



Number 147, February 2024

## News from the farm

One of the most enjoyable parts of being a peasant farmer is being part of the changing seasons and working with them. The depths of winter bring with it as many disasters as summer, the only difference being that winter disasters tend to be cold, unpleasant affairs compared with the warm, sunny summery ones, although both have the ability to be expensive and very frustrating.

Winter days are full of routine and the dairy cows are top of the list every single day. There is much to keep an eye on with the cows and more so when they are inside for winter. A book could be written (and many have been) about the management of the housed dairy cow. Usually, books like this are written by those who have never actually kept cows but do know how it should be done.

In my experience the building itself is the starting point, it is where she lives for the next few months and she must feel safe, secure, and perfectly at home, a bit like a child at primary school. For instance, there should be no "dead ends" where a shy cow can be confronted by a bully cow who may well do the bovine equivalent of demanding dinner money with menaces. Water troughs must be easily accessible, cleaned out regularly and always full. There should be more cubicle beds than cows as some cows do not like to sit next to another cow. The beds at Bleak Bank have thick rubber mats on them to help provide comfort, they are cleaned and freshly bedded with sawdust and a hint of lime every day.

Passageways should be wide, and the concrete underfoot must be nonslip so she is confident when moving about and can display her natural behaviour, particularly if she is on heat.

There must be plenty of room at the feed fence so that the shy cows can eat without keeping one eye out for potential dinner money trouble.

We have a rotating cow brush with heavy nylon bristles which, when nudged by a cow, comes to life, and gives her a massage that some would pay a lot of money for. Sometimes I stand watching and sometimes I have a go. Occasionally I accidentally nudge the brush with the scraping out tractor, it's as near as I have ever come to using a car wash.

All this must be in place before turning your attention to the finer details such as a balanced diet to help each cow keep healthy and fulfil her potential. Usually, animal feed companies are very willing to help with this and often arrive with laptop in one hand, price list in the other and pound signs in their eyes.

We sell our milk to Arla which is a farmer-owned cooperative. We are part of its "Arla Care" package which means that if cows go out to graze in summer the milk can be marketed as such. The Care package means we have regular inspections by a vet employed by Arla (paid for by us). Our own vet is invited to these visits by Arla (employed and paid for by us) and if they are not away skiing or lying on a beach, they may well pop along to help drink coffee and eat ginger biscuits.

Usually, the Arla vet is no longer in active veterinary practice but is happy to dream up schemes in order to justify their salary, don the occasional pair of upmarket wellies and share the depth of their wisdom with the average peasant who obviously doesn't know the first thing about keeping cows, poor thing.

*Continued on p3*



*'Bovine des res'*

## Newsletter information

Editions are produced February, April, June, August, October & December. Next issue: **April 2024. Deadline: 20 March.** 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

Articles should be c250 words and, if possible, accompanied by a high resolution photo (at least 300 dpi).

Contact Andy: [claphamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:claphamnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Advertising and Sponsorship

Advertising rates start from c£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](mailto: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](mailto:claphamnewsletter@gmail.com)

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

## Litter pickers of Clapham unite!

For a morning of fun and ... litter!

Saturday 24th February

Meet outside Glencroft

10am - 11am (ish)

Please come and help clean up our village. All age groups are welcome and whatever time you can spare will be much appreciated by the whole community. Bin bags, litter picking tongs and rubber gloves will be provided, but do bring your own equipment if you have it. A satisfying and thoroughly jolly time is guaranteed!!!!

Last time we gathered 18 sack loads thanks to a phenomenal team of pickers. It would be nice to think that it is a target that we can't beat ... we will see.

Hope to see you there!

Maria Farrer



April 2024 edition

Deadline date: 20 March

Email: [claphamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:claphamnewsletter@gmail.com)



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## Kathy Hall

Kathy died suddenly on December 20th and many friends and family attended her funeral in Clapham Church early in January. Her daughter, Rosie, and her sister, Pat, both read poems and her daughter, Zoe, gave a moving and fascinating eulogy on which this article is based.



When her family were growing up their home was full of paintings and projects. Kathy was known to chase wisps of wool whilst they were out walking and then trample them into felt in the shower tray for her City & Guilds textile course. She really enjoyed attending a weekly painting class. One evening the follow up meeting in the pub was brought to a sudden end when a friend noticed she was grimacing and took her home. Rosie was born shortly afterwards.

Kathy could also sew. She made many fancy dress outfits for her children and stylish clothes for all the family, a skill which saved a lot of money but also caused some frustration for teenage shoppers as items were returned to the rail on the grounds that Kathy could make them better and cheaper. She also knitted, crocheted, embroidered and later took up spinning.

She first fell in love with the Scottish Isles when she went camping as a Girl Guide and this love lasted to the end of her life. Annual trips to Tiree (or Tenerife as the girls' primary school teacher mistakenly assumed, much to Kathy's horror) were the highlight of the year when the children were growing up but in later years, she visited many other islands in The Orkneys and Shetlands.

A few years ago, she went on her first cruise and enjoyed it so much that she went every year. But this was not cruising as seen on TV in a floating apartment block but aboard a converted trawler around the less accessible Hebridean Isles where she could indulge in her favourite pastimes: walking and watching nature.

This last summer she returned with a whale bone she had found on a remote beach, and it occupied the train seat next to her all the way from Oban to Clapham, sparking the interest of fellow passengers.

Kathy enjoyed a very happy and active childhood as the youngest of six children and this must have influenced her own thinking as a parent when she and Jim were bringing up Robin, Zoe and Rosie. It was obvious from talking to her how much she loved her whole family: sisters and brother, nephews and nieces, children and grandchildren.

After Jim's death Zoe was not sure how Kathy would settle into village life without him. Typically, she did not let her grief deter her. She made a huge contribution to life in Clapham via her work for the village hall, the village shop, coffee mornings, street fairs and as co founder of HallMann productions, bringing culture to The Dales. She learned bell ringing and became an enthusiastic member of the team because she enjoyed it so much. She loved gardening so she spent many hours in her allotment and yet still found time for doing difficult jigsaws and reading the many books which lined the walls of her bungalow.

Kathy was a quiet and self-effacing woman who worked tirelessly and unobtrusively and never sought the limelight. She gave care, compassion and love to all her family and was loved by them in return. Many villagers appreciated all she did for the community and liked her warmth and friendliness.

We shall all miss her.

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## News from the farm

*Continued from p1*

So, there may be three of us looking at our cows and only myself not on an hourly rate. Ironically, when the two vets enter our cowshed all the cows get excited at two strangers appearing with little warning. The first thing they do is evacuate their bowels. The next thing they do is rush to the far end of the building and start climbing over each other, I think vets must smell funny to a cow. The Arla vet then proceeds to explain the importance of a tranquil cowshed.

