before the Sunday service, a somewhat livelier occasion, saw the Keasden 150 Celebratory Supper held at Eldroth Village Hall.

Guests from Keasden and further afield packed the village hall for an evening of excellent food, entertainment and the climax of the Keasden 150 Grand Draw.

Welcoming fizz and canapes were followed by a delicious two-course dinner served by Dominique of Dale House Barn (dalehousebarn.co.uk). Drawing on her experience

at some of the best professional kitchens in this country, Dominique treated the hungry crowd to the most delicious, locally sourced fare.

Unquestionably, the evening's entertainment was decidedly less professional. Simon Peach led the guests through a series of TV panel show games that became heatedly controversial as the location of Whernside trig point was strongly

contested - North Yorkshire or Cumbria? Eventually the Blue team were the winners thanks to Annie Parker and Anita Allen's knowledge of pop classics.

The highlight of the Grand Draw saw Jack Wallbank, who was celebrating his own anniversary, win the Champagne Dinner for two at The Traddock. Steve Rathbone, on the other hand, claimed the Settle Coal voucher to treat Mrs Rathbone. A good evening enjoyed by all and thank you to Ann Sheridan for the pictures.



Angela Peach

Newsletter information

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

Next issue: **December 2023. Deadline: 20 November.**

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 a copy 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

The Newsletter is also available online on the village website, see: <https://claphamyorkshire.co.uk>



Fireside Tales

(or wherever you heard them)



We'd like to hear your stories about the Ingleton area: traditional folk tales, wartime anecdotes, stories behind local landmarks ...

Friends of the Dales will be creating an archive of your stories, and we plan to have some live storytelling sessions.

If you have a story to contribute, please email: lynnrish@live.com

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Gaping Gill Winch Meets

The two annual winch meets at Gaping Gill have been run again, in a tradition which goes back 127 years. The first ever winch was deployed at Gaping Gill in 1896 and, for readers who would like more detail, a longer article on the history of winching appeared in Clapham Newsletter 109 (October 2017) pages 8 - 9.



The winch operating at Gaping Gill in August 2023.
Photo: John Cordingley



Hensler's Passage, a fine part of the Gaping Gill cave system, discovered 86 years ago.
Photo: John Cordingley

As usual the Bradford Pothole Club had the first slot in late May / early June. Apart from a minor sprinkling just at the start, they enjoyed a completely rain free meet. When not underground it was all deck chairs and sun tan lotion! The weather for the Craven Pothole Club in August was more mixed, but spirits weren't dampened on the wet days and the meet was equally well supported.

No major caving discoveries were made this year but plenty of good caving trips were done on both meets, not

just by the members involved but also by visiting cavers. The "GG" winch meets are flagship events in the calendars of the BPC and CPC. They offer a great opportunity to catch up with old friends from further afield. One of the things I like best is when you've chatted to folk who are a bit nervous before their winch descent (to allay any fears) then you see them return to the surface, thrilled and grinning from ear to ear! It makes all the effort of setting the meets up well worthwhile.

John Cordingley

Hill Farming in the North of England

Clapham Newsletter readers might be interested in my new photography book, 'Hill Farming in the North of England', which is due to be published by Amberley on 15th November. I am a photographer based in Settle and the book features over 200 photographs of farming through the seasons, most of which were taken in the Yorkshire Dales.

You may recognise some folk from around the Clapham area! The book includes several pages on the Ingleborough sheep gathers, including the cover photo below. It features some spectacular landscapes and covers the seasonal activities on upland farms, such as lambing, haymaking and 'tupping', as well as shows, auction mart sales and sheepdog trials. Photos were taken on many different farms and at shows and sales over the past decade.



Hill Farming in the North of England can be ordered from the publishers (Amberley) online and will be available at Settle's Folly Museum and (hopefully) in local bookshops.

It is hoped to have a book signing day at The Folly on 17th November, but please do check with The Folly beforehand in case details change.

John Bentley

Keasden rainfall report

Thanks to our Keasden hill farmer for keeping and reporting the rainfall records.

	2022	2023
July	6½" or 16.51cm	15½" or 39.37cm
August	1¾" or 4.5cm	6¾" or 17.14cm

Newby Macmillan coffee morning

A big thank you to all who supported, most generously, the Macmillan coffee morning in Newby on Saturday 23rd September.

We are very pleased to be sending them £333.

Judith Dawson



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Park Association update

Back at the end of July a collection of five Park Association members and their friends did the Three Peaks Challenge in aid of park funds. Completed in around 11 hours they raised just over £900. A huge thank you and well done to them all – especially to Amy North-Johnson and Jenny Parker for all the fundraising and walking efforts and Alyssa Parker for wrangling all her teachers to donate as well! Thanks, also, to Bernard Ashurst for unending encouragement and keeping everyone on track. We hope everyone’s blisters have healed and they will be ready to go again next year.

On Saturday 28th October we will have the Children’s Halloween Party, in Clapham Village Hall. £2.50 entry per child (supervising adults are free). There will be games, hotdogs, a best costume competition & more. Message Amy on 07402 293326 to book.

