



Number 148, April 2024

In memory of Ruth Woodhouse

Ruth Anne Nelson, the second daughter of John and Marion, was born on 24th June 1972 in Watford, London. She had an elder sister, Helen. When Ruth was three years old, the family returned to their native Cumbria, to live in Kendal. The girls attended Heron Hill Primary School and then Kirkbie Kendal Secondary School.

The family rented a parcel of land to keep goats, which the girls milked by hand, with surplus milk being sold. They also exhibited their goats at some local shows, with notable success. Because of Ruth's love of animals, and while still at school, she did an agricultural day release course intending to find a job or career working with animals, possibly as a veterinary nurse. But her careers officer noted that Ruth had excelled in art, and so pointed her towards a vacancy for an apprentice florist in Kendal. She studied at Newton Rigg College, near Penrith, and over the years, with experience became extremely accomplished in her profession.

Throughout her life, church and her own personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ as her Saviour were most important to Ruth. She was involved with church youth fellowships in Kendal and travelled further afield to attend various meetings. And it was because of this that Ruth crossed paths with a very shy young man called Alan. They began going out, then broke up, but 18 months later got back together, and were engaged after just three weeks. Ruth and Alan were married at St. Thomas' Church, Kendal, on 16th May 1998.



They began married life living first at number 8, then number 1, Flying Horseshoe Cottages at Clapham Station, where their children, Emily in January 2001, Nelson in March 2002 and Wadeson in March 2004, were born. In 2006, Alan's parents retired from farming, so swapped houses, with Alan, Ruth and their family now living at Watson House farm, Keasden. Since 2017, the family have lived at Crummack Farm, Austwick. Throughout their married life Alan and Ruth attended the Bethel Chapel, Clapham.

Ruth had continued her floristry part time whilst raising her young family, but when Wadeson started at Clapham Primary School, Ruth got a teaching assistant job there. During the following years, she also worked at Horton, Bentham and Austwick Primary Schools. She very much enjoyed her time in these schools where she was loved by the children, and she was appreciated by her colleagues.

About 15 years ago, Ruth's Dad became involved with a Christian organisation called Prison Fellowship, and because of this, Ruth also got involved. She went with her Dad into different prisons in the North West, one day a week for six weeks, teaching a course which aimed to get prisoners to own up to their crimes and realise the harm they had caused, and also to then encourage them to make a fresh start and make right choices in the future. Ruth, along with the help of others, organised the buying, wrapping and

Continued on p3

Welcome and newsletter information

Welcome to the April edition of the Clapham and district newsletter.

This edition is filled with local news which we hope is interesting and useful. There are many upcoming events and activities so be sure to mark these dates in your diaries and please give them your support.

We thank all those who have contributed articles, pictures and advertisements to this spring edition.

We hope everyone enjoys reading them.

The Newsletter Committee



June 2024 edition

Deadline date: 20 May

Email: claphamnewsletter@gmail.com

Editions are produced February, April, June, August, October & December. Next issue: **June 2024. Deadline: 20 May.** Please note that we reserve the right to edit copy, or to refuse to publish submissions, and that the Newsletter Committee's decision on such matters is final.

Articles

Articles 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 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

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.

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

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Here we go again

Despite those in authority telling me otherwise, I have always considered the start of April as the beginning of spring. March can be a moody and bad-tempered month, a bit like a politician who has just lost a by-election or a shepherd in the lambing season.

I consider the changeover from March to April to be the handover from the despair of winter to the (slightly warmer) despair of spring. I think it has something to do with primroses, curlews and the onset of the chaos and carnage of the lambing season.

The Toblerones are on standby, the quad bike has been serviced, the collie dogs have had a strict talking to, the emergency ward (strictly no bed blocking) is on standby in the barn and the medicine cupboard is packed full of stuff that makes no difference to anything apart from the vet's skiing fund. I also explain to the sheep their own responsibilities during the forthcoming battle and point out that not all of us will make it out alive, but they can rely entirely on the shepherd doing his absolute best at all times.

The sheep have had a wet winter which can take its toll on their body condition as well as that of the shepherd. So, like the shepherd, they are hoping for a few dry weeks during which the lambing season can get a rattle on. There is no better job on the family farm than working in the totally chaotic lambing fields with just the faintest hint of sunshine.

Getting enough sleep during lambing time is a challenge, especially as the shepherd doubles as the herdsman and many days blur into the next. I was always taught that sleep is a powerful thing because it gives back in strength what it takes in time.

Another saying for the lambing season is, "you can burn the candle at both ends but it will go out sooner."

Of course, once the chaos is over there is enormous satisfaction in a job well done with lots of little lambs and contented sheep enjoying life. Magic.

In order to avoid financial catastrophe, which is around every corner, we like to find something to sell as often as possible. For instance, we sell milk every other day and we are paid for this twice a month. This income is as close to a wage as the peasant farmer can expect. It is a regular monthly payment which is eagerly anticipated by both the peasant and the bank manager (remember them?). When the milk cheque hits the bank, as if by magic, the monthly direct debits leave and within days the overdraft is back to square one.

We are a livestock farm and part of our meagre income is producing animals for sale. For instance, we keep girl calves as replacements for the dairy herd, but the boys go to

market at Bentham, at the age of about two months, where they will be bought by farmers who will rear them for beef.

We had two calves at the mart a few days ago, and an elderly ewe, and it's a sign of the times that for three animals we had eight forms that went with them. It is well known in the agricultural world that you can forget to take the animals to the market, but you must never forget the paperwork.

The first trip to the market after lambing is a big event and might even involve changing well-worn socks. It is here, over coffee, that tales of woe and disaster are exchanged. They are sprinkled with the very occasional tiny triumph that means we may well do it again...