Round the kitchen table, ginger biscuit in hand, our own vet may well feign interest in what the Arla vet has to say about the latest animal health thinking. I even saw her take notes once and then go through them with a fancy highlighter pen before having another biscuit and wondering how to become an Arla vet - which could be a pleasant change from nocturnal calvings.

A few days later a written report about the visit is produced. This used to arrive on expensive shiny paper but now to save the environment it arrives by email with our vet copied in. Often, it bears little resemblance to the actual visit, and we file it away in the cloud (or something) all this because our cows go out to graze in summer, remarkable.

Meanwhile, we continue to work hard and keep animal welfare at the top of our list...

*John Dawson*



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welcome you back

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## Tommy Coultherd



Tommy was born on 23rd January 1950 at Fountain House, Clapham and lived there for most of his life. Even when he did move it wasn't too far away - just down the Green - and then, after 71 years of being in Clapham, he decided it was time for a move to Settle.

Tommy has always been around in our lives, bottling and delivering milk and helping with farming. But as well as that, he also loved his horse racing – he spent hours standing at racecourses across the UK or watching it on the TV. He enjoyed holidays too, travelling the length of breadth of the UK and Ireland, more often than not accompanied by his companion Barbara.

When Tommy retired, he got so much happiness going on volunteering holidays to Scotland. Here he saw the islands, country houses and gardens - all of which he enjoyed visiting. He made many friends on these trips, and they would visit him on many occasions. They would come and stay with him and be treated to 'Tommy's Tours' which were a guide to Yorkshire and the countryside he loved.

*The Coultherd Family*

## Pottery workshop



We have a pottery session arranged for Craft and Chat in Clapham village hall on:

**Thursday March 21st at 2pm.**

The session will be run by 'Rachel in the Dales Pottery'. During this 'Natural Pottery Workshop' we will be making a hand-built bowl, jug or small

platter from stoneware clay using various techniques. We will then decorate these with a selection of interesting foliage to press into the clay.

Rachel will then take away the pots to finish drying, glazing and firing and then we will be able to collect them at a future Craft and Chat session.

We have a few places left for this workshop which are open to all so if you are interested in joining us, please let me know asap. Rachel is asking for £25pp which would cover the cost of all materials (except for those foraged bits that we bring along ourselves), plus the glazing, firing etc. afterwards.

*Angie Martin*  
[angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk)

## Bowland Dark Skies festival



The Forest of Bowland is captivating by day but, after the sun sets, there's a whole new world to discover in the dark skies above. Each year, the Forest of Bowland National Landscape Partnership celebrates starscapes with activities during February half-term, and although this year's sessions have been booking up fast, there is still chance to discover more about the velvety darkness overhead with these events: **How Big is Space? Sunday, 11 February, 7 – 8pm, Online:** We all know that space is really, really big! But just how big...? Join Preston and District Astronomical Society for this entertaining online talk about the vastness of the known universe and how we can try to understand it on a human scale. Prepare to be amazed!

**Smartphone Night Sky Photography Wednesday 14 February, 7 – 8pm, Online:** If you've ever tried to capture the ethereal beauty of the night sky on camera and wished you had a bit more know-how, this may be just the event for you. Join Robert Ince for his popular online introduction to astrophotography using smartphones. Learn how to use your phone to capture the night skies, including the Milky Way, the moon and even aurora.

**The Moon and Your Shadow Thursday 15 February, 7 – 8pm, Newton in Bowland:** In the days just before it is full, the Moon can often be seen in the sky on sunny afternoons. Enjoy an evening talk in Bowland as Dr Charles Lee, F.R.A.S. demonstrates how to predict - using your shadow - when the moon will be exactly full and have fun seeing if you can work it out for yourself!

The above three events are free to attend but places need to be booked in advance: contact me using the details below.

**Dark Skies Family Drop-in Saturday 17 February, 2 – 4pm, Bentham:** Head to the Clubhouse at Bentham Golf Course to enjoy a dark skies session for families, free colouring sheets and activities will be available to help children appreciate the dark skies. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The Café Bar will be open to buy hot and cold drinks and snacks. (The Clubhouse is wheelchair accessible.) No need to book, but for further information please contact Bentham Golf Course on 015242 62455.

*Sandra Silk*  
[sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk) or 07973 923142



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Please note that the Museum of North Craven Life is closed until Easter 2024 for essential building works



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## Church news

### John's Notes: Practicing Peace in Palestine and here

It was noticeable how many people came to our services and events over Christmas, more than for quite some years. Was this a sign of a resurgent desire for getting-together with friends and family post-pandemic? I did also wonder if, after a bruising year in the world, people were being drawn by the ages-old message of 'peace on earth, goodwill to all,' beginning, of all places, in Palestine.

Whilst much violence has been done in the name of Christ over the centuries, and militarism is still sanctified by today's Church, there is also a strong tradition of pacifism in Christianity. Peace-making in the real world is complicated and messy: as the late Head of the British Army, General Sir Richard Dannatt has said, 'Neither brute violence nor naïve forms of pacifism on their own can tackle the toughest issues of our times. We must cultivate empathy with something far bigger than ourselves, something bigger and deeper than we can imagine or rationalise for ourselves.'

I've been sharing with congregations what many have been doing throughout the decades-long conflict in Palestine. *The Parents' Circle Families Forum*, comprised of Israelis and Palestinians who have lost children, or family members, in the ongoing violence, continue to come together 'to do the slow, deep, necessary work of talking, listening and building relationships - in order to get to know the personal and national narrative of the 'other' as an important step on the way to reconciliation'.

In Jerusalem and Haifa, Jaffa and Kfar Saba, in Wadi Ara and Galilee, the *Hand in Hand Schools* teach Israeli and Arab pupils together, studying in both Hebrew and Arabic in classrooms where two teachers - one Arab, and one Jewish - each teach in their mother tongue, developing bilingualism, immersing students in the stories, songs, and symbols of the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian traditions.

All work of this kind requires courage and commitment and will often begin with a change of heart. The Northern Irish Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mairead Corrigan Maguire said that 'The spirit of nonviolence begins within us and moves out from there. As our hearts are disarmed by God of our inner violence, they become God's instruments for the disarmament of the world.'

My friend Joe Campbell, who for years worked as a mediator in Northern Ireland's conflicts, says that 'Jesus invites us to pray for enemies. Usually, we pray that the other person will change, and usually over time they do. But I understand Jesus to mean also to pray about my attitude towards them, asking for grace and strength every day to love more and more.'