We will have the AGM of the Association in mid December, more details to follow. Anyone interested to attend can be in touch on the details below. And, for anyone who doesn’t know, you can contact us by email at: claphamparkassociation@outlook.com. There is a WhatsApp Noticeboard for regular updates, let us know on the above email if you’d like to be added.

Nell Whitley



Settle Orchestral Society – an exciting season ahead

Settle Orchestra, a full-sized symphony orchestra based in the Craven district of North Yorkshire, is looking forward to another exciting season in 2023-24.

Each year we welcome a young conductor from the graduate conducting course at the Royal Northern College of Music. This year’s conductor is Maria Camila (“Maca”) Barbosa, a pianist and conductor from Columbia, who has already an impressive CV with conducting appearances in Bogotá, Sao Paulo, Florence and Manchester – and even an earlier cameo appearance with Settle Orchestra!

We will be giving two concerts each term, one in Settle and one in Skipton. In the autumn we join forces with the Langeliffe Singers for Brahms’ wonderfully moving and consoling “German Requiem”, with concerts in Skipton on 18 November, conducted by Maca Barbosa, and in Settle on 25 November, conducted by Darren Everhart, a long-time favourite of local audiences.

For the concerts in spring and summer 2024 Maca has chosen some very popular and impressive works, including

Elgar’s cello concerto with Bob Buller, our principal cellist, Richard Strauss’ first horn concerto, and Beethoven’s seventh symphony.

We are always glad to hear from anyone who might

like to join Settle Orchestra or write music for us. We particularly welcome young instrumentalists and composers, and currently have vacancies for string and brass players.

Rehearsals take place on Friday evenings in Settle. We sometimes need additional players for specific concerts and would be happy to hear from any local professionals interested in playing.

Why not come along to one of our concerts, in Settle or in Skipton, to enjoy an exhilarating

evening, support local musicians and help keep music live?

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

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Jill Gates





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RW

Parish Council news

After the summer break in August, the Parish Council met on the evening of **20th September 2023**, with 2 members of the public in attendance.

The police report covered a two month period and there had been 26 incidents reported to them. Primarily, these were vehicle and road related incidents but also included trespassers on the railway line near Clapham station and non-police related matters.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing various maintenance matters around the parish, including the continuing issue of potholes on Keasden Road (Highways agency to be chased again). Various other issues around the village (trees in the churchyard, overflowing non-drinking-water fountain near the shop, missing stones on the wall to the A65 underpass), which will all be moved forward for resolution in the coming weeks. Should anyone know of any other items they feel need addressing, then please contact the Clerk.

The main point to note from the meeting was in relation to the recent Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) notifications the council had received relating to Thwaite Lane (Clapham to Austwick) and Cragg Lane (Keasden). Cllr Farrer had been in contact with George Lawrence KC, a specialist in these matters who has agreed to take a look at the cases for

free and give his views. He did, however, advise that the cases are not normally decided on safety grounds but more as a result of technicalities. The BOATs will become standing agenda items for all future council meetings.

Interested in becoming a Councillor? The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is running the Make A Change campaign. As part of this campaign, NALC will be hosting an online event with the Local Government Association (LGA) on how interested members of the public can be the voice of the community by standing for election as a local councillor. The empowering event on 14 November 2023 will discuss the path to becoming a local councillor and how to have a positive impact on the local area and society. The event will provide an invaluable opportunity to learn about the vital work and role of councillors from an expert panel. Councillors who have served at various local government levels will share their insights, experiences, and advice about the world of local leadership. The event is free and booking details can be supplied by the Parish Clerk using the contact details below.

Utilities Mapping: The Clerk has been passed copies of local utilities infrastructure plans (e.g. B4RN cables) and should anyone wish to check the position of any items on their land please contact the Clerk.

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 are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in Clapham Village Hall. There are no meetings in August or November.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be **Wednesday 18th October** and **Wednesday 13th December 2023**.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Steve Culver can be contacted on:

Telephone: 015242 51862 or by email to parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com

Sesquicentennial Celebrations

This year has seen the church on the green in Newby celebrate 150 years of existence, known as a “sesquicentennial” anniversary. To give it some context, the world’s oldest football club was just sixteen years old when the chapel was built. Do you know which club that is? Answers on a postcard to Stuart Marshall. A booklet has been produced explaining the history of the chapel and some of those who were involved in its building. These are available free to anyone with an interest in local history and characters.

The annual barbeque on the 12th August at Bleak Bank celebrated this anniversary. It was a very well supported community event to which many people brought at least one pudding. One of the competitions was to come up with as many four-letter-or-more words as possible from the word “sesquicentennial”. The winners

were, appropriately enough, from Newby and they managed to find over a hundred.



At the end of the evening, as the light was fading, we were treated to a spectacular fire show performed by family friend Susie. This peasant farmer stood close by with a fire extinguisher whilst keeping one eye on the flames and the other on the store of hay.

The harvest thanksgiving service on 17th September continued the celebration. The service was led by Matthew Dawson of Brookhouse. The organist was Clive Grey who also plays at the church of St. James on an occasional basis. Clive has written a new tune entitled “Newby” which was given its first airing during the service.