John Dawson



Photo: Karen Atkinson

Continued from p1 sending of Christmas presents to children on behalf of their parents who were in prison.

Ruth enjoyed sharing her home with others. Many have stayed in the spare room at Crummack, others have been well-fed at the dinner table, and all have been made welcome when they have visited.

Ruth passed away unexpectedly on 4th January. The family have received so many messages that have written about the kind, generous, bubbly, gorgeous, 'light-up-a-room' person that Ruth was. This was reflected by over 700 people attending her funeral at St. James' Church, Clapham.

We would like to thank all who have shown such love and care to us during these recent weeks.

Alan, Emily, Nelson and Wadeson Woodhouse



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Church news

John's Notes: a Via Dolorosa to the Recycling Centre

As I write I'm surrounded by packing boxes in Austwick Vicarage; by the time you read this our move to Beckfield House, Cross Haw Lane, will be well underway.

I won't labour the point about Easter being about fresh starts, new beginnings, but it adds a little poignancy to our move to be doing it in Easter Week. My *Via Dolorosa* involves lugging wardrobes and mattresses into the Recycling Centre skips: we've moved quite a few times in our lives, so ought to be used to it, but it gets no easier, physically, as time goes on, particularly for a tiny weakling like me. Anyway, it will be good to start to settle into life in Clapham and Diana and I look forward to getting to know our new neighbours.

I'm hoping that we'll be able to keep our phone number so my contact details will now be:

*Revd John Davies
Beckfield House
Cross Haw Lane
Clapham*

*Lancaster, LA2 8DZ
01524 805928*

*john.davies@leeds.anglican.org
bit.ly/churches-clapham-austwick
bit.ly/johndavies-talks*

Anglican services

April

7th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 11.00 Clapham (both led by Revd Canon Ian Greenhalgh); 6.30 Newby Easy Evening Church (Revd Tim Broughton)

14th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick (Revd John Holford); 11.00 Keasden (Revd Canon Ian Greenhalgh)

21st: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

28th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion (Revd Heinz Toller); 6.00 Keasden Spring Saunter

May

5th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Eldroth; 9.30 Austwick (TBC); 11.00 Clapham; 6.30 Newby Easy Evening Church

12th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Keasden; 11.00 Austwick Parish Walk followed at 12.00 by short Pet Service and refreshments

19th Pentecost: Holy Communion 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church; 6.30 Eldroth Evening Prayer

26th: Holy Communion: 9.30 Austwick; 11.00 Clapham; 7.00 Keasden Lambing Service

Each Wednesday:

(except 3rd April and 10th April) 10.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

The five Ps evening



The '5 Ps' evening (Poetry, Prose, Pies, Peas and Puddings) has become something of a regular in the programme of activities put on by St. James' Church over the years – the first one probably took place

about 20 years ago. The event has provided the opportunity for writers both professional and amateur to read their own work and for 'performers' (amateur!) to take the floor to deliver works both serious and amusing.

This year's event in the village hall had an Irish theme, coming as it did on the day before Saint Patrick's Day. We were treated to readings from the likes of Seamus Heaney, George Bernard Shaw and W.B Yeats to make us feel very intellectual, and then items on Irish Philosophy (author unknown) and a poem called 'Ach, I Dunno' by Percy French to make us laugh (read in a very convincing Ulster accent!). Alongside these we enjoyed a selection of both serious and fun items which came from closer to home.

With the Pies, Peas and Puddings providing sustenance for intervals an enjoyable time was had by all.

Many thanks to all who entertained us with their readings, to Lorraine Wildman for officiating in the kitchen to produce an excellent supper, all those who brought along such delicious puds and to Liz Mason for putting the whole thing together.

Sue Mann

Methodist Church, The Green, Newby

Our services take place on the second Sundays of the month at 11am and the fourth Sundays at 2pm.

For further information contact:

Revd Tim Broughton, Tel: 01729 554006 or
Email: tim.broughton@methodist.org.uk

Bethel Chapel, Cross Haw Lane, Clapham

Usual Sunday services 11am & 6.30pm.

Junior Church 10am.

Prayer Meeting Mondays at 7.30pm.

Thursday Friends 4 April at 2pm.

Clapham tots Fridays at 9.30am.

Kmotion at 6pm & Encounter at 7.30pm.

Coffee, Cake & Chat 20 April & 18 May 10.30am-12pm.

Coffee Evening 25 April 7.30pm.

Please see our Facebook page for details or updates.

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

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Willow Curlews workshop - Phil Bradley



Weds April 17th £85 with lunch
Suitable for beginners materials £10
Profits to Curlew Action www.curlewaaction.org

A second date for this lovely workshop at **Broadrake** which will be part of the **Ground Nest Fest** event from **13th-21st April**, led by the **Wild Ingleborough Project, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** to help raise awareness of the difficulties faced by ground-nesting birds.

