

Number 146, December 2023

News from our sponsor!

Glencroft – the woolly warehouse opposite the pub – is honoured to sponsor our village newsletter once again.



If you've ventured through our big barn door on a weekday you will have smelt the gorgeous smell of British Wool, seen our little factory shop and then likely seen us at the back packing boxes, labelling sheepskins and running up and down stairs – incidentally, great physio for Richard and his new knee.

The bulk of our business is wholesale – supplying shops worldwide – although our retail website is expanding. In December, every year we plan out the next 12 months, designing and creating new garments with our manufacturers (have you seen our new t-shirts?!), refining our range of over 200 products and trying to ensure we're staying ahead of our competitors, all the while with an eye on long term fashion and lifestyle trends.



Our Clapdale Wool project uses wool from seven farms around Clapham and we're currently still processing most of the 3 tonnes we purchased in 2022 – so far, we have six new colours of hand knit yarn now in stock and soon a new range of Clapdale Wool jumpers and hats.

Meanwhile we've yarn at the dyers which will then go to a traditional Yorkshire mill to be woven into blankets and



tweed cloth made from Dalesbred fleeces, hopefully ready early 2024, almost 2 years after the wool was sheared.

Fast fashion this is not! However, creating something a bit different, or 'niche' as the marketers call it is how we've kept going for 36 years and we hope we can continue working with our local farmers well into the third generation of our family business.

(PS Did you know we're now 'award-winning', recently winning small retailer at the Family Business of the Year Awards).

Edward Sexton



EST. 1987

Newsletter information

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

Next issue: **February 2024. Deadline: 20 January.**

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>

Panto is back in Clapham



Saturday, December 30th, 6pm

Clapham Village Hall

He's an outlaw of the land, defender of the weak and champion of the poor. He's proud and handsome and, maybe, just a little bit cocky. He's nimble and clever and quick as a flash, and the finest archer in all of Nottingham. He's the myth, the legend – he's ROBIN HOOD! ... BUT he seems to have broken his trusty bow.

Join Same Difference Arts for an hour of fun and audience participation and see if you can help Robin Hood to bring down the Sheriff of Nottingham – he's going to need some help! Oh yes he is!

Tickets: £10 / £5 for children under 14

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Light and Land

The interplay of 'Light and Land' come to life through the captivating new photographic and painting exhibition of local artist Juliet Klottrup. These are being shown until Saturday 9 December in association with the Kendal Mountain Festival.

Juliet records her time in the region, capturing its essence through a blend of landscapes, portraiture and abstract compositions.

Her images portray not only the raw rural landscapes but also the people she has encountered during her extensive explorations of the area, individuals who inhabit and intimately connect with the land.

The photographic images are meticulously captured on an analogue film camera, preserving a contemporary archive through medium format film. The collection serves as a living record, capturing a distinct moment in our ever-evolving social and environmental history.



Fell Tops, Cumbria, 2022, Kodak Medium Format film. Photo: Juliet Klottrup

In the transition from photographic negatives to paintings, Juliet references the landscapes responding to the lingering sensory experiences of these environments. Translating them into abstraction, infusing her canvases with colour, light and movement. "Light and Land" beautifully explores the relationship between the raw natural world and the human connections it inspires.

Rob Klottrup



**KENDAL
MOUNTAIN
FESTIVAL**

*Light and Land Exhibition, Cross Lane Projects,
Cross Lane, Kendal, LA9 5LB.*

Opening times: Wed – Sat 12-5pm; Free admission.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR AT ST MATTHEW'S, KEASDEN

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th December

10.30am to 12 noon

Home baking : Tea & Coffee : Raffle

Christmas decorations : Festive music

CAROL SINGING AROUND KEASDEN

Thursday 14th December

6.15pm meet at Church, singing followed by supper

CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

Thursday 21st December

7pm join us for carols, the return of the Travelling Crib,
mulled wine & refreshments

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

11am Family Communion

UNITED CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday 31st December

10.30am Holy Communion

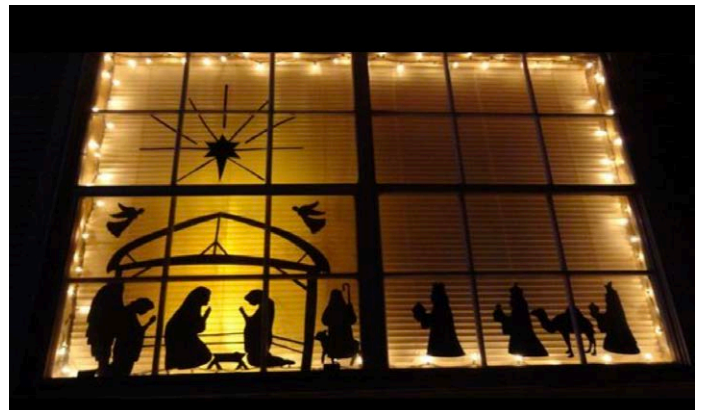
NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

At Keasden Head, LA2 8EZ

Meet 10am at Track End or 10.30am at the Farm



Christmas windows of light trail



A group of us are hoping to do a small trail of window decorations in Clapham village, culminating with the decorations at the church. If you have an available window, you can decorate it yourself and then tell us so we can add it the trail. Or let us know your window dimensions and we'll do it for you!