Thank you to all who came along and supported.

John Dawson

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Friends of the Dales events

Wednesday 11 October, 4.30pm: In Your Words – Words from the Dales

Dr Fiona Douglas, project lead for The Dialect and Heritage Project based at the University of Leeds will bring to life some of the key insights uncovered through its recent work with the Yorkshire Dales Countryside Museum and Ryedale Folklife Museum. Fiona will share snippets of rare audio interviews gathered by researchers in the 1950s alongside newer oral histories, to illustrate and to explore whether the Yorkshire language and dialect has changed and developed over the last 75 years.

Wednesday 8 November, 4.30pm: Beneath the Cracks – the Hidden World of Limestone Pavements

Following on from her feature in the summer 2023 issue of Yorkshire Dales Review, Carly Stevens, Professor of Plant Ecology and Soil Biogeochemistry at the University of Lancaster, will draw on six years of research to illuminate these complex and often biodiverse rich ecosystems which typify much of the Yorkshire Dales. She will also highlight the impact of climate breakdown, farming practice and other threats affecting these precious habitats.



Wednesday 6 December, (early notice) 5.00pm: Funding for Sustainable Business & Community Projects in the Dales

This talk is aimed at businesses, community groups and individuals wanting to find out more about how the Yorkshire Dales National Park's Sustainable Development Fund can support projects that aim to promote a more sustainable way of living in, working in or visiting the National Park. Meet Andrea Burden, Sustainable Development Officer for the Park who will introduce the scheme, the funding available and how to apply. Edward Sexton of Clapham based Glencroft will reveal how the fund helped kick-start his company's now successful 'farm to yarn' project – Clapdale Wool – buying fleeces from farms within a 5-mile radius and transforming them into Yorkshire-made hand-knit yarn.

All talks are free and are delivered online. It's quick and easy to book for them, simply visit: <https://bit.ly/FofD>. And you can find out more about who we are and what we do at: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk.

Victoria Benn

All-Terrain Wheelchair Demo Day



A Terrain Hopper being used in the Forest of Bowland AONB

Gisburn Forest, near Slaidburn, will be the venue for an all-terrain wheelchair demonstration day on Wednesday 11th October, offering a great chance for people to try vehicles out for themselves. All-terrain wheelchairs have been designed to travel over a wide range of different terrains, including muddy woodland trails, gravel paths, wet grass, tree roots, uneven ground, hills and even mountains. They can help people with disabilities, or who may be less mobile, to enjoy and experience the great outdoors independently or alongside family and friends.

Representatives from several providers will be attending the free event, including Trampler, Paratreker and TerrainHopper. During the day, help will be on-hand to assist people to explore the opportunities offered by these versatile off-road wheelchairs and visitors will have the opportunity to speak directly with the manufacturers.

The Forest of Bowland AONB team have recently partnered with Access the Dales to help make the inaccessible accessible, and organisers hope that the demonstration day, which runs from 10am until 3pm, will encourage people with mobility issues to explore some of the options available for accessing the Forest of Bowland AONB landscape.

Bowland has several hub locations where all-terrain wheelchairs are available to hire and can be used along designated trails. This includes a Trampler, provided by Champion Bowland, which is available to hire from the café at Gisburn Forest. Gisburn Forest Hub has a pay-and-display car park with disabled spaces and an accessible toilet.

Whilst the demonstration day event is free, pre-booking is essential in order to secure a place on an hour-long time slot. Session times can be booked directly via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/8JVkyGyx6m>.

Alternatively, booking and further information are available by emailing sarah.dornan@lancashire.gov.uk or by telephoning 01200 448000.

*Sandra Silk
Project Officer
Forest of Bowland AONB*



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Church news

John's Notes: God is sick of us not leaving the mundane

A plaque on the wall inside the Church of Saint John the Evangelist on New Briggate, Leeds, reads: SIC DEUS DILEXIT MUNDUM. Dick Bonham translates this as GOD IS SICK OF US NOT LEAVING THE MUNDANE. Dick was a theatrical producer of 'ghost nights' inside St John's when he guided me around the 'redundant' church some years ago, and he was being playful. I was amused to discover that the Latin dictionary translation is GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, which struck me as meaning almost the opposite.



I've been revisiting that day, in preparation for a talk I'm giving to Clapham's Age UK group on 4th October. It was 19th September 2007, during a two-month-long deliberately slow walk I made from Hull to Liverpool, loosely following the motorway which connects them,

which I called 'Walking the M62', and is the topic of my talk.

My Leeds city tour was hosted by Dick and others from his theatre company, whose particular schtick was to create activities and events encouraging the general public to take a fresh and creative look at the world immediately around them, whether in Leeds city streets, or the hamlets of England along The Great North Road, or Cornish coastal towns.

We connected on my M62 walk because our intentions were similar: to discover and celebrate the awe and wonder latent beneath the surface of everyday life. I was then living in a housing estate parish, one of those places which suffer from the lazy assumption that all these 'little boxes' thrown up in the 1930s, 'all made out of ticky-tacky', 'all look just the same' and must be therefore the location of very humdrum lives. A mere scratch beneath the surface gave the lie to that, of course, and this was confirmed in a series of 'Parish Walks' I did with locals and visitors, where conversation and observation brought the place to life in rich and unexpected ways.