All profits from this 2nd workshop will be donated to **Curlew Action**
More details at www.broadrake.co.uk Email or call to book



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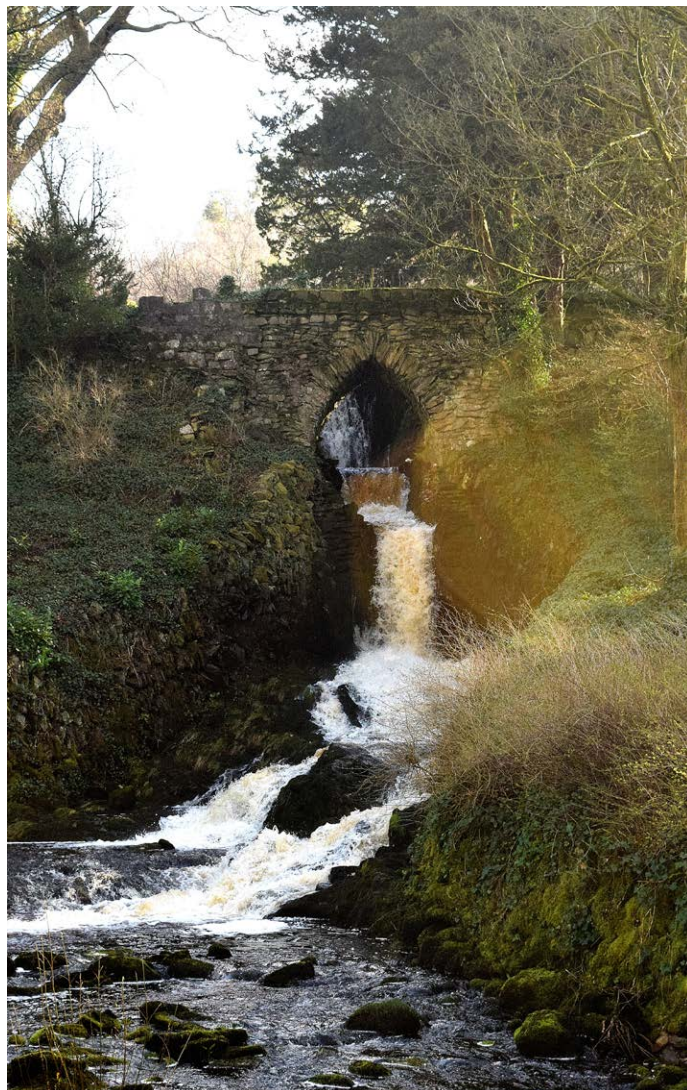
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Then and Now



The view of the falls is perhaps one of the favourite scenes in the village for locals and visitors alike and has remained largely unchanged since they were first created, despite the occasional incursions by the undergrowth. Our “then” view this time is a 1910 postcard published by Turners of Skipton and there is little obvious difference from today’s view taken over 100 years later.



The distinctive shape of Ingle Bridge remains unaltered. The treelines may have changed but closer inspection also reveals that the path on the south side of the beck has since vanished too. With the opening to the public of the path over the dam, visitors will now be able to look downwards onto this view for the first time.

Andy Scott

St. Matthew's Church, Keasden

**Coffee Morning in Clapham Village Hall
Saturday 27 April from 10am to 12 noon**

Sausage sarnies, bacon butties,
coffees, teas & bakes



Pottery workshop



Craft and Chat held a pottery workshop in mid-March run by Rachel from “Rachel in the Dales Pottery”. Participants made their own individual pieces incorporating a variety of local foliage. Rachel took these away to be glazed and fired and will return our unique creations after Easter.

It was a great afternoon and well attended.

Angie Martin

Peter Allen

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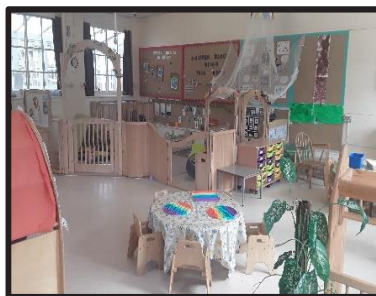
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Despite Everything, Price Still Includes Biscuits



Photo: Naomi Paul
from Rural Arts website

An intriguing title for the next production courtesy of Yorkshire Rural Arts to be performed in Clapham Village Hall on Saturday, April 13th at 7:30p.m.

This is a fantastic one-woman show with original songs, topical stories and Jewish humour; a comedy-cabaret with theatre, storytelling and audience engagement at its centre. Naomi Paul uses her Jewish background to take the audience on a surreal journey: from Birmingham to the Balkans via lingerie shops and libraries. She has been praised for her comic timing and clever storylines. Sometimes poignant, always funny and ultimately uplifting, this show explores everything from the personal to the political. And, of course, it also includes a biscuit break!

Tickets: £12.50 from Clapham Village Store (cash only) or Sue Mann on 015242 51792.

Sue Mann

Note from Sue:

As you know Kathy Hall and I had great fun selecting various shows to be performed in Clapham. This is the last one that we booked together. I know that Kathy would be hoping that we enjoy it!

Brenda, Ken and the book stall

It's difficult to believe that 20 years ago Brenda Pearce (ably supported by Ken) first got involved with Clapham's church book stall. Initially, she was 'assistant' to Paul Pearce (must be something in the name), the previous custodian. However, when Paul stood down the following year Brenda (and her trusty sidekick) stepped up to fill the gap.

It wasn't a difficult decision for the Pearce household to take – as Ken says, 'Brenda has for many years been a frustrated/thwarted librarian and my father was a borough librarian so that was an easy fit.'

Since then, they have been collecting, sorting, cataloguing, fetching, carrying and selling books to raise funds for St. James' Church. The book

stall was a mainstay of the annual Street Fair come rain or shine and no coffee morning or other church event would be complete without it.

However, all good things must come to an end and Ken and Brenda have decided to take a step back. Who knows how much they have raised over the years, not only in support of our village church but also to raise funds for Oxfam.

You may not know that books which we can't sell are collected by an Oxfam volunteer and distributed around their extensive network of shops - the last load raised over £400 for that excellent cause.



So, what next? As is usual with a team as special as Brenda and Ken, we can't replace them like for like. However, because the book stall is so popular and successful, we are going to carry on with a small team of volunteers to carry out the various roles and make sure that it is up to standard (it is just possible that we might still have the support of a very experienced 'consultant' to advise us!).

Please keep us in mind if you do have any spare books, or if you would like

to find out more about helping with this venture, please contact me - see my details below.