If you need some creative inspiration and help, we'll be making the window decorations on Sunday 3rd December at Clapham Village hall from 2-5pm. All materials provided. Snacks and drinks. All ages welcome! If you'd like to take part, could you please let me know at the email below.

Jeni Lane

jenihelenlane@gmail.com



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National Park. It has original
character, free parking, a
restaurant and 2 bars.

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welcome you back

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Church news

John's Notes: those old stories coming alive again



Christmas is a time for hearing old, familiar stories over again. It's one of the things which makes Christmas special to us.

When families get together the stories come out - fond stories of previous Christmas gatherings like the one when Mum couldn't fit the turkey into the oven or when Dad took the children

sledging and ended up with a twisted ankle; stories we tell tearfully of those who are now only with us in spirit: Granddad who insisted we stood for the national anthem when it came on TV at 3.00, the uncle who did magic tricks, the very deaf and thus very loud auntie who left our eardrums ringing by the time she left at the end of the day.

When Christmas shrinks and we are left with fewer people around us still the stories like these stories remain. New stories are told too. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren come with fresh experiences in life and as the adults quiz them, they share them, adding to the wealth of stories in the family's repertoire.

What stories will you tell this Christmas? And which might come alive for you in the retelling? There's something good about hearing the old, old stories again. And none better than the old, old stories surrounding the most remarkable event in history - the birth of Jesus, God come to earth in the shape and size of a child.

I don't know if you find this, but each year something fresh and particular springs out of the Christmas story for me.

Sometimes it's the story of Joseph, a man challenged, rattled to the core by the events unfolding around him and seemingly completely outside his control.

Sometimes it's the story of Mary, and her astonishing journey of obedience, her bravery, her devotion, her deep insight into the nature of her son, her hymn of faith which we call The Magnificat about how God lifts up the lowly and brings down the exalted.

Sometimes the shepherds, ordinary working people who God gets alongside; sometimes the magi, the sort of people regarded as outsiders, people with different backgrounds and perspectives from our own, but equally valued by God.

With the background stories of the Roman occupation of Palestine, of Herod the unstable king, of the human upheaval of the Bethlehem census, these old stories have a very contemporary resonance.

What stories will you tell this Christmas? And which might come alive for you in the retelling?

Season's greetings to you and yours.

Revd John Davies
01524 805928

john.davies@leeds.anglican.org
bit.ly/johndavies-talks

Anglican services

(Sundays and Minister Revd John Davies except where stated)

December

3rd: Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 9.30 Austwick (Revd Mark Evans); 11.00 Clapham

10th: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 7.00 Newby Clapham and Newby Carol service

Wed 13th: 2.00 & 6.00 Austwick Church - School Nativity

17th: Holy Communion: 9:30 Austwick; 11:00 Clapham; 4.00 Austwick Carol Service; 7.00 Eldroth Nativity & Carol Service

Thurs 21st: 7.00 Keasden Carols around the Crib

Christmas Eve (Sunday): 3.00 Austwick Crib Service (Revd Steve Rathbone); 5.00 Clapham Crib Service followed by a short Holy Communion; 11.30pm Austwick Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day: Family Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Keasden

31st:10.30 Keasden Benefice Holy Communion

January

7th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 9.30 Austwick (tbc); 11.00 Clapham; 7.00 The New Inn Church in the Pub

Fri 12th: 2.30 Austwick Church - School Epiphany Christingle

14th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden

21st: 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 2.00 Eldroth Family Praise

28th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 7.00 Keasden Evening Service

Each Wednesday: (except 28th Dec) 10.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer).

Some details may change. For latest info see:

bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

Sending everyone best wishes for Christmastide.

All are welcome to our united Carol Service on Sunday 10 December at 7pm and to the village carol singing on The Green, Tuesday 12 December from 6.30pm.

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

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

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

7 Dec. Christmas Dinner & after dinner talk 12.30pm.

8 Dec. Kmotion 6pm & Encounter Christmas Special 7.30pm.

15 Dec. Clapham Tots Christmas Special 9.30am.

16 Dec. Christmas Celebration with The Lund 7.30pm

24 Dec. Nativity service 11am & Carol Service 6.30pm.

Christmas Day Service 10.30am.

For further details 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



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Friends of the Dales online talks



Funding for Sustainable Business & Community Projects in the Dales: Wednesday 6 December, 5pm

This talk is for businesses, community groups and individuals wanting to find out 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 then 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.



Access the Dales: Wednesday 17 January, 4.30pm

Since becoming a wheelchair user in 2011, Debbie North has campaigned tirelessly to break down barriers and promote countryside accessibility for all. Founding the charity, Access the Dales, whose motto is 'making the inaccessible accessible', there are now nine 'free to borrow' all terrain wheelchairs available from designated sites across the Dales. Debbie was also appointed Cabinet Office Disability and Access ambassador for the Countryside in 2022. This talk offers a unique opportunity to learn about the successes and improvements Debbie's campaigning has achieved, along with the challenges still to surmount.

Digital talks can now be booked online at Eventbrite. The Zoom link for the talk will be sent out via email in the usual way a few days prior to the scheduled talk.