Peace on earth, goodwill to all - the One born in Bethlehem, and others there today, show us the way this can be done, how *peace on earth starts within*. In 2024, peace is possible; it's in our power and in our hands to fulfil it. *Shalom!*

Revd John Davies  
01524 805928  
[john.davies@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:john.davies@leeds.anglican.org)

### Anglican services

Revd John and Methodist minister Revd Tim are introducing 'Easy Evening Church' at Newby Chapel, a very accessible gathering for conversation, music and a little prayer, particularly open to those less familiar - or less comfortable - with more formal kinds of church service. Everyone is welcome, do come along 4 Feb & 3 March. Our morning Easy Church services (Clapham) continue on 18 Feb & 17 March, and don't miss our ever-popular Pancake Praise at Keasden at 2pm on 25 February.

#### February

**4th:** Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Easy Evening Church

**11th:** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden (both led by Revd Steve Rathbone)

**18th:** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 9.30 Eldroth (Revd Mark Evans); 11.00 Clapham Easy Church

**25th:** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 2.00 Keasden Pancake Praise

#### March

**3rd:** Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 9.30 Austwick (TBC); 11.00 Clapham: 6.30 Newby Easy Evening Church

**10th:** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Keasden; 7.00 Clapham New Inn Church in the Pub (TBC)

**17th:** 9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Taizé Service

**24th: Palm Sunday** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 7.00 Keasden Evening Service

**28th: Maundy Thursday** 6.30 Eldroth Last Supper

**29th: Good Friday** 2.00 Austwick Good Friday Devotions

**31st: Easter Day** Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 9.30 Eldroth (TBC); 11.00 Clapham; 4.00 Keasden Short Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt

**Each Wednesday:** 10.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer).

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### 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](mailto:tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk)

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### Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

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

For further details on all activities see: [www.bethelchapelclapham.org](http://www.bethelchapelclapham.org) or follow us on Facebook.

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### 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](mailto:stboniface@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

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# Cave Rescue Organisation (CRO) - review of 2023



Another attempt to escape from its peasant farmer fails and a lamb is returned to daylight following a spell in Fife Pot on Newby Moss. Photo: CRO

The wet end to the year reduced visitor activity and, thus, the number of incidents team members were called to deal with – only four in November/December. As a result, totals were down a little on the previous two years at 89 incidents, plus 13 ‘alerts’ (dealt with by the duty controller without a team call-out) and 8 occasions where our dog-handler (and search dog) went to assist other teams with searches for missing people.

People see the name and assume, wrongly, that we go only to the aid of cavers, underground. Indeed, only two of the four underground calls in the year were actually to cavers – two groups, totalling ten people, who were overdue in the Three Counties system, beneath Casterton Fell. The other two were a visitor who didn’t heed the sign warning those with a heart condition that part of White Scar Cave is strenuous, and a walker who went too close to the edge while taking a photograph of Hull Pot. Team members arrived at Hull Pot just in time to dissuade an air ambulance paramedic from requesting a helicopter with a winch when the team could haul him to safety relatively easily.

On the surface, the 67 ‘Mountain’ incidents involved 33 walkers who had slipped, tripped or fallen, 17 who were lost or reported overdue, 12 experiencing medical difficulties or events (three fatal) and 10 who were exhausted, cold or possibly hypothermic. There were also 4 climbers (one fatal), 3 fell-runners, a farm worker, a caver on the surface, a paragliding pilot and a cyclist who crashed over a wall. The least seriously injured walker in need of rescue had broken or dislocated a finger, whilst the most curious was a fall from behind the waterfall at Thornton Force while taking a selfie.

There were 8 ‘Local’ incidents – using members’ skills/equipment to assist the Police or Ambulance Service. These involved supporting YAS paramedics following the report of a worker collapsing at a farm building, going to the aid

of a couple whose car was stuck in snow, and searching for - or recovering - people believed to be at risk. Sadly, 3 of these had proved fatal. Although CRO has a trained and equipped water rescue team and has access to divers, neither was deployed ‘in anger’ over the year.

Humans are not CRO’s only ‘clients’. During the year, 10 sheep and lambs were rescued from potholes, rock ledges, a bog or a culvert, while a Dobermann went lame on a Three Peaks attempt, and a Border Collie fell from the top of Giggleswick Quarry. Sadly, it did not survive.

While the great majority of team members’ time is spent on rescues, training and equipment maintenance, CRO’s constitution includes an element of safety promotion. This is done through our annual incident report – Rescue ’24 – which should be available from the rack on our Depot wall in mid-March - or through our Facebook page and our website – [www.cro.org.uk](http://www.cro.org.uk) – which carry safety cartoons, a link to our brief YouTube videos and other educational material as well as incident reports from several years.

We would like to thank our neighbours for their tolerance, and everyone who has supported CRO over the year, in whatever way. We are particularly grateful to participants in the Ingleborough Challenge (this year’s race is on 18th May) which raised over £7,000, and to customers and management of Booth’s supermarket, in Settle, who contributed over £800 just before Christmas.

If anyone is interested in looking round ‘the Depot’ but hasn’t done so, please drop in for a tour and chat on one of our monthly equipment mornings – Saturdays 10th February, 9th March, 6th April, 4th May, 8th June, 6th July.

*Rae Lonsdale, a duty controller  
rae.lonsdale@members.cro.org.uk*

## Vicar to stay in the benefice

You may have already heard that Leeds Diocesan Property Department are purchasing a property to be the next parsonage house for our benefice. It is Beckfield House, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham. It is a modern house which John and Ann Norris have cared for so well, and will serve us, and future incumbents and their families, very well.

Whilst keeping our Austwick relationships strong, Diana and I will enjoy settling into a new Clapham life. Coming a good few years before I retire, it’s also a perfect opportunity to assess and (where needed) re-boot my ministry across the four parishes of our benefice.

When will we be moving? I’ll tell you when I find out! Meanwhile, I’m glad to say, that wherever in the benefice you or I live, I continue to serve as your vicar.

*Revd John Davies*

## Christmas greenery

We would like to thank neighbours and visitors for taking away our holly and bay pruning debris from Riverside during the run up to Christmas, and for generously leaving donations in the honesty bottle. We have sent over £50 to Christian Aid.