Remember that if your book donation doesn't benefit us, it will benefit Oxfam.

And in the meanwhile, very many thanks from all of us to Brenda and Ken for all their hard work over the years.

What a team!

Sue Mann

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Settle Parish Church

Sat 29th June, 7.30pm
Christ Church, Skipton

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Parish Council news

The Council met on the evening of 21st February with a representative from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and a further two members of the public present.

Michael Devlin from YDMT had joined the meeting so that the Council was able to discuss fully the potential leasing of land to support the Sustainability Group's proposed tree nursery. Since all the funding for the venture will be coming from YDMT, who will also be the guarantor, there was some confusion as to the requirements for the Parish Council to be involved in the lease. Michael was able to explain that the funding YDMT had secured was actually a grant that would support a "community group" to develop the nursery and that was why the support of the Council was required. The Clerk highlighted a couple of concerns with the lease as it stood, and Michael agreed to take these back to Ingleborough Estate once consolidated with any issues that YDMT may have following a legal review. The Council was supportive of the idea given that all saplings would come from seeds gathered in the local area and the majority of trees would also be planted in the locality (or at least in the Dales).

The Council also discussed its response to the proposed Definitive Map Modification Order proposed for Cragg Lane. Cllr Farrer had brought numerous historic maps along showing that the route appeared as a footpath, track or not at all depending upon the date of the map. The Council resolved that the basis of the objection would be due to the inconsistent treatment of the route as a result of the changing nature of the use of the area (quarrying, peat digging etc.). Cllr Farrer had also reviewed the general Commons Agreement that referenced only footpaths or private carriage roads and it was resolved that this should also be put before North Yorkshire Council as an objection to the proposal.

The Clerk had met with Andrew Cockett to understand any potential work that could be done to improve the Goat Gap bus shelter. Whilst Andrew was concerned with the deterioration of the structure, he was confident that if battening could be attached to the structurally sound elements, it would then be possible to cover both the inside and outside of the structure with pressure treated tongue and groove boarding. This would allow air to pass over the current rotting wood and dry it out somewhat. The Council were in favour of the solution and have asked Andrew to prepare a quote that can then be forwarded to Public Transport.

For further information about Clapham cum Newby 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 17 April & Wednesday 15 May (which will include the Annual Parish Meeting)**. The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Steve Culver can be contacted on: Telephone: 015242 51862 or Email: parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com

Whilst there was no Sustainability Group representative at the meeting due to illness, a report had been submitted to the Clerk which was read to the meeting. It detailed the following: that the 'Cry of the Curlew' exhibition has now opened in the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes before moving around the area; that following a successful grant application to Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Fund, swift nesting boxes will be installed at locations to be agreed; and that despite having received funding for a feasibility study on the possibility of a shared community energy scheme and/or retro insulation, North Yorkshire Council are not yet able to provide a relevant expert.

The Council met on the evening of 20th March with a representative from the Clapham Sustainability Group and two members of the public present.

Whilst it was hoped that the Council would be signing the lease agreement for the tree nursery, no finalised lease had been received and so that matter will roll over to the April meeting.



The Clerk reported that the work on the Queen Elizabeth II memorial in Platinum Toll Bar Wood was now complete and the Council expressed thanks to YDMT for their continued generosity in providing grant funding to underpin the costs of the venture. With the addition of the "visitors welcome" sign it is hoped we will see an increase in the number of people enjoying the resource.

Funding has been provided by Forest of Bowland National Landscape to underwrite 50% of the costs for the guttering work on the highway in the proximity of St. Matthew's Church, Keasden, the remainder being provided by St. Matthew's Church Council. Cllr Price reported that the works had been completed by Robert Close who had provided his invoice. The Clerk will now pass a copy of the invoice to St. Matthew's Church Council so that they can release their portion of the funding. Cllr Price also reported that he had re-instated the Keasden noticeboard at the crossroads so that future relevant information would again be available for all to see.

The Clerk had received a response from NYC regarding Cragg Lane and the modification order to convert to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) requesting details of the Commons Agreement. Cllr Farrer provided the Clerk with a copy so that pictures of the relevant sections of the document could be sent to NYC.

News from Growing with Grace

Spring was looming at Growing with Grace on Saturday 16th March as Clapham's own organic farm and veg delivery scheme welcomed the community to see the greenhouses start to wake up for the year. Adding to the annual summer and autumn open days, this year's spring gathering could not have fallen on a nicer day for the time of year, with an unexpectedly mild climate greeting guests to the site.

The day began with local resident and regular visitor Gwenda delighting visitors as she played her fiddle – even at one point serenading a frog who has made its home in one of the site's ponds. Before long, one of Growing with Grace's founding members, Neil Marshall, began a tour of the greenhouses, showing off the early stages of this year's crop and explaining the importance of seasonal growing, sustainability and organics. Always the main event, however, is the food on offer, with soups, pastas, cakes and more (all

made from local and organic ingredients) prepared for the visitors, meaning, at least in some cases, there is such a thing as a free lunch.

But most importantly of all, it gave staff and customers the opportunity to meet, put names to faces. It was also a chance for the community co-operative to say thank you to those who supported them in their recent successful crowdfunding campaign. As with many other local businesses, recent energy prices had been a tough blow to take, but with the good grace of local supporters, a pivot towards green energy has been made possible, serving to make them more sustainable; both financially and environmentally.

Now, Growing with Grace looks toward a busy summer's flourishing greenhouses, with many tasty, local goods to offer to Clapham residents and the wider area.