You don't have to Latinise or spiritualise this observation: that the minutiae of everyday life has significance and value, wherever we are; and intentionally exploring the life under our very noses is so unexpectedly enriching, we miss out if we don't do it.

Revd John Davies
01524 805928

john.davies@leeds.anglican.org

'Walking the M62' (Lulu Press, 2007) is available from John or at bit.ly/walkingm62
Notes from a small vicar: bit.ly/johndavies-talks

Anglican Services - Sundays except where stated

October

1st: 9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion; 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Revd Mark Evans); 11.00 Clapham Harvest Festival

Friday 6th: 2.30 Austwick Church Austwick School Harvest Service - all welcome!

8th: 9.30 Austwick Harvest Festival; 11.00 Keasden Harvest Festival

15th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 2.00 Eldroth All Souls Family Celebration

22nd: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

29th: 10.30 Clapham Benefice Holy Communion; 4.00 Austwick All Souls 'In Loving Memory' Service; 6.30 Keasden Saints, Sausages and Sparklers

November

5th: 9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion; 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Revd Mark Evans); 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

12th: 9.30 Austwick Remembrance with Holy Communion; 10.45 Clapham Act of Remembrance followed by Holy Communion; 2.00 Keasden Remembrance

19th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Taizé Service

26th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion; 6.00 Keasden Advent Songs of Praise

And each Wednesday 10.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Some details may change or are subject to confirmation.

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.

Contact: Revd Tim Broughton, tel: 01729 822554 or email: tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

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

Kids activities and weekday meetings - see below where to find further details.

The Bethany Project Tuesday 24 October, 7.30pm.

Faith mission weekend 28 and 29 October.

Coffee, Chat & Cake & Foodbank Saturdays 21 October and 18 November 10.30 to 12 noon.

For further details and up to date information on all activities 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

Investigating local dialect

It's now just over seventy years since a young Stanley Ellis came to Horton, to investigate local dialect as a fieldworker for the Survey of English Dialects, a nationwide study of local rural speech conducted between 1948 and 1961. Horton was the nearest place to Clapham which was studied, so it's a useful guide as to what Clapham and Austwick speech might have been like then. Ellis became one of the leading dialectologists of his generation until his death in Harrogate in 2009, the writer of several series on dialect on Radio 4 and contributor to many local radio phone-ins. He was one of the first linguists employed to identify suspects in murder cases on the basis of features of their speech.

Ellis stayed five days in Horton just before Christmas 1952. His recordings of local people using traditional local words, grammar, and pronunciations are kept in the Leeds Archive of Vernacular Culture. At the time it was thought that only older men spoke true dialect, so Ellis's brief was to record people who were over sixty, male, life-long residents, and ideally farm workers. Towns were avoided. From now available census records, it seems that Ellis selected a Richard Davies, then 64 years old, a J. T., aged 71 (surname uncertain), and a Robert Lambert, 70. Their descendants may well still live in Horton today. Between them they provided answers to some 1322 questions over the five days he stayed.

Rural life has changed much since then, but so has the language. Even so, some of those local words used in 1952, the year of the late Queen's accession, might still survive into the current monarch's reign. The great thing is that readers in Clapham, Austwick and Horton, can do their own research by asking others whether they know any old words

that are still in use. Ellis used picture cards to get people to provide the local words for a certain object, or asked people to complete sentences.

His study showed that, for example, older people in Horton used 'pig-cote' for a pigsty, 'hen-hole' for a hen house, 'shippon', pronounced 'shuppam', for a cow house, and 'paddock', pronounced 'parrock', for a small enclosure where a sick cow or pony might be put. Then there's 'groop' for a gutter or drain on a farm.



Stanley Ellis at work with his recording equipment and a local farmer

The handle of a besom is a 'steal', but not in nearby villages it seems. A ladder is called a 'stee', but 'ladder' is also used. The rung of a ladder is a 'stab', a word found only at Horton and a few other remote locations near Holmfirth. Balls of sheep dung are called

'sheep-trumlins'. The word 'beas', without the 't', seems to replace 'cattle'. A milking stool is a 'coppo'. The weakest pig in a litter is a 'recklin'. You don't 'wrap' a parcel: you 'lap' it. An April fool was an April 'nobby'. If the day was dark and gloomy people said it was 'muggy', but does it still mean that?

Ellis's work provides a snapshot of actual language use in the early '50s. So how has language use changed in Clapham? You could take your own snapshot.

If you hear an unusual word or phrase in the speech of someone you know, make a note, or ask them whether they know any other local words, maybe words their parents used. If you wish to know more about the SED or would like to receive a sample questionnaire, the email address is clivegrey45@gmail.com.

Next time we'll look at local place-names.

Clive Grey

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Crisp packet project

I would like to say thank you to everybody for their crisp packet donations. It's amazing that our small rural community has made such an effort helping the prefects at Settle College reach their goal of supporting their chosen charity.