*Chris & Jessica Hart*



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**Saturday 23rd March, 3.30pm**  
Settle Parish Church

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Overture, 'Der Freischütz'

**Elgar**  
Cello Concerto in E minor  
Soloist - **Bob Buller**

**Grieg**  
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Conductor - **Maca Barbosa**  
Leader - **Anne Heaton**

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**Available from:** Forage and Feast, Settle: Bentham P O:  
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Reg. charity 1025554

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Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)  
The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)  
Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS)  
Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)

Refreshments available

Mon 5 Feb, 7-9pm	Hawes Market House, DL8 3Q
Weds 7 Feb, 7-9pm	Reeth Memorial Hall, DL11 6C A Tees-Swale Naturally Connected programme event
Mon 12 Feb, 7-9pm	Orton Market Hall, CA10 3R
Fri 16 Feb, 7-9pm	Sedbergh Peoples Hall, LA10 5D
Tue 27 Feb, 7-9pm	North Ribblesdale Rugby Club, Settle BD24 9RB (Bar available)

If you are unable to make one of these dates please get in touch with us, online meetings or 1:1 assistance can be arranged.

**Booking strongly advised.**

[farming@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:farming@yorkshiredales.org.uk)  
01756 751620 or 07979 151801

 YORKSHIRE DALES National Park

[www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/farm-events](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/farm-events)

## Parish Council news

The Council met on the evening of **13th December** with a representative from the Clapham Sustainability Group and a further 3 members of the public present.

Cllr Farrer reported back on the meeting held to discuss the potential Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) on Cragg Lane, Keasden held with Beth Brown from North Yorkshire Council. The route from the Common to the Woods has historically been recorded as a Highway and as such that is how it is recorded now. A suggestion from the Forest of Bowland is that if a BOAT is declared it may be possible to put in place a restriction that would prohibit motorised traffic. The Clerk subsequently contacted Natural England to see if the amount of peat on the moor and also the sphagnum moss could enable it to be classified as an SSSI (a Site of Special Scientific Interest), but the process to obtain such a classification makes this an impractical solution.

Cllr Farrer had also heard unofficially that the Thwaite Lane application appears to have significant errors in it which may well lead to it not being declared a BOAT. This was unearthed by the work that Peter Gould from Austwick had undertaken.

Ann Stewart updated the Council on the maintenance matters that she had been undertaking around the village and the Council wished to minute their thanks to Ann for all her efforts which are hugely appreciated.

Regarding the Emergency Plan Cllr Elphinstone advised that from 2025 all new mobile phone handsets would have the ability to place satellite-based calls to the emergency services. Cllrs Elphinstone and Sheridan were tasked with investigating what options may be available for the village in the interim given that the investment to improve the mobile phone signal would now be unlikely.

The Sustainability Group advised that they had been awarded 2 grants. The first from the Shared Prosperity Fund will fund a feasibility study of the review of insulation and shared energy usage. The second from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) is for the Curlew project and will be used to help recompense farmers who leave nest sites undisturbed and to fund an art project in schools and countryside museums.

The Council minuted its thanks to the individuals who were involved with the Neighbourhood Plan throughout the process; Cllr Sheridan, Anne-Marie Bond, Jill Gates, James Innerdale, Rob Klottrup and Ken Pearce. Those individuals also had personal letters of thanks signed by the Chairman delivered following the meeting.

The Council met on the evening of **17th January** with a representative from the Sustainability Group and 1 member of the public present (on a particularly inclement evening).

On the back of the weather that we had been experiencing the issues of potholes and gritting in general were discussed and the Clerk was tasked with requesting that a full review of gritting in the area be undertaken by North Yorkshire Council and also that Keasden Road between the crossroads and Clapham Station should potentially be resurfaced since the ever increasing number of potholes appears to be a battle that is currently being lost.

The Council had also that day received notification that North Yorkshire had made the modification order to make Cragg Lane a Byway Open to All Traffic, the date for any representations or objections being 7th March 2024. The Public Notice is posted on the notice board at Clapham Station and copies of that and the order and map are available from the Clerk (contact details below).

Both the Council and Sustainability Group had received notification of the latest Home Upgrade Grants available (see advert on p17) and are urging eligible households to apply. The Sustainability Group also has an infra-red camera available for individuals to borrow to understand the insulation of their properties.

The proposed sale of Ingleborough Hall by Bradford Council was discussed, and the Clerk will be making representations against the proposal on the consultation site. Should any other parishioners wish to contribute to the consultation process the deadline is 17th February 2024 and the routes to do so can be seen via the following link; [https://bit.ly/Ingleborough\\_Hall](https://bit.ly/Ingleborough_Hall)

Discussions continue regarding the potential to lease land to enable a tree nursery to be sited adjacent to the allotments in the village. Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions no representatives of YDMT (which has the funding for the project) were able to attend the meeting and as such a final decision on the Council's potential involvement will be made at the February meeting.

*Steve Culver*

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For further information about the Parish Council and full meeting minutes, please visit: <https://bit.ly/parish-council>

Parish Council meetings are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in Clapham Village Hall. The next meetings will be **Wednesday 21st February and Wednesday 20th March**.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Steve Culver can be contacted on: Tel. 015242 51862 or by email to [parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com)

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## Ingleborough Hall

Ingleborough Hall faces possible closure amid Bradford Council budget cuts. The Council, managing a significant deficit, contemplates selling the facility, affecting 80 schools and over 4,000 annual child visitors.

Many of these youngsters have little knowledge of the countryside so educating them in its amenity and value - and demonstrating responsible use - are important considerations. The centre offers diverse activities, including caving and tree climbing.

Residents are encouraged by campaigners to participate in the ongoing consultation before 17th February 2024, expressing concerns about the closure's impact on the community. Letters of support to key figures, such as MP Julian Smith and Bradford City Council Leader Susan Hinchcliffe, are suggested.

Consultation link: [https://bit.ly/Ingleborough\\_Hall](https://bit.ly/Ingleborough_Hall)

## Clapham Curlew Cluster

In response to the severe decline in curlews the Clapham Sustainability Group organised a meeting 2 years ago with farmers, landowners and the RSPB in Newby Chapel, followed by a public meeting in Clapham village hall. From these meetings the Clapham Curlew Cluster was formed with 18 volunteers working with the RSPB to do wader surveys on 12 farms in 2022 and 2023.

In 2023, we had an estimated 48 breeding pairs (up from 33 in 2022) but the number of nests found was still low. For the first time in 2023, we had cameras placed on 9 curlew nests across 4 farms to better understand hatching success. Out of the 9 curlew nests monitored, 8 hatched successfully with the 9th being predated by a carrion crow. However, this does not give us the complete picture as ascertaining the number of chicks fledged is very challenging.

In October 2023, the Clapham Sustainability Group successfully applied for a grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to support the work of the Cluster in data collection, nest protection, education and establishing a touring exhibition.

Thanks to this grant we will have nest protection payments for the farms in the Cluster for the 2024 breeding season. Where curlew nests are found in meadows which are due to be mown, the grant will provide farmers with a one-off payment of £500 to leave one acre unmown around the nest. This will be monitored by the volunteers and RSPB but will be farmer led as to whether they wish to take this payment option. The YDMT grant will also fund additional nest monitoring cameras.