Both talks can be booked via our Events page: friendsofthedales.org.uk/events

Or via: <https://bit.ly/FODAautumnWinter>

Victoria Benn

8th GIVE and TAKE morning



We estimate that about one hundred adults and children visited the two-hour event in Clapham Village hall on October 14th. From Tools to Toys, from Haberdashery to Household items, from the Unclassifiable to the Collectable, the range of donated goods defies a neat description. The sheer delight on the faces of those who have found something useful to take away is one of the pleasures of this kind of giving, taking and extending the life of 'stuff.' Parked outside the hall was Stuart Fogden's Mobile Sharpening Service which was busy throughout the morning.



We had an excellent team of helpers for the setting-up evening and throughout the morning of the event. Thank you to you all. This event doesn't happen by magic. It takes a fair amount of planning with special attention to the guidance printed on the flyers and posters. Sadly, some of this advice is ignored and dirty items were brought to us – things which could so easily have been wiped or washed out first.

The Sustainability Group, which organises the Give and Take events held every eighteen months, is very grateful to Settle Rotary. They awarded us a grant that contributed towards our costs, which include a professional fee to the Portable Appliance Tester. We are also grateful to members of St. James' Church for the provision of light refreshments during the morning, and we thank Sarah Wiltshire for taking the photographs.

Jill Buckler, Maggie McSherry, Ann Stewart

Keasden rainfall report

	2022	2023
September	5" or 12.7cm	8¾" or 22.23cm
October	12½" or 31.75cm	9" or 22.86cm

Chess anybody?

Settle Chess Club meets each Monday evening (except Bank Holidays) in Settle Social Club, from about 6pm to 8pm. They would welcome anyone from the Clapham or surrounding areas who is interested in playing, either socially or competitively.

James D Annan
jdannan@blueskiesresearch.org.uk

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Parish Council news

The Council met on the evening of **18th October** with 2 guests and 3 members of the public present. The guests were representatives of Austwick Parish Council and Lawkland Parish Meeting to discuss a joint approach to the issue of the sewage discharge by Austwick Waste Water Pumping Station into Fen Beck and ultimately the River Wenning.

The issue had been discussed numerous times at PC meetings and had also been discussed by the Austwick Parish Council earlier that week. Three items that had been raised there were brought for discussion at this meeting.

- The extent to which Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) is aware. There is currently a planning application for 8 new houses in Austwick which will combine both sewerage and waste water. It was agreed that both the Austwick and Clapham Parish Councils would write to YDNPA Planning expressing our concerns with the issue.
- Given that United Utilities have said they have undertaken numerous short term mitigation improvements, the ex-consultant felt that we would actually need to see the figures for 2023, when available, to understand the current extent of the problem.
- It was suggested that given the water companies are requesting additional funding from all bill payers that it may be appropriate to suggest they undertake the investment to improve the situation at an earlier date than they had previously considered.

The meeting also welcomed Carol Douglas from Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust who attended to provide answers to questions the Council may have in regard to the potential for taking on a lease which would allow the Sustainability Group to create a tree nursery on land beside the allotments.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council was able to undertake the lease. Matters still to be agreed being:

- any potential cost increase to the Public Liability Insurance (now agreed that there will be no additional premium payable if the Council were to take on the lease), and
- whether there are any potential reinstatement costs at the end of the lease that would need to be considered or underwritten by another party.

The Council was very supportive of the initiative and would welcome it back for decision at the next meeting once the answers to the above questions had been received.

Other business conducted included discussions on the ongoing roadworks around the station.

The roadworks on Station Road, just after the bridge, have been followed up and they are expected to be completed by the end of November. The “hole” that has been in situ near the entrance for some considerable time has now been tracked down to belonging to Electricity North West and the Clerk has logged the issue on their on-line portal.

For more information on the work of the Parish Council and full meeting minutes, use the parish council link at: <https://claphamyorkshire.co.uk/locals/clapham-cum-newby-parish-council>

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 13th December 2023 and Wednesday 17th January 2024**.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Steve Culver can be contacted on:
Telephone: 015242 51862 or by email to parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com

Share your views with NYC to help shape their budget



North Yorkshire Council wants to understand your priorities and gather intelligence to inform decision making and policies. Let's Talk Money is their annual budget consultation.

The council wants to find out what you think and pinpoint the key priorities for their budget for the next financial year. This is your chance to have your say on plans to save millions of pounds and ensure services are delivered as effectively as possible for thousands of households and businesses in North Yorkshire.

There are several ways you can take part in Let's Talk Money:

- You can fill in an online survey by going to: <https://bit.ly/NYCLetsTalk>
- Or pick up a paper copy from your local library, leisure centre or main local NYC office and return it in the envelope provided.
- Or email: letstalk@northyorks.gov.uk or call 0300 131 2 131 (please say 'Lets Talk' when prompted) to request a survey.
- Or you can write to: Let's Talk, North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD

Accessible formats of the survey are available on request. Please note that the survey closes on 18 December 2023.

North Yorkshire Council



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Spring Concert

Saturday 16th March, 3.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

Saturday 23rd March, 3.30pm
Settle Parish Church

Weber
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Railway Mania hits Clapham

In 1845 'Railway Mania' hit Clapham in a big way. Investment in railways had grown from about 1830, when the canal network was more or less complete and those with capital were looking for alternative investment opportunities. This Mania reached its zenith in 1846 then tapered away into the 1860s and 70s by which time the rail network was almost complete.