To date I have collected (out of the many donations) over 500 usable crisp packets. I sent these to the charity when I returned to school in September to start my A-levels.

I am looking forward to handing over this project to the next prefects in hope that they can see what is achievable and continue our efforts.

Thank you again to everyone for such a positive contribution, I never expected such a wonderful response.

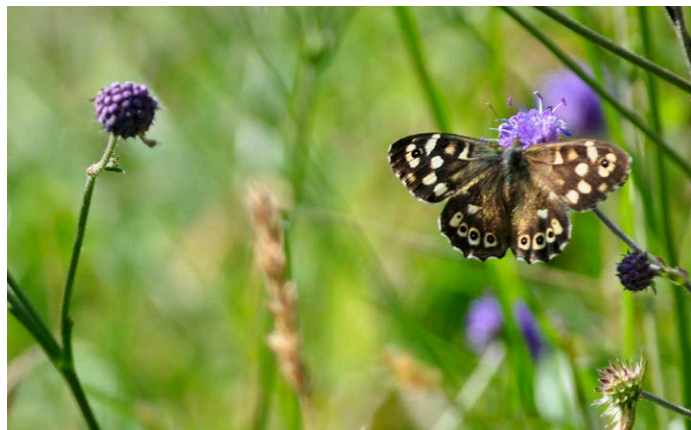
*Fleur Hudson
Ex-prefect
Settle College*

Nature notes

I think I'm safe in guessing that most people will have a fairly good idea of what I'm talking about if I mention the ghost scene in *Wuthering Heights*. Even if you haven't read the book or seen one of the films, Kate Bush will have given you the gist of what happens: Mr Lockwood dreams that he is woken from a fitful sleep by an insistent tapping at his bedroom window and when he gets up to investigate, he is confronted by the ghost of the long dead Catherine Earnshaw scabbling to get in: *'Let me in – let me in! I'm come home: I'd lost my way on the moor!'*

As a guest at Thrushcross Hall, he is sleeping in Catherine's childhood room and he's having a far from peaceful night.

Now I'm not suggesting that my recent experiences have been anywhere near as nightmarish as Mr Lockwood's but for the last few weeks something has been tap, tap, tapping at my windows too. What's more, I'm willing to bet that I'm not the only Clapham resident to have heard it. The culprit? No ghost-child, just the humble blue tit. This is



Speckled Wood butterfly.
Photo: Brian Christian

gardens and even in our homes. This doesn't necessarily mean that there are more of them about at this time of year, it may be that they are just more visible. A dewy autumn morning will often present us with sparkling, intricately woven webs shimmering among the dead grasses and bare bushes. Webs that we may have missed earlier in the summer months.

As for the spiders we see in our homes, they haven't come in from the cold to seek some fireside warmth. They have been lodging with us throughout the year. Unseen, hidden away in dark, undisturbed corners: perhaps in a rarely used cupboard, or behind the skirting board in a spare room, or tucked away in the attic. Males born almost a year ago are on the move now because love is in the air. They are on a mission – scuttling across our carpets to find a mate before they die.

In recent years, I've heard it said, these autumn visitors seem to have been getting bigger. And it's probably true. The Giant House Spider has been extending its range northwards and we now see them quite regularly in our homes at this time of year. With their chunky bodies and thick, hairy legs they are the Olympic sprinters of the UK spider population, darting out from under the sofa at half a metre a second in pursuit of love. And - lethal though they might be to bugs and flies - they are, of course, perfectly harmless to humans. In fact, all they want is a quiet life. They don't even like sharing our living spaces, only venturing out from their hiding places when the urge drives them.

Finally, something of a mystery. A few weeks ago someone left a jam jar with a butterfly in it on my doorstep. I can only assume they wanted to know what it was. It was a beautiful Speckled Wood. Not a particularly common garden visitor, but a butterfly that can often be seen along the edge of woodland and flitting over hedges and roadside verges. This particular specimen flew off happily and continued to hang out in our garden for a couple days after I let it go. I hope that's a mystery solved for someone!

As always, if you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the local area, please do get in touch with me by 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 welcome, and I'll continue to post regular local nature updates on Twitter: [@bc_riverside](https://twitter.com/bc_riverside)

Brian Christian



A little spider hunter who actually made it through the window!
Photo: Brian Christian

spider season: blue tits love them and they know exactly where to find them. At this time of year they will scour our door and window frames, furiously tap, tap, tapping to prise them out of their secret hiding places. Agile little acrobats, they will often cling to out of sight corners so that, try as we might, we cannot work out where the noise is coming from. And they are certainly persistent. Blue tits need to eat around a hundred times each day so, as the nights begin to draw in, their spider hunting becomes more and more frantic. Fortunately, though, their diet is far from exclusive and they are more than happy to take advantage of the nuts, seeds and fat-balls we leave out for them through the winter months.