Tom Geddes



Scandimoot 2024 3rd-6th May

2024 began for Scandimoot with the sad news that Bradford CC planned to sell Ingleborough Hall, an important element in our programme, as so much of the event is usually centred there. We were deeply saddened at the loss this will mean to many, and in particular the negative effect on the educational, physical and mental wellbeing of many young people, for whom Ingleborough Hall must be a lifeline. We wrote to the consultation board to say as much, but as you know, all in vain. Luckily for us and the schools booked in for this season, we can come one last time this summer.

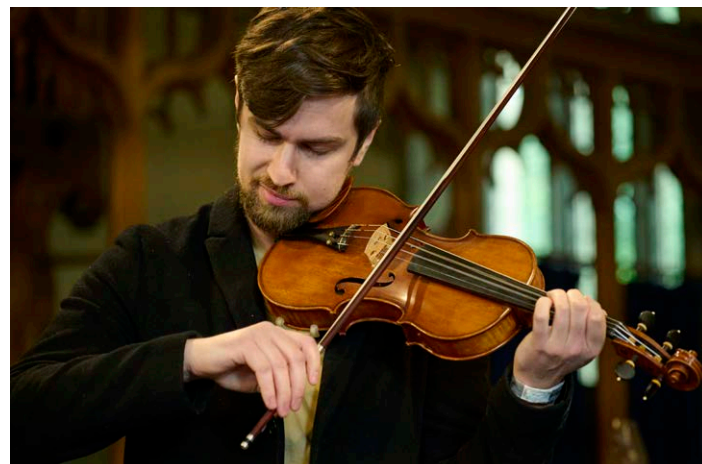
It will take a lot to prevent us from continuing to hold Scandimoot in Clapham, though this news does challenge us because we relied on Ingleborough Hall so completely. We used the facility as space for music workshops, for camper vans to park, importantly for accommodation and showers, as well as the lovely grounds to wander round and the useful outside classroom to have lunch in. We have been in discussion with Andrew Jarman at the Saw Mill Café to look for solutions, and other friends (David & Brooke Chenoweth and Ken & Brenda Pearce) have been very helpful in pointing us to alternative accommodation and venues. We

are looking for creative solutions which will enable us to stay as one group in Clapham, so if you know of any rooms or venue spaces of any description (especially with showers!) or overnight camping space for a few campervans, that might be available for hire for 2nd to 5th May 2025 then please let us know: info@scandimoot.org.uk

The good news is that our programme for 2024 is planned and booking almost complete. We have six amazing Scandinavian artists booked to teach music and dance workshops, and you can meet them in the free (to you) concert in the church on Monday 6th at (probably at 2.00pm, to be confirmed) as well as in the public concert in Settle on Sunday 5th. As always it is a huge pleasure to us to see how much our Scandinavian friends appreciate this area. There must be something in the Viking genes that recognises roots!

Finally, and a sad note to end on but something we very much want to acknowledge, is the loss of your wonderful Kathy Hall. She was always welcoming and helpful on the end of the phone. Even at a distance it was clear that she was a special person and will be much missed.

Pat Goodacre



Nature notes

Just a few days ago I was watching three male blackbirds noisily chasing each other around the garden when I noticed a lone buzzard being mobbed by angry crows high over the hill behind Eggshell Lane. Both of these aggressive displays were quite dramatic but not at all unusual, particularly at this time of year. Many birds, large and small, have already established and are now jealously guarding their breeding territories. Invaders must be repelled at all costs!

What happened next, though, was a little more noteworthy. A male sparrowhawk suddenly joined the attack above the hill and repeatedly dived indiscriminately at both the buzzard and the crows before hurtling back down into the trees on the skyline. The skirmish only went for a few seconds but it was ferocious while it lasted: the poor old buzzard must have wondered what on earth was going on. It started to circle, steadily gaining height in an obvious attempt to rise above the fray when, remarkably, the sparrowhawk came arrowing back for another go. Despite the advantage of its bulk, the buzzard decided that a stately retreat was the prudent option and wheeled away over the ridge with the diminutive victor's angry screeches ringing in its ears.

It's hard to be sure what might have motivated the sparrowhawk's assault, but it was clearly upset by the crow/buzzard commotion and his instinctive reaction was to see them off. In Daphne du Maurier's novella, *The Birds*, the natural horror story made famous by Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 film adaptation, she explores the power of avian instinct to build fear and tension. The original is set in Cornwall in the first week of December, and the birds' murderous behaviour is attributed to hunger and a suppressed migratory instinct:

'... those that had not migrated overseas but remained to pass the winter were caught up in the same driving urge, but because migration was denied them, followed a pattern of their own. Great flocks of them came to the peninsula, restless, uneasy, spending themselves in motion... driven by the same necessity of movement, and the smaller birds, the finches and the larks, scattered from tree to hedge as if compelled.'

That Hitchcock chose to change the setting of the story to California is hardly surprising; more interesting is the shift in season. In the film version daffodils are in full bloom and spring is clearly in the air – still a time of migration (in the opposite direction) but also a time when birds are fighting for territory and at their most aggressive. Perhaps Hitchcock was more of an ornithologist than du Maurier?

Of course, that instinct to claim and defend breeding territory and to attract a suitable mate also gives us the joy

of the dawn chorus and the evocative call of the curlew. It's not all beaks and talons and thrashing wings.

It is always a special pleasure to see (and hear) our returning curlew pairs settling into their familiar haunts and, once again, it seems that the fields around Clapham and Newby will host an encouraging number of nests. They will face all sorts of dangers over the coming months but just now perhaps we can allow ourselves just a glimmer of hope that summer will bring much-needed good news for one our most dearly loved visitors.