On 29 November 1845, the North Western Railway Co. proposed a main line from Leeds and Bradford to Lancaster and Carlisle via Wenning Bank, Nutta, Green Close and Tewit Hall with a Lancaster branch line running via Lane Foot, Low House and Greystone Gill Bridge. Their chief engineer was Charles Vignoles and the acting engineer John Watson.

Soon after, on 24 December that year, the Farrers were notified that the Manchester and Newcastle Railway Company intended to lay a Bill before parliament also seeking permission to run a railway through the parish of Clapham. In response the Farrers made plain their intention to oppose the line and to ask other landowners in the Higher Division of Newby Manor to join them in this opposition. James Farrer wrote "I am persuaded the Railway can do no good to anyone but the Engineers and Lawyers ... (we shall) do all we can to oppose the measure."

Days later, on 30 December 1845, they received notice that the York and Lancaster Railway Company also had similar plans, to be guided by engineers John Miller and R.W. Thomson. There were to be connections to Leeds, Thirsk, Knaresborough, Poppleton and to a "... Bradford extension railway near Skipton." The Farrer brothers apparently remained unsure about the nature of rumoured plans for what they called "Gearstones Railway." They wrote "(The plans are) so vague that I do not at all understand what fields of ours they will pass through" (and on 6 January 1846) "... the line proposed would to us be much more objectionable than the line of the North Western ... we shall at once send in our dissent and we should wish anyone who we may have an influence over to do the same." By 20 January they had studied the plans further and concluded that Nutta and Lanshaw farms "... must be much injured", saying that at Nutta anyone "... travelling from Clapham would have to cross the railway 3 times (with) in a quarter of a mile of the house". The house in question was presumably Nutta farmhouse. They pointed out that James Farrer's close and meadow in front of Lanshaw farm "... will be sadly cut up..." and that the "... only good meadow the farm has (would suffer) most serious injury."

On April 1 1846 Oliver Farrer wrote again, from his London office to his agent in Clapham, about "... the very serious injury & inconvenience which will be done to our Farm of Nutta, both with reference to the approach to the Farm & to the utter impossibility of (our tenant) continuing to occupy the Farmhouse, Barns & Buildings... Extra compensation must be demanded by us for the injury that will be done to Laneside (farm), by taking the only good meadow that the Farm has; the taking (of) this field must

derange the whole Farm; ...". He expressed similar anger about "... the injury which Lanshaw (farm) will sustain ..."

The North Western, later known as the 'Little North Western,' was the company which eventually succeeded in gaining parliamentary permission to go ahead with its plans. Their main line was to connect the Leeds and Bradford line with the Lancaster and Carlisle line at Low Gill near Sedburgh. There was to be a branchline from Clapham to Lancaster. Following complicated negotiations which included George Stevenson it was finally agreed that the line should be completed from Skipton to Ingleton via Clapham with a branch to Lancaster from a Clapham junction. The Farrer brothers, James and Oliver, in 1849 instructed John Greenwood of Gisburn to carefully measure the amount of land taken by the railway on Newby Common – more than 15 acres of excellent grazing land. Goods traffic to Clapham began that same year and passenger traffic in 1850, when they advised the Lord of the Manor to negotiate separately with the railway company and to agree loading points for stone and lime "... to transport the mineral produce of the manor". From June 1852 the 'Little' North Western was effectively run by the much larger and better financed Midland Railway and was fully taken over by them in 1871.

Meanwhile, on 28 November 1864 plans had been deposited with parliament for a North of England Union Railway connecting Settle, Clapham and Carlton with Sedburgh. This was the fifth, possibly sixth, railway company interested in running through Clapham. Their engineers were John Hawkshaw and James Brunlees. But by then 'railway mania' had run its course and investment was much reduced. That line was never built.

The Clapham to Low Gill section built by the 'Little' North Western continued in use until 1966. The following year the line was removed and in 1969 the junction signal box went up in flames. The line to Lancaster and Morecambe is still in regular use, albeit by the later route via Carnforth. It has brought us great benefits but initially the railway was much conflicted and much contested.

Ken Pearce

Clapham Village Store

Opening times throughout the festive period are as follows:

Saturday 23 December: 8.30 – 3.30

Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve): 8.30 – 1.30

Monday 25 December (Christmas Day): Closed

Tuesday 26 December (Boxing Day): Closed

Wednesday 27 December: Closed

Thursday 28 & Friday 29 December: 8.30 – 5.30

Saturday 30 December: 8.30 – 1.30

Sunday 31 December (New Year's Eve): 8.30 – 1.30

Monday 1 January (New Year's Day): Closed

Season's Greetings to all!

Clapham Village Store

Seasonal wordsearch

Now that we have darker evenings, wordsearch is returning either forwards or backwards.
to the newsletter. In this December issue, the challenge is to
find words or couplets linked to Christmas.

There are 40 to find, all of 6 or more letters, and they can
be found vertically, horizontally, or on the diagonal, reading

There are no prizes – it's just a bit of fun to get you in
the mood for the season!

Angie Martin
(guest compiler)



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



Nature notes

Are we going to have a *Waxwing Winter* here in our corner of the Dales this year, I wonder? We could certainly do with something to make up for the dark, damp days we have endured through the autumn months. The early signs are promising. At the time of writing, sightings of this most welcome winter visitor are significantly higher than in recent years and a few small flocks have already made it over the Pennines into the local area.