I mentioned that this is spider season and I probably should expand on that a little. In September and early October we tend to see a lot more spiders in the hedgerows, in our



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Then and Now



I've gone slightly further afield again for this issue, but this is a view that would have been very familiar to Clapham folk as they travelled to and from the market in Settle for the last few centuries. Buckhaw Brow formed a formidable obstacle for early road builders, though the part of the route photographed here stood the test of time until the new Settle Bypass was opened on 2nd December 1988. The earlier turnpike route eastwards from this point travelled into Settle via Giggleswick, going via Mill Hill Lane between the buildings of the school, whilst in the westbound direction, it travelled up Brunton Road, passing Feizor off to the north. Routes even earlier still followed lines further to the south of Buckhaw Brow - the postulated Roman road took a line

south of Lawkland Moss, much as the railway does now, whilst the monastic road went from Giggleswick to Austwick via Lawkland.

Some 70 years separate the two images this time – the earlier one is a postcard of the 1950s and shows the road before it was widened and straightened. Just beyond the point where the road bends out of sight, in both photos, lies the Ebbing and Flowing Well – a curiosity in Victorian times which attracted tourists from afar. Nowadays, though, it gets few visitors because its ebbing-and-flowing is very much reduced and its situation is probably too close to the fast traffic on the road to make it safe to loiter and find out!

Andy Scott

Clapham & District Newsletter Group

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 2nd November

7pm Clapham Village Hall

All welcome!

The AGM will be followed by an ordinary meeting of the committee.

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26th Sep	The Work of the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust	David Sharrod
3rd Oct	Pyramids and Pyramidiots (by Zoom)	Ian Saunders
10th Oct	Our Neighbour The Moon	Martin Lunn
17th Oct	Shoemaking	Dan Nelson
24th Oct	Symbols, codes and ciphers: A brief history of communicating - in secret	Andy Scott
31st Oct	--- Half Term Break ---	
7th Nov	Lancaster Castle – The 19th Century Prison	Mike Winstanley
14th Nov	Lancaster Castle – The Debtors' Prison	Mike Winstanley
21st Nov	Lancaster Castle – Who it belonged to from 1698 - 1930	Mike Winstanley
28th Nov	Working the Railway at Clapham	Colin Price
5th Dec	The Pluto Story	Martin Lunn

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## Steam update

We've had quite a busy summer with steam down at the station. A mix of engines from Carnforth out on test runs, light engines moving to or from their charter trains, and even some revenue-earning services now that the Scarborough Spa Expresses are running with steam haulage throughout. But



Ex LMS Jubilee Class 45627 *Sierre Leone* (actually 45699 *Galatea* in disguise!) heads the Scarborough Spa Express through Clapham station on 3rd August. Photo: Andy Scott

as Autumn draws more firmly in, the schedules are getting somewhat sparser and, by around mid-October, will just revert to the occasional weekend outings. We've already had engines returning after it's already gone dark – not much to see there then! One notable movement occurred on 21st October when much-loved “streak” no 60007, *Sir Nigel Gresley*, passed through en route to Grosmont on the North Yorks Moors Railway where it will take part in their 50th Anniversary Gala.



LNER Class A4 4-6-2 locomotive, no 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* – the 100th “Pacific” locomotive that had been designed by the great engineer and thus named after him - crosses Clapham Viaduct on 21st September. Photo: Andy Scott

A few issues back, when describing the shortage of British-mined steam coal, and the expense of finding viable alternatives, I wrote that whatever fuel steam engines burnt, it would always add to our carbon footprint. I should have realised that I would be challenged! There is of course, one fuel that can be burnt without causing any pollution, and that is hydrogen. If you burn hydrogen, you get water – that's it, just water. No, I don't think it's likely we'd ever see a

hydrogen-fuelled steam loco, but for modern traction, the picture is very different. Hydrogen can be turned into energy in two ways – traditional combustion, where it is burned with oxygen, or in a fuel-cell where it reacts with oxygen to directly generate electricity. And it's this last which is important, since modern trains use electricity to develop the final drive to the wheels. In Germany, Alstom has developed trains based on this technology. The Alstom Coradia iLint is a small two-car unit that entered commercial service in 2018 and is now in use in the Hamburg and Frankfurt areas. In summer 2023, it had its first demonstration run in Quebec, Canada. Japan has also started trials of its own product. Here in the UK, Alstom, working with Eversholt, has begun to develop a fuel-cell powered version of their Aventra trains (such as the class 345 units used on the Elizabeth Line in London). I'm not sure when they'll reach Clapham though!

Andy Scott

## Our Parish Choir

The Parish Choir was started in 2004 - Liz Mason was the first Music Director and Mary Creaser from Austwick was the organist. We now number more than 20 members from across the parish, Keasden, Clapham, Austwick and all areas between. One loyal lady even joins us from Cowan Bridge.



Throughout the year we support festival services at all four churches, Clapham, Austwick, Keasden and Eldroth. As I write this, we are rehearsing for the Harvest festivals. A highlight last year was attending a special celebration gathering at St Oswald's Church in Horton-in-Ribblesdale. We are delighted to have been invited to join their Harvest Festival this year. I hope you have been present at one of these services - or perhaps you saw us at Keasden's 150th anniversary, which was celebrated in style, including the consecration of the new burial ground by Bishop Nick Baines.