Supported by the YDMT grant, in June 2023 an educational day for Settle and Kirkby Malham Primary Schools was arranged by the Cluster and the charity, Curlew Action, at Hill Top Farm, Malham. The children were joined by artists and learnt how they farm in a curlew-friendly way. A day of creativity at each school followed the visit – they were taught how to felt and created a “Curlew landscape”. They also created posters, paintings and poems. This wonderful work is now being made into an accessible format for a travelling exhibition – the first of which will be at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, from 1st February to 11th April 2024 as part of their exhibition “Cry of the Curlew”. This will be followed by exhibitions in Kirkby Malham Church and St James Church, Clapham in May 2024. As part of the exhibition, a short video has been produced with Colin Price at Long Bank Farm and Will Dawson at Bleak Bank Farm to ensure the farmers have their voices heard.

In 2024 at least another 3 farms will join the project, and due to this increase we need more volunteers. Training and support will be given. If you are interested in learning more or in joining please contact either Hilary McGuire Conservation Advisor at the RSPB via this link – [https://bit.ly/FoB\\_Waders](https://bit.ly/FoB_Waders) or Helen Orme (local RSPB volunteer co-ordinator and member of the Clapham Sustainability Group) [helenorme23@gmail.com](mailto:helenorme23@gmail.com)

*Sarah Smith, Clapham Curlew Cluster;  
Clapham Sustainability Group*

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## Clapham Sustainability Group - amazing swifts

**New village swift group to be launched on Thursday 29th February 2024 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**



Swifts are incredible birds. These iconic and much-loved masters of the summer skies delight us with their acrobatic flying and exhilarating screaming parties that hurtle around the rooftops of our towns and villages.

Tanya and Edmund Hoare, who are coming to give the talk, are especially keen to share their enthusiasm for swifts as they have a colony of 34 pairs breeding in their cottage in Cumbria. Since installing cameras in their nest sites and studying them for over 20 years they have become experts on the life style of these amazing birds. Swifts are in serious decline and have now, sadly, been added to the red list of birds of greatest conservation concern.

With video clips from the nests to illustrate all aspects of swift behaviour, they will explain how these birds spend their life on the wing. The latest findings on their remarkable migration will be described, proving them to be the world record breakers for non-stop flight. Most importantly, the threats that swifts face, the reasons for the serious decline and what we can do to help will be discussed.

Tanya and Edmund are passionate about raising awareness of swifts. They set up Sedbergh Community Swifts group several years ago to help preserve swifts in the area, including initiatives at the school, community centre and church. They are active in both the National and International Swift Networks which are great forums for keeping up to date with all the latest research and activities.

Do come and hear Tanya and Edmund and take part in this new village initiative.

*Helen Orme*

## Nature notes

*There's no such thing as bad weather – only unsuitable clothing...*

Surely only the most fervent of Alfred Wainwright's followers can still be in agreement with him after the meteorological roller coaster we have endured so far this winter. In the north of England, December 2023 was the fourth wettest on record (since 1836!).

It was pretty dismal too, averaging less than one hour of sunshine each day. Admittedly, it was mild enough after the freezing first week but with three named storms and a succession of disruptive Atlantic fronts blowing our umbrellas inside out, it didn't always feel like it. The New Year saw the weather gods performing a sudden, shuddering u-turn: the wind dropped, grey skies cleared, and the



Now that's what I call a Round Robin.  
Photo: Brian Christian

rain turned to snow. Temperatures plummeted and every trip to the village shop became an audition for *Dancing on Ice*. And then we had storm Isha. Suitable clothing? You'd need your very own *Mountain Warehouse* to have the right kit for all the weather we've had hurled at us recently!

At least we can wrap up warm with a woolly scarf and an extra layer or two if temperatures drop. In truly arctic conditions we could even (heaven forbid!) turn up the thermostat. But how do all the birds we see around the village at this time of year cope with winter weather extremes?

The quick answer is that a lot of them don't. Despite their status as Christmas card favourites, 70% of our robins will die in their first winter. Food is scarce and robins are savagely territorial so those with least experience have a much lower chance of survival. A blue tit needs to consume about three hundred small invertebrates every day to stay alive – that's almost the equivalent of its own body weight. Imagine how much energy they have to expend foraging for all those insects and bugs in a cold snap. Many of them simply don't have the strength to keep it up. No wonder they are so appreciative of the fat-rich suet pellets and peanuts that we put out for them.

Fortunately, most birds have developed some useful attributes to help them deal with whatever winter chooses to throw at them. Like those Christmas card robins, many small birds will often look *rounder* - as if they too have over-indulged through the festive season. This is because the fluffy down below their main feathers can be puffed up to trap a layer of warm air around their bodies. On cold, bright blue-sky days you can often see them sitting quietly with their backs to the sun, their wings slightly spread, absorbing and trying to retain the warmth.

They might also be standing on one leg. Most birds have

bare legs and feet, and this is one simple way of reducing heat loss. It helps too that their scaly feet are mostly made up of tendons and bones with very little fluid or muscle tissue but there can be more to it than that. Have you ever wondered why a duck or a heron can stand on an icy pond without getting frost bite? It is because they have a counter-current

heat exchange system in their legs. The blood vessels have evolved in such a way that they are almost intertwined; those carrying warm arterial blood towards the feet are very close to those carrying cool blood in the opposite direction. This means that the warm blood is cooled before it reaches the feet. Significant heat loss between the foot and the ice would cause frost bite but the counter-current

system ensures that the temperature difference between foot and ice is always minimal: there is very little heat to lose.

With approximately eleven million pairs, the most common bird in the UK – and one of the smallest – is especially vulnerable to very cold or wet winters. It is hardly surprising then that the wren has come up with its own survival strategy. Usually fairly solitary, when temperatures drop a territorial male will suppress his antisocial instincts and actively seek out the company of others, calling them into a communal roost, often huddled tightly together in the most confined spaces. There is a record of 61 wrens roosting in a Norfolk nest box, packed in, one on top of the other like rows of sardines in a can. They tend to settle down when it gets dark and they leave before dawn so you may not know it but that old nest box in your garden just could be a bit of a *Tardis*! It might be worth checking tonight.

If you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, please send me an email or drop a note into 2 Eggshell Lane or simply stop and chat if you see me around the village. Photographs are always welcome, and I will do my best to use any that are sent in to me.