Bohemian waxwings are colourful, instantly recognisable birds but they are far from the most reliable of migrants. Large flocks of hungry redwings and fieldfares arrive in fairly predictable numbers every year, but waxwings are a truly *irruptive* species, occasionally turning up in the UK in their thousands but often choosing to stay put in their Siberian and Scandinavian breeding grounds. A poor breeding season followed by a fruitful autumn across northern Europe takes away the need to fly off to foreign climes in search of food, while a successful spring and a scarcity of berries later in the year puts pressure on young birds to forage further afield if they are to survive the winter months.

For a small bird, the waxwing has a prodigious appetite. It can consume several times its own body weight in berries in a single day so it's hardly surprising that it has a reputation as nomad: even a small flock can quickly strip all the berries from one area and be forced to move on. Sometimes, though, their gluttony can get the better of them. Winter fruit has a tendency to ferment and it's not unknown for waxwings to get drunk! Fortunately, their livers are relatively bigger and much more efficient than the human equivalent, so they recover more quickly than we do and can soon start all over again.

It seems that the first person to use the term waxwing was the nineteenth century naturalist, James Francis Stephens, a contemporary of Darwin. The name comes from the vivid splash of colour on the tips of their secondary wing feathers which looks just like a drop of red sealing wax. This also accounts for the unusual collective noun we use for them – a *museum*. Wax museums were very popular throughout Europe in Stephens' time (Marie Tussaud first opened the doors of her famous establishment in 1835) and thus the link must have seemed appropriate.

These days a more fitting descriptor might be a supermarket of waxwings. In a surprising behavioural twist, these secretive forest dwellers have quite recently become

urban specialists. They love rowan and hawthorn berries, crab apples and rose hips and, because so many commercial shopping centres plant ornamental trees and shrubs around their car parks, these are often the best spots to see them. Keep your eyes peeled next time you visit Booths!

This is also a good time of year to spot one of our more elusive avian residents. The barn owl is a silent, nocturnal predator rarely seen during the day, but wet windy nights make prey location almost impossible for a hunter so reliant on its acute sense of hearing. This leaves it with no choice: if there's a break in the weather it has to make good use of it, night or day. Over the past week, I've seen two hungry individuals hunting in the afternoon in gaps between the showers along the road out to the station. Not an ideal situation for an owl, of course, but a bonus for anyone who values an encounter with such a beautiful, ghostly creature. Do let me know if you're lucky enough to see one on your walks around the village.

If you have news of any other interesting or unusual sightings in the area, please send me an email, drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply stop and chat if you see me around the village. Photographs are always welcome (special thanks to David Crutchley for this month's spectacular offering!).

Brian Christian

bc.riverside28@gmail.com



Waxwings - *Bombycilla garrulus*.
Photo: David Crutchley

Park Association update



It is wet and muddy at the park, but at the end of October we had a small & spooky Halloween party, in the Village Hall which was great fun and raised a little money.

We'd like to thank everyone for their generosity this year, and for the ongoing support in maintaining the park. If anyone would like to join the Park Association AGM in December (exact time being confirmed) please do be in touch on: 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.

Merry Christmas!

Nell Whitley



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Then and Now



Our two images in this issue show St James' church in Clapham, with the older of the pair dated to 1905. We think of churches – rural ones especially – as unchanging but St James' has had its fair share of alterations over time, including ones carried out between these two images. The oldest part of the current building is the tower, which dates back to the 15th century, but the nave was substantially remodelled in 1814 and then altered again around 1900 when the south porch was added. Look closely and you can see how the porch blocks out one of the 1814 windows.

The "Then" photo shows the church soon after this work had been done. Ten years later and the country was at war, and this is evidenced by the war memorial subsequently erected and just visible, bedecked in poppies, in front of the porch in the "Now" image. Also evident is the change to the roofline. The nave's "battlements" were replaced in the 1950s as part of the church's most recent external remodelling, and a metal arch has been erected over the entrance to the churchyard.

Andy Scott

A benefit of wet weather



Photo: Annie Farrer

Newsletter Group Coffee Morning

Thanks to all who joined us at the Village hall for our annual Coffee Morning on Saturday, October 7th.

The Newsletter Group endeavours to make our newsletter a blend of local news, information etc. So we try to avoid adverts dominating each issue but, as a result, we run at a small loss - even after the generous and much appreciated sponsorship of local businesses.

It means that fundraisers like our Coffee Morning really do make such a difference for us - they keep us going.

This one raised us £415, so thanks again to those who baked, those who served, those who joined in the raffle and those who came along to support us.

All much appreciated.

The Newsletter Committee



Participatory Musical Activities Group

Village Hall, 7pm, Tuesday 13th February

An inaugural meeting to check interest and determine the viability of such a group. All welcome – beginners to experts – or those who just wish to listen.

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Winter work

By December, Bleak Bank is in full winter lockdown. All cattle are inside and every single one of their needs is taken care of by the peasant farmer. Every day, feed and bedding are carried into the sheds and muck is carried, or at least scraped, out. The cattle want for nothing, other than grass to walk on and a bit of sunshine on their backs, but then don't we all?