Looking ahead, we shall be with the churches for their Carol Services. Do join us if you wish. Just contact me for details of our rehearsal dates. It is always a busy and enjoyable time for Parish Choir. Last year there was one especially memorable Carol Service at Keasden when walking boots or snowshoes were de rigueur, together with our red Parish Choir scarves!

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## Friends of St James' Church Fund

The Friends of St James' fund has been set up as a dedicated account which is reserved solely for the purpose of funding projects that help maintain this historic church building which is such an iconic building in Clapham, and to develop its wider use. The grade 2 listed Church has a long history going back to 1160 with the existing building having a tower added in the 15th century with further extensions in the early 1800's. The bell tower holds 6 bells that are rung regularly by both our local bell ringers and visiting teams.

As time moves on the interior of the church building needs to be adapted to make seating more flexible so it can be used for many other occasions beyond its original purpose (film shows, music, theatre, exhibitions, village fete etc). It is extremely important for historic, cultural and social reasons that it remains in good repair and that modifications can be carried out. Funds need to be readily available for structural projects: these are not funded by Leeds Diocese or the Church of England.

Importantly, the fund is segregated from the church's main account, which pays for general running costs of oil, electricity, cleaning, and general maintenance. The fund is overseen by Helen Rollinson, Treasurer of the PCC and the Friends. All those who sign up to Friends will be kept well informed via email about projects and developments proposed by the PCC.

### How can you help?

To become a Friend of St James please can you complete the form which is available to pick up directly from the back of the church, or downloadable from the Friends page of the St James' website, [bit.ly/friend-stjamesclapham](http://bit.ly/friend-stjamesclapham), or contact Helen Rollinson at Clapham shop or via email: [helenrawlinson@gmail.com](mailto:helenrawlinson@gmail.com).

### Annual donations:

Please use the form to set up an annual direct debit with your bank, any amount will help. Please also tick the gift aid box, if appropriate, so that tax can be reclaimed, and your contact details can be recorded.

### Legacies in your will:

There is another important box to tick if you feel so inclined and that is about making legacies in your will. If you tick that box, we will give you further information about how to proceed. This is a great way of making a tax-free donation to the fund and help with longer term funding.

If you feel you can support the future of our Church building, thank you.

*Philip Farrer  
(Chair of Friends of St James')  
Helen Rollinson  
(Treasurer PCC)*



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## Age UK and Craftopia

I had the lovely opportunity of speaking at the Age UK luncheon club on Wednesday 2nd August at the village hall. The talk was about the Ingleborough 1940s weekend, and how the local businesses were each asked to display a 1940's themed window for the event. Lots of the shops came up with a variety of displays, but we at Craftopia came up with the idea of crocheting a Lancaster bomber and introducing the "Gnome Front" with a lot of help from the Clapham Gnome Guard Squad.



The Craftopia craft group meets every Monday morning and a few ideas of what to do had been tossed around. We decided on a war scene, showing a Lancaster bomber in flight across the North Yorkshire countryside, which included little crocheted cottages, stone walls, a stream, boulders, hills, mountains, and little sheepskin sheep - the whole thing took weeks to make.

The Gnome Guard were on military duties all weekend. The sheep were grazing in the fields and the Lancaster dipped its wings and turned on its landing lights as it glided across the Ingleborough countryside. The bomber and the Gnome Guard later made an appearance at the Age UK luncheon club to everyone's delight and have now gone their separate ways. The bomber has made his last flight to White Scar Cave in Chapel-le-Dale, and the Gnomes to their homes in the caves around Clapham.

It was a most enjoyable day, with lots of laughs and a wonderful home-cooked lunch.

*Lynn Nolan*

## Summer 2023 rainfall at Newby

The rainfall pattern has been the usual meteorological roller coaster over the hotter third of the year. Monthly rainfall totals collected at Newby were:

May 50.0 mm  
 June 74.0 mm  
 July 203.0 mm  
 August 99.3 mm

Although May and June had low amounts overall, there were long dry periods interspersed with the occasional deluge. July was pretty grim for the start of the long summer holiday period and August was perhaps best described as "mixed". As I write (early September) lots of folk are complaining about it being too hot. Remember this in a few months time when you're going home from work in the dark and it's slinging it down sideways with incessant cold rain!

*John Cordingley*

## Settle Photographic Group news



*Dark Quarry by Rod Smith*

Settle Photographic Group (SPG) is returning to the Museum of Craven Life with a new exhibition featuring images of North Craven from Saturday 7 October 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024 at the Museum at The Folly in Settle.

Full details about the exhibition and all the SPG activities can be found on the website - [www.settlephotos.org](http://www.settlephotos.org)

*Jill Franklin*

## Christmas greetings

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

|                                        |                                  |                                            |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Scott & Harriet<br>Fell Brook          | John & Clive<br>Low Lea          | Jackie & David Kingsley<br>Dalesview Close |
| Annie<br>The Beeches                   | David & Denise<br>1 The Green    | Janet Raine<br>Clapdale Way                |
| John & Pat Sanders<br>Tinklers Cottage | Lynda & Brian<br>2 Eggshell Lane | John, Lorraine & Fred<br>Station Road      |

In the December edition we'll publish greetings, similar to the extract shown above. If you'd like yours to be included, make sure we have your completed coupon by **Friday 17 November**. It will cost you £5 - which will help to fund the newsletter production.