Brian Christian  
bc.riverside28@gmail.com

## Keasden rainfall report

	2022	2023
November	13½" or 34.29cm	11¼" or 28.575cm
December	9¼" or 23.495cm	13¾" or 34.925cm
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>81½" or 2.063m</b>	<b>101¾" or 2.58m</b>



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T: 01729 824009

## Then and Now



With a new team in the Old Manor House – and a reversion to its earlier name – I thought we'd compare this lovely old painting with today's view from almost the same spot. The painting is by G. Towler, dates to 1882/3, and is in the collection of the Museum of North Craven Life in The Folly in Settle.

*Andy Scott*

## News from Friends of the Dales

**Online Talk: Breeding Waders of the Yorkshire Dales, Wednesday 21 February 4.30pm**

Ian Court, Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, will outline the status of the key upland breeding wader species and how important areas such as the Dales National Park are for them. He will also look at the current threats, detail the habitat requirements that waders need and summarise some of the conservation work that is being undertaken to protect them. Finally, insight will be offered into how the Authority's Nature Recovery Strategies will help to benefit a wide range of habitats and species including breeding waders.

Book this event at: [www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events](http://www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events)

You can also sign up for their free e-newsletter on the website homepage.

*Victoria Benn*

## Wordsearch

Here are the answers to the puzzle printed in the December 2023 issue.

ADVENT, ANGELS, BAH HUMBURG, BETHLEHEM, BAUBLES, BOXING DAY, CANDLELIGHT, CAROL SINGERS, CELEBRATION, CHESTNUTS, CHIMNEY, CHRISTINGLE, CRACKERS, EPIPHANY, FAIRY LIGHTS, FAMILY, FESTIVITY, FRANKINCENSE, GARLAND, GOODWILL, ICESKATING, ICICLE, JINGLE BELLS, MINCE PIES, MISTLETOE, NATIVITY, NUTCRACKER, POINSETTIA, PUDDING, REINDEER, SANTA CLAUS, SCROOGE, SILENT NIGHT, SLEIGH, SNOWMAN, STOCKING, TINSEL, TURKEY, WASSAILING, YULETIDE

*Angie Martin*

## An unusual ice formation



On Wednesday 17th January I switched on the head torch and went outside to empty the rain gauge, only half awake whilst the first mug of tea was brewing. This was in that very cold spell in the middle of the month. The contents of the gauge were frozen solid, with a strange projecting spike of ice.

My first thought was that one of the local children had stuffed an icicle in there as a joke the day before. Yet when I brought the gauge inside to thaw the contents, I noticed that the spike had a thin air channel down the middle. Icicles don't normally form like this, and the spike appeared to have "grown" upwards out of what would have been an icy mush the previous evening.

A bit of research and asking around produced the explanation. Such ice spikes aren't unknown, but they need very specific temperatures to form. As the water surface starts to freeze, it does so from the edge inwards. At a certain stage there is only a tiny unfrozen hole above the liquid beneath. Now water is unusual; unlike other liquids it expands as it cools from 4°C down to freezing point. (Ask anyone who suffered a burst pipe this winter!) This causes water to be extruded up through the hole in the surface layer of ice, where it then freezes too. If this continues it grows into a spike. The amazing thing is that this spike is absolutely straight. The rate of extrusion of water and then ice crystal formation must have been perfectly constant for some time. I've never had this happen in the 22 years I've been taking rainfall readings. So, there you go - life's always full of surprises!

*John Cordingley*

## Infra-red camera loan

Clapham Sustainability Group has a thermal imaging camera to lend as part of our aim to become as sustainable a community as we can. The camera was acquired through the generosity of a loan from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. We would like to offer the use of this amazing camera to every household in the community.

The camera connects wirelessly to a smart phone or tablet and through thermal imaging identifies areas where your home is losing heat and thus increasing your energy bills. You can see the places that most need attention and repairs. A maximum/minimum temperature will be recorded along with a specific temperature at a marker in the centre of the screen, and a colour range of the image, such as a door or window, for example.

If you are interested in borrowing the camera, please contact me.

*Jill Buckler,*  
Clapham Sustainability Group  
015242-51030  
or [jillbuckler@mac.com](mailto:jillbuckler@mac.com)

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This is a free service - users are exempt from all library charges, including fines and reservation fees.

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## The Old Manor House



Happy New Year from 'The Old Manor House'. A warm welcome awaits you in our new bar on Church Avenue in Clapham village. At 'The Old Manor House' you can warm up and enjoy our roaring log fire, ideal for these chilly winter days. The bar has charm and character in abundance, the fireplace looks amazing in the candlelight - definitely a must see - and there is always a happy and friendly atmosphere.

With our friendly service we can offer you a variety of fine cask ales, lagers, wine, spirits and gins. We also have non-alcoholic beers and soft drinks. Come and take a look at our games room where you can have a game of pool, play darts, try your luck at space invaders or enjoy the eighties style juke box, all for your entertainment. Come in and give it a go. Please check us out on Facebook where you can find our opening times and future events.

*Steve, Elaine and Tog*



## Participatory Musical Activities Group

*Village Hall, 7pm, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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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## Steam update

Whilst we get very little in the way of “steam train action” at this time of the year, news has just broken which has the potential to affect steam excursions in and around our area – and much further afield - in the months ahead.



*A train comprising some of WCR's now-banned stock passes Lawings Brow. How long before we see maroon-liveried Mark-1 carriages heading through Clapham again? Photo: RailAdvent*

It comes from a ban imposed on our local operator, Carnforth-based West Coast Railways (WCR), regarding the passenger coaches they use for trips. Many of the passengers who book on tours want the full experience of travel of yesteryear, so as well as a steam engine at the front, they also want the older-style of coach – corridors and compartments, plush upholstered seats, and windows you can open for the sound and smell. But these coaches typically have the old-style of doors – hinged ones which can be opened by pulling down the window and turning the door handle. And those sorts of door have been banned on the mainline network since the late 1990's, so anyone wishing to use such coaches has had to have been issued with an exemption certificate. WCR railways have just had their exemption certificate revoked, with immediate effect, which means that they will be unable to use much of their stock of heritage coaches.

The issue relates not to the doors themselves but the way in which they are locked. The requirement is that all of a train's doors must be fitted with a centralised locking mechanism controlled by one of the train crew – just as the guards operate the door lock for the service trains which pass through Clapham every day. No passenger should be able to open a door without it having been centrally unlocked, particularly when a train is moving. It is possible to retrofit this sort of system into heritage coaches, and to do so without affecting the overall aesthetic, but it is a costly job. It's understood that other heritage stock operators have managed to do this, but WCR have been dragging their feet despite having had over 20 years to do the work. My own take is that it is good to see steam trains passing through Clapham or on the Settle and Carlisle line, and I hope that WCR see this as a wake up call to get their carriage stock up to standard. By the time you read this, the first steamer on the Settle and Carlisle of the new season – on 27th January – is expected to have run with blue and grey stock provided by Riviera Trains, instead of the usual WCR maroon, behind Carnforth-based 34067 Tangmere.