Days are brim full of enjoyable routine work that involves shovels, tractors, mixer wagons, wellies, milking parlours, cups of tea and so many other things. Every family farm knows that animals cannot be put on a shelf and told "see you Monday."

For some reason, which I do not understand, I quite like winter and many of the things associated with it, such as the long dark nights and cold days. I am not as keen on frozen water pipes and tractors that will not start but winter is just as enjoyable as summer.

Keeping cows clean during the six months of winter is an expensive challenge that has to be faced. A healthy cow should spend three to five hours a day eating and up to twelve to fourteen hours a day sitting down, resting, ruminating, cud chewing and generally contemplating life. The other few hours she spends with her friends and avoiding the bullies. There must be enough room for her to get to the feed barrier when she chooses, and the cubicles must be comfortable and inviting. Our cubicle beds have thick rubber mats on them followed by sawdust with just a hint of hydrated lime mixed in to help hygiene. Often cows have a favourite bed in which to rest (don't we all) and I dare say some cows never venture to parts of the cowshed that they have no need to, a bit like me and the rest of the planet.

Twice a day, when they leave to go to the milking parlour, the cows are cleaned out. This is a job for the scraper tractor, a nippy little machine which has no cab, and, because of this, it often has a wet seat meaning an empty dog food

bag has to be found to sit on in order to at least try and keep one's posterior relatively dry. Slurry is scraped down the slats and into the store, the trick is not to go too fast round the corners and create a bow wave (really bad) of slurry that escapes the slats and tries to get out of the door (really, really bad).

Sheep come into season every fourteen days and for the first two weeks of tugging time the shepherd hardly sees a tup (daddy sheep) sitting down. In order to save the tup's legs, the faithful collie dog rounds the sheep up to the tup every day in order that he might look through his harem to see if there is anything doing. Rounding

them up for the tup means that any sheep that are not sure what to make of their hormones are found. By December the tups have mostly completed their work and apart from a few mopping up exercises they can afford to rest, take a step back, look at all the brightly coloured sheep bottoms and say, "I did that, am I not talented?"

The tugging season is a good time to break (train) a young dog as the sheep just need a general round up for the tup. It is not the end of the world if the youngster misses one or two (or three) on the outrun. As the season progresses the eager young collie will learn simply because of the repetitive work. I was once asked "how does the shepherd swear so fluently with a mouth full of fingers?"

Our milk just now is collected overnight, and it is a sign of the times that the milk tanker collects milk all day, then arrives back at the yard but instead of parking up until tomorrow, it is refuelled, the driver is dragged out and replaced with a new one and then off it goes again – all night. Our driver is a Latvian and I am busy teaching him English while he teaches me Latvian. I think we both benefit. "*Priecigis ziemassvetkus*" everybody, I suppose...

John Dawson



Shop holds the key to lower energy bills

Next time you drop into the village shop, don't forget to pick up your free radiator key. Clapham Shop is one of ten stores across the country that is working with energy company OVO and the Plunkett Foundation to help homeowners increase their energy efficiency. And the first and most simple step they are recommending is to bleed your radiators.

This task can reduce the average home's energy consumption and stop your radiators from being hot at the bottom and cold at the top. But it's only simple if you have a key to hand. Which is where the collaboration between the village shop, OVO and Plunkett will help.

OVO has supplied the shop with radiator keys that can be borrowed from the shop. All you need to do is sign out one of the keys and use it to remove the air from your radiators.

Once used you bring the key back to the shop so that it can be given to someone else in the village.

In addition, OVO has supplied information sheets to help you take further steps to reduce energy consumption during the winter months. By following these tips, OVO says that householders can cut their energy bills by "at least £155".

"We're delighted to be working with OVO on this scheme," said shop manager, Helen. "When OVO set out to help people reduce energy bills they identified community shops such as ours as being the central hub for information and support. That's certainly true here in Clapham.

The scheme will run from 29 November until the end of the year.

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Steam update

One hundred years ago, the railways in Britain were just coming to the end of the first year of what became known as “The Grouping”. Triggered by the Railways Act 1921, the majority of the nation’s individual railway companies – some 120 different organisations with a wide range of geographies and sizes – were all reorganised into a much smaller number of larger companies – the “Big Four”. It had been done to try to reduce the losses they were making, reduce the level of internal competition, and regain some of the advantages that had been seen during the Great War when they had all been placed under government control. The Big Four were the London & North Eastern Railway (LNER), the Southern Railway (SR), The Great Western Railway (GWR) and the London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMSR).

Clapham had just concluded its first year of operation as an LMSR station, but would it have seen much by way of change? The answer is probably very little. The LMSR had retained the same maroon corporate colours from the Midland Railway so nothing would have been needed in terms of repainting. Posters and other documents would now be headed LMS instead of MR. The staff would have had a



On a truly dreary day, 34067 Tangmere passes Lawsings on route to Preston.
Photo: Andy Scott

new uniform, but probably continued to wear their old ones until they needed replacement – I’ve one old photo of the station staff where one of the team has a hat bearing an LMS badge but another is still proudly wearing his old MR one! The rolling stock probably acquired new liveries, but again, only when they went in for repair or refurbishment. The first of the new LMS designed steam locomotives – the Class 5MT “Crabs” – wouldn’t appear for another two years. Even so, the LMS was a huge organisation – the largest commercial enterprise in the British Empire at the time – and the UK’s second largest employee after the Post Office.