In addition to the usual returnees, we often get a few unusual sightings in early spring as young birds spread their wings (quite literally!) to find new territories of their own. I have had several recent reports of a red kite spending time in the area and on March 20th, Tim Hutchinson spotted an osprey drifting northwards



Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)
Photo: Peter Christian

over the village.

Finally, in another scene reminiscent of *The Birds* - or perhaps a spaghetti western - John Elphinstone was recently surprised to see no fewer than six, possibly seven, buzzards wheeling above him as he walked his dogs between Cod Bank and Newby Cote. At least they weren't vultures, John!

If you have news of any interesting or unusual sightings in the area, 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 and I will do my best to use any that are sent in to me.

Brian Christian
bc.riverside28@gmail.com

St. Matthew's Church, Keasden

Spring Saunter

Sunday 28 April at 6pm

meet at Keasden Church for a gentle stroll
(about a mile) across the fields
and return to church for a brew and a bun



Lambing Service

Sunday 26 May at 7pm

Keasden churchyard - weather permitting
otherwise in church



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Community litter pick 2024



An intrepid and very jolly bunch of volunteers joined the spring litter pick. Armed with plastic bags, litter picking tongs and some determination to ignore the rules and regulations suggested by NYC, small teams set off to the litter hotspots. Riverside and the car park, the old Road, the footpath to Growing with Grace, The Green and Station Road - so the clean-up began. Bottles, cans, vapes and plastic packaging, a go-cart, blankets, a skeleton (of the toy variety- phew!) and quite a lot of plant paraphernalia. Everything was cleared away and piled up ready for a very efficient and timely collection by North Yorkshire Waste services.



There is a certain joy and camaraderie in litter picking; a sure feeling of a job well done. Challenges of “You’ll never get that!” were met with some daring antics along the banks of the Beck and almost everything was retrieved ... except for two old compost bins rated “unpickable” even by the most determined. Luckily some brave volunteers from the CRO kindly performed a litter rescue mission.

All round a great effort and thanks to all who came to help. And continual gratitude to all those who regularly pick up litter around the parish. Don’t miss out next year ... it’s fun!

Maria Farrer

A note from our sponsors

Many thanks to all those Clapham folk who have provided transport, cakes, meals, all sorts of kindnesses while we have been struggling in recent months. It is all very much appreciated and proves what a wonderful community we have in Clapham cum Newby.

Ken & Brenda Pearce

¡Fiesta! - a review



It was March 2nd and the scene was set: the hall looking resplendent, bedecked with flags and bunting.

Yorkshire-based Latin duo Mamba Rumba soon took to the stage and quickly thrilled the packed house with their liberal repertoire of Cuban classics with some rhythmic numbers thrown into the mix. Audience participation was requested for ‘Mambo Tequila!’ and everyone delightedly joined in.

With a considerable range of instruments, guitars, Cuban tres, clarinet, flute, banjo, accordion and saxophone, Mamba Rumba certainly kept the audience enthralled; everyone enjoyed a great evening’s entertainment!

Of course, it would have been nothing without such a fantastic crowd, so a huge thank you to all who came and made the evening a resounding success.

Anne Lawler

Church Coffee Mornings

Some years ago, St. James’ Church fundraising group established the principle of holding a series of Coffee Mornings over the winter months. Of course, we did this to help to generate valuable funds to support the maintenance of the village church building. However, we also felt that it was good to provide an opportunity for people to get together and catch up with one another when the weather is not so good. This formula has proved to be very successful. With good coffee, lovely cakes and scones and the enticing smell of bacon butties.

We have all been amazed and delighted by the level of support all the Coffee Mornings have received - the buzz of conversation and laughter is testament to the fact that people really do enjoy getting together. Over the three events we have raised almost £2,000 for church funds. Thank you all so much for your support.

Sue Mann

Keasden rainfall report

	2023	2024
January	14" or 35.56cm	9¾" or 24.765cm
February	¾" or 1.905cm	8" or 20.32cm

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Clapham community swifts

We have recently had two interesting talks in the village about swifts, one from Hilary McGuire of the RSPB and the other from Tanya Hoare of the Sedbergh Swift Group.

Clapham Sustainability Group has obtained a grant from the Dry Rigg Quarry Environment Fund, via YDNPA, to cover the cost of buying swift nest boxes, callers (to encourage the birds to the nests), and someone to install them safely under the eaves of houses. We have been advised to concentrate the nest boxes in the centre of the village initially, around the shop and YDMT (where there are already nest boxes).

Over the next few weeks, you may notice the boxes appearing ready for the arrival of the swifts in May. During the nesting season (May to July) we will be monitoring the boxes and surveying the village for all swift activity. Any confirmed nest sites or screaming parties can be entered on the RSPB Swift Mapper app -

<https://www.swiftmapper.org.uk/> - so do add to this, or just look up and see the birds!

Next year we hope to have a nest camera in place so that everyone can login and see what is going on in a swift nest.

Helen Orme

Clapham Sustainability Group

Austwick school and nursery



The children have had a busy start to 2024. On Design and Technology Day, they made umbrellas and games using electric circuits. We visited Lancaster Maritime Museum and had a guided walk around the quay, hearing about the transatlantic slave trade. Year 5 had an amazing week on their outdoor adventure residential, including abseiling and canoeing, with one young Clapham resident bravely jumping into the reservoir for a fully immersive experience! The nursery and reception class recently had some special visitors - lambs.

From Easter we will be sharing a headteacher with Bentham primary school. We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Pearson and all the great opportunities that working together will bring for the children. Austwick will keep its distinctiveness as a small village school, and Mrs McHardy has been promoted to on-site assistant head.