*Andy Scott*

## Dancing shoes not compulsory

Clapham Cum Newby Village Hall Presents

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For further information contact Anne 07990 633465  
All profits go to Clapham Cum Newby Village Hall

Doors Open 7pm, Starts at 7:30pm

Your dancing shoes are not compulsory, just tap your feet along with the beat!

Join us for our Fiesta evening on **Saturday 2nd March from 7.30 pm onwards**. A great evening of Latin inspired entertainment complete with live music performed by the fantastic Mamba Rumba, a Yorkshire based Latin, Salsa and Jazz Duo. With rhythmic and upbeat music, a great evening is guaranteed! With music to suit all ages, this is a new fundraising event, with all profits going to Clapham cum Newby Village Hall. The bar will be open, so come along and join the fun!

Tickets are limited, so don't delay, get yours today! Available from Clapham Village Store, at £10 each, cash only please.

Our Friday evening Salsa lessons are really enjoyable and apart from the social aspect, it's a great way to keep fit! If you are interested in joining the next salsa beginners' course, please let me know as we have a small waiting list. The new course will be commencing after Easter.

*Anne Lawler, 07990 633465*



**April 2024 edition**

**Deadline date: 20 March**

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## The best laid schemes

It was Robbie Burns who said that “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft a-gley”. He wrote those words in 1786, a few years after just such a scheme was launched here in Clapham, only to go truly ‘a-gley’ (awry).

In Britain, the second half of the 18th century became known as ‘the Canal Age’. The Aire-Calder Navigation Act of 1699 was intended to improve transport and trade in our area. The Navigation canal opened in 1705 but lacked the vital link between Bingley and Skipton to bring us coal and to take away the abundant local lime. In 1744 improvements to river navigation between the two towns were blocked by the Earl of Thanet, who owned quarries in the Skipton area. In 1764, John Stanhope from Bradford planned a canal connecting Leeds and Liverpool, thus circumventing the Earl’s

blockade. Work on the canal began in 1768 and, in 1770, an extension to Settle was proposed, but was thwarted by the opposition of wealthy Settle landowners, including Mr. Birkbeck of Anley. Later in the 1770s an extension to Gargrave was dug and in 1777 a branch to Grassington.

Despite the earlier opposition and perhaps encouraged by these two extensions, in 1780 a plan was prepared for an extension from Settle to Park Foot near Ingleton on the River Greta. The plan survives, showing that the canal would have passed right through the middle of Clapham. It was prepared by R. Dickinson, showing a total of 19 locks and marking the approximate location of some of the intended cargoes – lime, slate, ‘coals’, flagstone and gritstone.

No more seems to have been heard of this canal. The Leeds to Liverpool canal thrived but the Settle to Park Foot extension never saw the light of day. Was it quashed by vested interests? Perhaps so.

The story of coal in our area has also been disappointing. Coal had been mined near Ingleton from the early 17th century and the Ingleton coalfield later proved to be 6 miles by 4 miles in extent, mostly in the parish of Ingleton but extending into Burton and Thornton.

On 5 May 1810, Mr. Fletcher wrote to Mr. W. Carr at ‘Clapham Castle’ (the former manor house at Clapdale) saying that one Richard Hayhurst proposed to start a ‘Newby coal mine’. He had been granted the right to search and mine, rent free, for 3 years though he was obliged to make quarterly payments of 1/7th of his proceeds. His lease further specified that if he were to find sufficient coal, he had to work it for 21 years, paying a rent of £20 a year. If 1/7th of his proceeds exceeded £20 a year, then his rent was to be more.

On 18 April 1825 it was reported that there was also boring for coal in Keasden, where a seam 12 inch thick had been found. The prospector (Richard Hayhurst?) offered to search for coal on Newby Moor or to try higher up Keasden Beck.

New Ingleton Colliery was worked until 1936 and abandoned in 1940, but nothing more was heard of

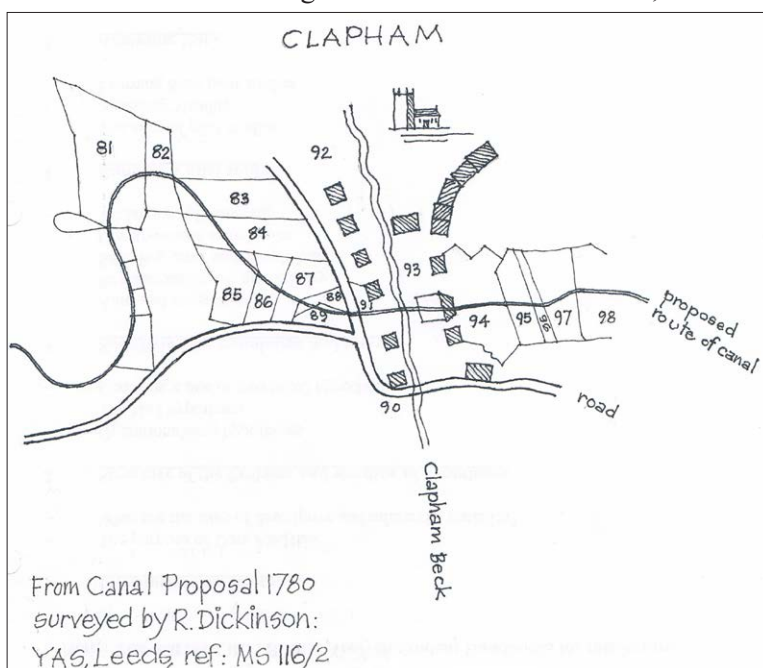
Clapham coal after 1825. Nevertheless, other schemes were planned.

On 28 February 1914, Clapham Parish Council wrote to Claude Barton, the Farrers’ local agent, referring to “the golf links taken off Lodge Bank (farm)”. On 5 March Barton responded, insisting that no land had been taken from Lodge Bank for a golf links. Yet there survives a faded plan which does indeed show a golf course lying between Lowstern Plantation, the Flying Horse Shoe Hotel (now Farrer Lodge) and

Nutta Farm. It would have covered parts of 7 fields. The plan includes 9 holes numbered in red and 18 holes numbered in black. No clubhouse is shown. This scheme too seems to have died – no further record of it has come to light.