Back to present times, the station saw a rare visit by a privately-chartered steam excursion on 19 November. Hauled by SR “Battle of Britain” class 4-6-2 no. 34067 *Tangmere*, the charter was from Bradford Foster Square to Preston and return.

The loco had also passed through Clapham earlier in the day as it headed from Carnforth to Bradford with the empty coaching stock for the run, but the charter’s return leg and subsequent return of the empty carriages were both hauled by a diesel.

Andy Scott

Village hall booking system

The Village hall is moving to an online booking system which is planned to go live for 2024. Anyone wishing to book the hall will be able go onto its website, check availability, and complete the booking there and then.

So why is it changing? As most will realise, the hall is an important community facility, but it’s only kept going by the small band of unpaid volunteers who are prepared to put their time and effort into its day-to-day management. At the same time, and particularly since Covid and the lockdowns, the amount of use it gets is increasing steadily, which only adds to their workloads. The hope is that the new system will help reduce this whilst, at the same time, making it easier for those wishing to book and use the hall.

The new system has been designed with ease-of-use in mind, but we appreciate that some are less comfortable with technology than others. As a result, we’re holding two presentations, courtesy of the DEW Drop In group, to demonstrate the system and help build familiarity. These open and free-of-charge sessions are both in the hall and will be on Wednesday, 6th December at 7pm and the following Tuesday, 12th December at a slightly later 7.30pm. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along to one or the other of these – and if you want to get up and running straightaway then please bring your laptops, phones or whatever else you would use and we will get you started.

The Village Hall Exec

Art and Craft sale



Over £2800 raised for St John’s Hospice and MIND

A packed room of customers ensured a vibrant start to our biennial ‘Arts and Crafts’ sale. Chris Horsewill and her team of volunteers are delighted to announce that over £2,800 was raised. Original arts and crafts were willingly donated for the sale, testament to the talents of local artists and crafts people. The range of products was astonishing in its quality and creativity while the café provided for a nice chat over tea, coffee and locally baked cakes. A big ‘thank you’ to everyone who donated items, baked, prepared the hall and helped at the event as well as those who supported us by buying so many of the arts and crafts.

Tony Horsewill & Anne Douglas



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Dark skies

The Yorkshire Dales and the Forest of Bowland enjoy some of the darkest skies in the country; on clear nights at different times of the year you can see planets, meteors, the Milky Way, and the Northern Lights. Clapham, Keasden and Newby are fortunate to sit astride these two areas, but it means we also all have a role to play in keeping our dark skies 'dark' for the benefit of the residents who live and sleep here, visitors from urban areas who appreciate the contrast, and wildlife such as bats, owls, moths and other invertebrates that depend upon good nocturnal conditions to hunt and survive.

The UK Dark Skies Partnership defines three main types of light pollution: **Sky glow** – brightening of the night sky, **Glare** – uncomfortable brightness of a light source when viewed against a contrasting darker background, and **Light intrusion** (“trespass”) – light spilling beyond the property or area being lit



Pollution from artificial lighting is the wrong type of light in the wrong place at the wrong time, so fixing the problem isn't necessarily difficult or expensive and could even result in wasting less energy and reducing costs. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have issued guidance for reducing light pollution which includes:

- Angle lights downwards
- Use lamps of 500 lumens or less
- Point where the light is needed – not in a direction which disturbs neighbours or wildlife
- Switch lights off when not needed. Use proximity sensors. Avoid dusk-till-dawn sensors
- Do not over light needlessly
- Install at the lowest possible height to achieve lighting levels
- Avoid bright white and cooler temperature LEDs – they are harmful to wildlife; aim to stay in the warm red and yellow sector below 3,000 Kelvin
- Shut the curtains at night

And remember that thieves need light to operate, so having the right light in the right place at the right time could help keep you safe and save you money!

References and Further Information: “Dark Sky Reserve Guidance for Residents”, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority https://bit.ly/YDNP_DarkSkies; “Towards a Dark Sky Standard”, UK Dark Skies Partnership <https://ukdarkskies.org.uk/>

Jill Gates

Glass fusing workshop



I'm sure many of you know that the Craft and Chat group meets in Clapham Village hall twice a month, but did you know that we sometimes invite guest artists to deliver workshops too?

In October, we were visited by Anne Somers from Arkglass <http://ark-glass.co.uk/> who helped us make fused glass Christmas decorations. It's a really effective technique and the very fact that someone as unartistic as me managed to produce something decent is testimony to Anne's teaching skills.

Our next guest will be delivering a pottery workshop sometime in February or March. Watch this space for further details.

In the meantime, if you'd like to come along to one of our regular sessions, you'd be more than welcome - the standard of the biscuits is always excellent!

Jane Mellers

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Can we say a huge thank you to everyone that baked, served, washed up and supported our coffee morning. We raised £715.15 for such a wonderful charity.

Jackie Kingsley & Liz Mason

Settle Area Swimming Pool

Settle Pool's Fundraising Donation Point has opened on the grassed area in the Pool car park where we used to be able to deposit paper and cardboard for the Pool's fundraising scheme.