You can complete a coupon at our Newsletter Coffee Morning on **Saturday 7 October**, or you can use the coupon printed here. We will only accept greetings on completion of our Christmas Greeting coupon and payment.

If you cannot attend our Coffee Morning - please put your completed coupon and cash in a sealed envelope, marked "Newsletter Christmas Greetings" and pop it in the collection box at the Village Shop. The collection box will be available at the shop from **Monday 2 October until Friday 17 November**.

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**  
 Each greeting will consist of 2 lines.

**Name:**  
 (a maximum of 29 characters including spaces)

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**House or Road name:**  
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[www.swallowsnestbandb.com](http://www.swallowsnestbandb.com) | [info@swallowsnestbandb.com](mailto:info@swallowsnestbandb.com)



## Village hall news



It has been a summer of maintenance jobs on the hall this year. Many of you may have noticed that the scaffolding has been up outside the hall and work has now finally been completed on the roof. Slates have been replaced along the edges of the driveway and roadside sections and other areas on that side have been made good.

We still have further work to do on the exterior, though the outside window frames are looking much better now that they have been painted. All of this, of course, is to try and deal with any ingress of dampness.

Inside the hall, we've had a new floor covering put down in the supper room which will be much easier to keep clean. The wooden flooring in the main hall has been resurfaced and looks splendid now. Thanks go to David Kingsley for giving up his time and doing this for us.

The work doesn't stop there though. By the time you read this we will have had our AGM and a new committee will have been formed. I am sure there will be further ideas and suggestions put forward to improve the hall for the benefit of our community.

The return of the Domino Drive after its Covid-induced break was well received and proved to be a great way of socialising and having a bit of fun. (Oh! how we loved those fish finger butties!) The monies raised from events like this will go towards any maintenance work such as that described above.

Our next event will be coming up on Saturday 7th October. This joint venture with St. James' Church presents the Badapple Theatre Company, who are returning for a double bill performance of Yorkshire Kernel and The Land Girl. Tickets for the theatre production are already available from the shop (cash only).

Following this on Friday 3rd November we will be hosting the ever-popular Stuart Marshall Quiz Night. and the quiz tickets will be available shortly.

We look forward to seeing you!

*Angie Martin*  
Hall Secretary  
*claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com*

## Village hall regular events

### Indoor Bowls

Mondays 1.30 - 4pm  
David and Jackie Kingsley  
015242 51240  
jackieanddavid@yahoo.com

### Clapham & Austwick Guides & Brownies

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

### Lecture Group

Tuesdays 7pm  
Andy Scott  
015242 51749  
andy@station-hse.co.uk

### Age UK

Wednesdays 10.30am (1<sup>st</sup> 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 PC support group  
Wednesdays 7pm (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 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 9 - 10.30am  
Tony Bennet  
taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com

### Craft & Chat

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

### Sustainability Group

Thursdays 7.30pm onwards  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday bi-monthly - Nov, Jan etc.)  
Jill Buckler  
jillbuckler@me.com

### Board Games Group

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

## CLAPHAM VILLAGE STORE

### WINTER WONDERS



After our disappointing summer weather, it's time to cosy up in front of a log fire and enjoy some autumn comfort food. If you haven't tried them, why not give our premium sausages a go? They're perfect in a sausage casserole (but just as delicious in a sandwich).

New in this autumn, we have two delicious Lottie Shaw fruit cakes or, if you want something savoury, our new range of cooking sauces are tasty and come in aluminium tins that are easily and reliably recycled here in the UK.



And if you want to give your interior an autumn vibe – these gonks, above, have your name on them.

### GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS



Here we go again – it's time to start getting your Christmas shopping lists ready.

We're already stocking up with gifts and decorations galore, so be sure to drop in to find out what's new. Oh, and you'll be pleased to know, our warm home-baked mince pies will be back in store from the beginning of December.



Just some of our local suppliers



WE SUPPORT  
23  
LOCAL  
BUSINESSES



## LOVE LOCAL

There's no question, as village shops go, ours is right up there with the best. Almost every day, someone comes in and exclaims how fantastic the shop is and marvels at its breadth of stock.

One of the reasons that people are so impressed is the wide variety of local products that we keep. While we can't get everything from local producers, we are constantly looking for new and interesting products that are grown, made or produced in Yorkshire.

And, of course, as Lancashire and Cumbria are right on our doorstep, we also like to share the love in those directions too.

In doing so, we're keeping our food miles down and supporting local businesses and artisans. And in the current climate both of those factors are more important than ever.

So, if you know of any local products that you think we should stock – pop in and let us know. We'll be only too happy to do a taste test!

Open weekdays 8.30am to 5.30pm & weekends  
8.30am to 3.30pm  
From 4th November, weekends are 8.30am to 1.30pm  
015242 51524  
info@claphamvillagestore.co.uk  
www.claphamvillagestore.co.uk