We are now the local school for children in Austwick, Clapham, Horton, Stainforth and surrounding areas. Our PTA is raising money for new IT equipment, educational trips and outdoor activities – we want to help make the children's time at school special. Donations are very welcome – please get in touch with school or austwickpta@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Sarah Brownlee

School governor, PTA and parent

Three Peaks Players



Murder in Little Grimley

Clapham Village Hall
Saturday 11th May
7pm

A comedy murder mystery which continues the hapless adventures of the Little Grimley amateur dramatic group.

Anxious to cash in on the public's appetite for detective dramas, the group's Chairman, Gordon, writes a whodunit. But in a bizarre twist, he finds himself embroiled in a real-life murder mystery that threatens to put him behind bars.

Can he get away with murder?

The performance will be followed by music from local group The Little Things.

Tickets available
from Clapham Village Shop at £10
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June 2024 edition

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An amazing discovery

So my name is Trixie, but my friends call me Trix, and me and Connor, my brother, and mum and dad are moving into our new house near Newby when dad retires from university next year. But something really, really exciting has happened and mum says I should write about it to tell the people who live near here before the newspapers find out about it.

The house is our grannie's old cottage but it needs a new kitchen, and a bedroom for me, so dad got some builders in to do the work. They had a digger to put in some new drains but when they dug out a big rock that was in the way, they found a big hole in the ground. It was very deep and their ladder didn't touch the bottom so they had to stop until they could get someone to look at it and decide what to do.

Dad said it looked like a pothole so he got the caving club from his university to come to look at it. They came one Saturday while we were all there doing some decorating. They tied some ropes to a tree and to the digger and went down the hole. They were gone a long time but when they came back they said that it was a very important new cave and that we mustn't tell anyone about it until they had brought some other people to have a look. The other people were scientists and they came the next week with all sorts of machines and cameras. They said that the cavers had discovered some paintings on the wall at the end of the cave and that they were thousands and thousands of years old and that there was nothing like them anywhere else in England.

When the scientists came out again they showed us the pictures they had taken. There were some deers with big antlers, huge hairy cows, goats with long straight horns, and a bear and an elephant and a tiger with big teeth. But the most amazing bit was that there were paintings of people from a long time ago and you could even see their faces. The lady in charge said that there was no where in the whole wide world that had paintings like the ones in our cave. There was a cross looking lady with a big tummy, a girl with a big smile and a man with a beard holding a spear. There was another man too, and he had a strange look on his face, just like someone had played a huge trick on him. A bit like you dear reader.

Trix Yewall, age 9½

Steam update



Photo: National Railway Museum

Britain's favourite steam engine, *60103 Flying Scotsman*, is looking for a new home. The engine is owned by the nation and is managed on behalf of us all by the National Railway Museum at York. However, its popularity always means that it has a busy programme of mainline operations, so is maintained, under contract, by those better equipped to keep it in tip-top condition. Until the end of 2023, this contract was held by Heywood-based Riley & Son, but a new custodian is now being sought to look after the engine until 2032. Although the NRM says that the engine will remain in its current livery and configuration, the contract will permit repainting and, if required, conversion back from a double chimney to a single one. There will also be an annual limit on its mileage in the attempt to balance the competing requirements of availability and preservation. It is hoped that the new contract will start from June so the announcement of where it will be based should be made shortly.

Meantime, we continue in the winter "lean season" for steam operations, so nothing much has been seen locally in the last couple of months. More frequent steam services on the Settle and Carlisle line should start from April, with trips booked for all four Saturdays in the month - though the locos that will be involved are yet to be announced. In May, some mid-week services on the route should also start to appear. Unless there are loco changes at Hellifield, however, it is unlikely that we will see any steam through Clapham in the weeks ahead.

Andy Scott

Save the curlew!

With curlew now one of the UK's most critically endangered species, Yorkshire Dales environmental campaigning charity, Friends of the Dales has taken action to make this year's World Curlew Day on 21 April really count. Its Creative Campaigners (aged 20-30) and other friends have made in the region of twenty life-size curlew sculptures from foraged and recycled wire - thanks to the expert guidance of Dales based artist, Lesley Knevitt.

Make a date to come and see the team at its one-day outdoor installation and awareness raising event on Sunday 14 April at Malham. The curlews will be placed in the field alongside the pathway that links Malham village to Janet's Foss (by kind agreement of farmers Neil Heseltine and Leigh Weston).

Through information giving, activities and instructions on how to make your own wire curlew Friends of the Dales aims to raise awareness of the bird's endangered status and the things we can all do to help improve their survival rate. There will also be a short online curlew knowledge quiz with the chance to win a year's individual membership to the charity.

Friends of the Dales will also be making available the resources created for this event to village, community and environmental groups wanting to run similar events.

Victoria Benn

www.friendsofthedales.org.uk



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10th, 11th, 12th May



CRY OF THE CURLEW

A celebration of the Curlew including **posters, poetry and paintings** by the children of Settle and Kirkby Malham Primary School created following a visit to Hill Top Farm, Malham – together with felted landscapes created with textile artist Sue Harrison.

A short film by June Gersten Roberts will be shown throughout the exhibition.

Will Dawson of Bleak Bank Farm, Clapham and Colin Price from Longbank Farm, Keasden share their experiences and concerns for this endangered and much-loved wader.

Further information on Curlew and other work by Sue Harrison will be shown.

Tea and coffee will be served on Saturday morning 10.30am

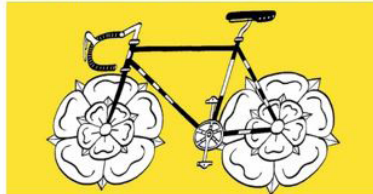
*The accordion will be played during Saturday afternoon
by acclaimed organist Ben Saunders.*



This education and exhibition work by the Clapham Curlew Cluster as part of the Clapham Sustainability Group is supported by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, with thanks to Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.