The two staffed cabins can accept “anything except paper and cardboard.” If you have metal to deposit, please take it in a bag clearly marked ‘METAL.’ If you have torn clothing or rags to give, please mark a separate bag ‘RAGS.’ Onward recycling of metal and rags brings an additional income.

The public is asked NOT to leave donations outside the cabins when they are not open for business. The operating hours are **9.30am until 12.30pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.**

Ann Stewart

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Village hall news

As the last issue of the Newsletter went to print, the Hall held its AGM. It was good to note that representatives from St Matthew's Keasden and Clapham Playpark Association had been nominated and were welcomed to join the other group reps on the committee as trustees.

The new committee then appointed its officers for the coming year. Zoe Richardson had already indicated her wish to stand down as Bookings Secretary and was thanked for the work she had done over the past couple of years. The remaining officers were all re-elected, with Andy Scott appointed to take over from Zoe with the specific intention of implementing a new online bookings system to try to reduce the officers' workloads. (See item on p19 for further info on this.)

The hall has been very busy over the past couple of months with many events taking place at weekends as well as our regular groups during the week. Amongst these events we had our Domino Drive in October, followed by the ever-popular Quiz Night in November. Thanks to Stewart and Barbara Marshall for running this. The evening was made even more enjoyable with a lovely meal cooked by Lorraine Wildman and Judith Holt, followed by a range of desserts brought in by our trustees. Thanks to all who contributed. This popular event raised just under £600 for hall funds. Well done all!

This money has helped us replace some of our table stock. Some of you may have noticed that we have some new square white tables in the hall and the plan is to also replace some of the folding rectangular ones with more manageable alternatives. Old stock will be retired to the barn for use at outside events when required in the summer months.

A further addition to the hall has been a music system consisting of a professional quality stage piano, speakers and amplifier donated by Clive Spendlove. It would be lovely if we could develop some sort of regular musical activity within the community for all ages. Clive is planning to start a participatory music group in February. See notice on p15.

On the subject of music, our first event of next year is a live gig by a modern music covers band called 'Siren and Strings' (they are good!) The band perform throughout Yorkshire and will be playing for us on 19th January. Put the date in your diaries now – tickets will be available in the New Year.

Before then, though, panto is back. Oh yes, it is! Robin Hood is putting in an appearance courtesy of touring players Same Difference Arts on 30th December, so don't leave it until the last minute to buy your tickets!

Finally, a plea. Some users of the hall are turning off the radiators at their valves if it gets too warm. Unfortunately, if these are left turned off the automated heating is unable to warm the hall for the next group of users. Please don't touch the radiator valves: if the heating needs to be adjusted please use the wall thermostats in either room.

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

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 PC support group
Wednesdays 7pm (1st 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 (1st & 3rd Thurs of the month)
Angie Martin
015242 51749 / angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk

Sustainability Group

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

Board Games Group

Fridays 2 - 5pm (2nd & 4th Fri of the month)
Jackie Kingsley
015242 51240 / jackieanddavid@yahoo.com

Christmas greetings

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

Jennie & Rick Sunny Bank	Annie The Beeches	David Gildersbank
Dave & Denise 1 The Green	Chris & Tony Long Barn	Anne & Poppy Dalesview
Sheila Flying Horseshoe Cottages	Jill, Iain, Chloe & Emily Old Manor House, The Green	Mrs Betty Lovett & family Kirkdale
Kate & Neil Ardbeg	Isobel & Flo Bridge Cottage	The Coultherds Beck Cottage
Louise & Tobi Ivy Barn	Anne & Kevin Lawler Dalesview Close	John, Sheralee & Gertrude Dovenanter Barn
Jules & Simon Drummond-Hay Clapham Woods Farm	Thomas & Carol Parker Reeby's	Alan & Sylvia 8 Dalesview
Philip, Maria & Family Hall Garth	Liz Mason Clareson	Ann Stewart Dalesview Close
Nick, Linda & Chester 7 Dalesview Close	Gerald & Diane South View	Brian Sunnyside, Newby
John & Pat Sanders Tinklers Cottage	Clive & John Low Lea, The Green	Angela & Simon Peach Rantree Middle Barn, Keasden
Margery Dowling Sandy Bell, Cross Haw Lane	Angie & Andy Station House	Jackie & David Dalesview
Kathy Hall Cross Haw Lane	Christine & Martin Wilcock 4 Yew Tree Cottages	Scott & Harriet Fell Brook
George & Diane Hill View	Clive & Joy Keasden	John, Lorraine & Fred Station Road
John & Marilyn Flying Horseshoe Cottages	Linda & Colin Lindens, The Green	Judith Holt Dalesview Close
All the staff & volunteers Clapham Village Store	Lynda & Brian 2 Eggshell Lane	Jess & Chris Honeywood
Ian & Suzanne Liddle Barn Cottage	Liz Wake Scott Cottage, Old Mason's Yard	John, Judith & William & all the animals at Bleak Bank
Ken & Brenda Stonegarth	Stuart & Barbara Bramall	Alan & Rupert
Barbara, Nigel Harrison & Family, 3 The Beeches	Justina, Richard, Edward, Ruth, Martha & Phoebe Fall View	Nell, Robin, Bessie, Eddie & Xander, Fellside
Mavis, Glenys, David & Danny Gilgen, Cross Haw Lane		Anne G Park House