Another plan which failed to reach fruition was the airstrip proposed for Newby Moor in 1977. On 21 June, Mr. Fairclough from Ingleton reported to a meeting of Clapham Parish Council that a landing strip was being considered, to be constructed on Newby Moor. During discussion it was claimed that such a facility would be useful for passenger flights and for farmers crop spraying. On 23 February 1978, a planning application for a “Landing strip for light aircraft” was submitted to Craven District Council by the Farmers Trading Company of Ingleton. The location of the proposed airfield was given as north of Upper Hardacre and south of the Clapham to Bentham road, together with a precise grid reference. At a Parish Council meeting on 7 March 1978, the matter was discussed again, and it was decided that the Council would not support the application. On 9 May they decided to write to Mr. Fairclough telling him of that decision. The Council meeting of 18 July noted that the Air Ministry had designated Newby Moor as a ‘low flying area’ and on 25 May 1979 formal notification was given that planning application no.5/18/63 had been refused following many objections.

The Farmers Trading Company lodged an appeal against that refusal on 23 November but then, on 23 July 1980, withdrew their appeal. There seems to have been no further mention of the scheme since that date. Even the best laid plans gang aft a-gley.



Ken Pearce

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## Village hall news

We were all very sad and shocked to hear of the passing of Kathy Hall who was a hard-working member of the team and a trustee of the hall up to the very end. She will be truly missed for her contribution and commitment over the years to our community. We are very grateful to her family for arranging for the hall to be the recipient of the donations made at her funeral. They came to in excess of £700 and the committee is hoping to spend the money on something meaningful that Kathy would have liked. Our thoughts are with her family – and with other friends and neighbours who have lost those dear to them over the past few weeks.

Even though the winter seems dark and never ending, we try and make the most of each day and it is encouraging to see our community making good use of the hall. As well as our regular groups, we continue to see an increase in private hirers using the facilities. At the time of writing, we've already had bookings for nearly a third of all the possible sessions for 2024. The new booking system is up and running fully now and helping seriously reduce the workload of those who handle bookings and payments. Feedback received so far has been very favourable and we'd like to thank all those who have embraced the change, even though technology can be a bit daunting for some. Thank you!



Many thanks also to those who supported us for our Siren and Strings concert on Friday 19th. We had an enjoyable evening listening to the band who played a mix of well-known and less familiar covers from the 60's onwards. This was a new type of event for the village hall which had us clapping for more. Siren and Strings played to a full house, giving us an evening of joyful entertainment including some pretty impressive saxophone playing. The audience even drank the bar dry of beer! Our next hall fundraising event will be another featuring live music – this time that of the Caribbean. We will be hosting a ¡Fiesta! on Saturday March 2nd starring Latin band Mama Rumba – an event to celebrate the arrival of spring! Salsa, mambo, rumba, bachata, kizomba, tango and plena – we'll have it all! Look out for the posters for this – see advert on p19 - and tickets will be available shortly.

*Angie Martin*  
Hall Secretary  
[claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:claphamcumnewbyvillagehall@gmail.com)

## Village hall regular events

### Indoor Bowls

Mondays 1.30 - 4pm

David and Jackie Kingsley

015242 51240 / [jackieanddavid@yahoo.com](mailto:jackieanddavid@yahoo.com)

### Clapham & Austwick Guides & Brownies

Mondays 6 - 7pm Brownies and Guides

Karen Fielding

07748 164409

[claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com](mailto:claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com)

### Age UK

Wednesdays 10.30am (1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the month)

Brenda Pearce

015242 51816 / [kenpearcela2@gmail.com](mailto:kenpearcela2@gmail.com)

### Clapham Art Group

Wednesdays (mornings)

Linda Clemence

01729 823767 /

[linda.clemence@googlemail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com)

### Tai Chi

Thursdays 9 - 10.30am

Tony Bennet

[taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com](mailto:taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com)

### Craft & Chat

Thursdays 2 - 4pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of the month)

Angie Martin

015242 51749 / [angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk)

### Sustainability Group

Thursdays 7.30pm onwards

(2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday bi-monthly – March, May etc.)

Jill Buckler

[jillbuckler@mac.com](mailto:jillbuckler@mac.com)

### Board Games Group

Fridays 2 - 5pm (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fri of the month)

Jackie Kingsley

015242 51240 / [jackieanddavid@yahoo.com](mailto:jackieanddavid@yahoo.com)

For more details of the above, and for the latest on other events in the hall, please visit:

[claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk](http://claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk)

## Café life

It's 20 months since The Sawmill Café opened its doors and we can safely say that there is no such thing as a "typical day". Anyone who has been in the business will know that the only predictable thing about hospitality is its unpredictability. On cold and wet "Day A", everyone decides to stay at home, and we end up cleaning behind the fridges. On cold and wet "Day B" everyone decides they have cabin fever and what a good idea it would be to go out to lunch ... the café is packed. Extra staff come running from all directions (luckily a number of the staff are very good runners!). There is no rhyme nor reason.

Trials of different offerings are equally unpredictable and confirm that everyone's taste buds are unique. Customer A likes the new chips, Customer B prefers the old chips, Customer C doesn't like chips (but usually eats them from the plates of customers A and B). Our bakers produce an endless supply of delicious offerings to suit every tastebud and even the dogs now have their own menu.

Many of our visitors comment on how much they enjoy the "heritage" nature of the café with its history and array of extraordinary saw blades and tools. Many also comment on the sound of laughter in the café; the fact that staff seem to be enjoying what they do. There are the occasional tears too - because, sometimes, whatever you do will never be enough and, sometimes, whatever you do, things still don't work out quite right. Until the "AI bots" take over, we all remain human, and our staff work incredibly hard, care very much

about the reputation of the café and look after the customers and each other.

We now have a well-established senior team that has remained constant and loyal throughout and forms the backbone of the business.

Our customers are also brilliant (on the whole!) and our younger staff are excellent at "celebrity watching". Unfortunately, even when excited whispering out the back tells us that someone very famous is drinking coffee on Table 3, most of us still look blank, both about the name and the TV programme in question! Probably a good thing as no one really wants to be recognised on a day out in Clapham.

We have all learned new skills and gained new qualifications. We have navigated faulty equipment, power cuts, mud beyond belief, snow and ice and visitations from a chicken (probably famous, maybe from "Chicken Run"?) and a very determined (not to leave) robin.

We've also enjoyed our visits from the Batty Moss Buskers who have livened up many a lunch time.

Our upstairs events have been a very welcome addition to Sawmill life. Art Exhibitions have proved particularly popular along with stargazing evenings, business meetings and private celebrations - the space seeming to lend

itself well to a variety of purposes. We are always open to new suggestions.

Above all, thank you for the local support and to everyone who has contributed to life at the café.

*The Sawmill Café Team*