THE OPEN WHEEL

The West Riding Classic 2024: The Final Ride Sunday 26th May 2024
30, 60 & 70 miles, Clapham-Clapham, North Yorkshire, £30



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There are descriptions, elevations and profiles of the three routes – and the official cheeky shortcut – <https://www.theopenwheel.com/west-riding-classic-extra-long-route-profile-and-stats/>.

Meeting point: Clapham Village Hall, Clapham, North Yorkshire, LA2 8DZ

Start times: • 8am – 9:30am: extra-long route, 70 miles, 2200m vertical climbing,
• 8am – 10:30am: long route, 60 miles, • 10am – 11am: short route, 30 miles



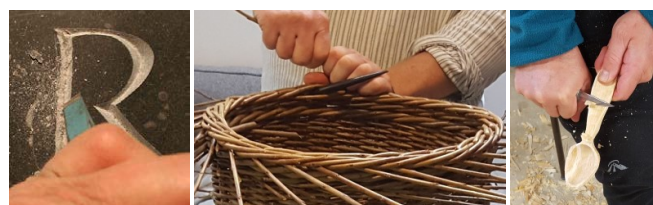
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Village hall news

Firstly, a big thank you to all individuals and groups who have helped get our new bookings system up and running by using our new website. We realise that some of you are less comfortable with technology than others, so are particularly glad to note that all groups have now made the switch and that the feedback from all is generally highly favourable. As you will realise, the hall is run for the benefit of the whole community but by only a handful of volunteers. It is getting increasingly busy, so we do need to try to reduce their workload. With that in mind, we will be making some further changes in the months ahead.

The first of these to flag up is that we want to make the Bookings Secretary's job easier by reducing the number of invoices that they need to generate. We intend to do this by moving more towards "pay on booking," just like with other online services you may use such as buying something on Amazon or booking a holiday. We'll be moving towards that goal for all our customers who make ad-hoc or one-off bookings. Those of you who run regular groups in the hall aren't affected by this but will have seen that we now raise a single invoice for the month ahead rather than retrospectively.

The second change is that we want to make the Treasurer's job easier too, so we'll be removing the option to pay by cash in the months ahead. It is so easy to pay invoices online that this is a whole chunk of unnecessary work that we can avoid. Those who can only pay by cheque or BACS are unaffected, but we'd still encourage everyone to pay online. Payment options are by Stripe (preferable) or by BACS (for BACS please put your invoice number as the reference). In a future development, we hope to bring the Tennis Court into the system so you will be able to check availability and then book and pay for the court online too.

We also need to let hirers know that the hall has a new Premises Licence, issued by North Yorkshire Council. This new licence is a lot 'wordier' than its predecessor, particularly regarding the supply of alcohol. Anyone wishing to run a bar in the hall should check the licence. This can be viewed on our website or in the red folder in the kitchen. If you already have an event booked, and you intend to have a supply of alcohol, then please contact the Bookings Secretary at the earliest opportunity to discuss your options.

Finally, all community groups in the village (whether they use the hall or not) are entitled to have a representative on the committee to help steer the way in which it is run. We'd welcome input from those groups who are newly formed or have not previously had a representative. If you would like your group to be included, contact us via email so that your request can be put forward to our trustees at our next committee meeting. If your group is already represented, then a quick reminder - you'll need to start thinking soon about who you will nominate for 2024/25. Letters will be sent out early summer to ask for your nominees.

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 6 - 7pm Brownies and Guides Karen Fielding 07748 164409 claphamandaustwickguides@hotmail.com
Age UK Wednesdays 10.30am (1 st Wed of the month) Brenda Pearce 015242 51816 / kenpearcela2@gmail.com
Clapham Art Group Wednesdays (mornings) Linda Clemence 01729 823767 / linda.clemence@googlemail.com
Clapham DEW Drop-In Digital Equipment Workshop PC support group Wednesdays 7pm (1 st Wednesday of the month) Andy Scott 015242 51749 / claphamdewdropin@gmail.com
Clapham cum Newby Parish Council Wednesdays 7.30pm (Usually 3rd Wednesday of the month) Steve Culver 015242 51862 parishclerk.claphamcumnewby@gmail.com
Tai Chi Thursdays 9 - 10.30am Tony Bennet taichiqigongteacher@gmail.com
Craft & Chat Thursdays 2 - 4pm (1 st & 3 rd Thurs of the month) Angie Martin 015242 51749 / angiemaxmartin@yahoo.co.uk
Sustainability Group Thursdays 7.30pm onwards (2 nd Thursday bi-monthly – March, May etc.) Jill Buckler jillbuckler@mac.com
Board Games Group Fridays 2 - 5pm (2 nd & 4 th Fri of the month) Jackie Kingsley 015242 51240 / jackieanddavid@yahoo.com
For more details of the above, and for the latest on other events in the hall, please visit: claphamcumnewbyvillagehall.org.uk

Salsa lessons in the hall

After the success of the Latin themed evening on 2nd March, don't forget there are Salsa dance lessons on Friday evenings in the village hall. Anyone interested in joining as a new beginner, you would be made very welcome, so just come along to the hall on Friday 5th April at 6.45pm. This will be a free 'taster session' and no dance experience is needed. Just wear something loose and comfortable.

Anne Lawler

Nature Trail news

On 20th March 2024 - her last day of office - Clare Granger, the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, visited Clapham.

The High Sheriff opened the new extension to the Ingleborough Estate Nature Trail path that lets the public onto the dam for the first time.

The embankment, along the lake at the start of the Trail, has been stoned and fenced as a walkway. This walkway provides an additional viewing platform/extension to the Trail.

Andy Scott

