



Wagtail

The parish magazine
of Whittington, Arkholme
and Gressingham
May 2015

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Wednesday 29 April 7.30pm
Arkholme Village Hall



TurnAround Dance Theatre

Arkholme sisters Ellen, Grace and Lily Turner present three contemporary dance pieces – *Trudy*, *Love Life*, *Mirrored Minds* – followed by Q&A – plus ‘Jumparound’ young people’s dance group (ages 7-11) Tickets (£5/£3 children) available from Liz 22236 or Chris c.may@lancaster.ac.uk 07519 281305 or book online at ticketsource.co.uk/arkholmevh/events

Wednesday 6 May 10.30am-12noon
Whittington Village Hall

*Monthly coffee morning
everybody welcome*

Friday 8 May 7.30pm
Gressingham Old School Room
Defying Dementia

Wine and Cheese evening
with talk by Dr Penny Foulds about the ground-breaking research being undertaken at Lancaster University. Cheese and biscuits provided but please bring a bottle. Collection for Lancaster University ‘Defying Dementia’ campaign.

Sunday 10 May 7.30pm
Arkholme Village Hall



Miss Caledonia

with multi-award winning Canadian writer and performer, Melody A Johnson
Inspired by the true story of her mother, Melody presents a delightful exploration of optimism and reality down on the farm in 1950’s Canada. Desperate to escape the chicory-pulling, stall-cleaning, hay-baling drudgery of life in Caledonia, Peggy Ann Douglas plans to become a movie star – beginning with the local pageant. With comedy, new writing and live music. Tickets (£5/£3 children) available from Liz 22236 or Chris c.may@lancaster.ac.uk 07519 281305 or book online at ticketsource.co.uk/arkholmevh/events

Monday 11 May 7.30pm
Whittington Village Hall



The Thirlmere Hundreds with John Butcher

The history and current life of the Thirlmere Aqueduct, built between 1897 and 1925 to carry water from Thirlmere Reservoir to Manchester 100 miles away. All welcome.
Presented by Women’s Institute

More events in the centre pages and on the back cover...

Directory

Local churches and community groups can be listed here for free

Please send additions, updates and corrections to editor@wagtail.org.uk

Mobile Library Tuesday 12 May 9.45-10.25 Arkholme School, 10.45-11 Arkholme Carus Park, 11.30-11.45 Whittington Village Hall, 11.50-12.05 Whittington Loyne Park

Arkholme Post Office Arkholme Village Hall Mondays and Thursdays 2pm to 4pm

Whittington Post Office Whittington Village Hall Thursdays 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Arkholme Parish Council Clerk Gilliam Hodgson 21814

Arkholme School Joy Ingram (Headteacher) www.arkholme.lancs.sch.uk 21418

Arkholme Village Hall bookings 07716 122940 arkholmevillagehall@gmail.com

Book Club May Levick 21669

Brownies Gill Hodgson 21814

Lunch Club Carole Webb 22202 or Doreen 22023

Methodist minister Peter Brown 01524 771230

Playgroup/Toddlers Danielle Barker wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com 21921

Police PC3573 Rob Barnsley carnforthnpt@lancashire.pnn.police.uk telephone 101

Whittington Village Hall bookings Karan Metcalfe 71287

Women's Institute Rosemary Blanchfield 21303

Vicar Revd Michael Hampson vicar@these4parishes.co.uk 21712

Village Hall Draws Arkholme March £20 Dr McIlveen, £10 Fiona Kay, £10 Mrs Hall, £10 Athene Heynes, £10 Mr and Mrs Clark, £10 T Hayton; April £20 C Hodgson, £10 Mr and Mrs Preston, £10 B Acott, £10 Mr G Woods, £10 Mr J Holden, £10 Mr and Mrs Evans; May 2015 £20 Brenda Lewis, £10 Mr and Mrs Baker, £10 Athene Heynes, £10 Mr J Nicholson, £10 Mr and Mrs J McParland, £10 Mr I Williams. **Whittington** April £20 Thomas Atkinson £10 Charlotte Thompson £5 The Dawson Family

Classified ads

We hope you find these listings helpful

Architectural Services Chris Potts BSc MRICS providing full architectural services, alterations, extensions and planning advice 73228 info@cnpassociates.co.uk

Boarding Kennels and cattery at Docker Park Farm, home from home for your dogs and cats enquiries@dockerparkfarm.co.uk 21331 www.docker-park-kennels.co.uk

Boarding Kennels and dog day-care Aughton Road, Gressingham LA2 8LS helen.burrow@hotmail.com 07766 446272 www.aughtonroadkennels.co.uk

Craft Boutique fabrics, knitting wool, haberdashery, Brother sewing machines 'Temptations' 31 Main Street Bentham 61868 www.temptationsbentham.co.uk

Logs Direct traditional house coal, kiln-dried firewood, smokeless fuel, wood heating pellets, plus top soil and mushroom compost 01524 812476 www.logsdirect.co.uk

Painting and Decorating A Holloway (Decorators) Interior and exterior Established over 25 years tonyholloway@hms.me.uk 01524 771880

Physiotherapy Leah Dalby MCSP Lune Valley Physiotherapy Maximise potential after surgery, accidents, illness including cancer leahthephysio@gmail.com 07934 785797

Physiotherapy Marie Colyer MCSP HCPC Bentham 62216 www.benthamphysio.co.uk

Plumbing Darren Jones General plumbing, bathrooms, renewable energy systems, no job too small. 1 Crosslands Whittington jonesplumb@me.com 07738 379328

Solicitors JWK Solicitors Morecambe, Lancaster & Glasgow. For all your legal requirements in England & Wales and Scotland 01524 416315 www.jwksolicitors.co.uk

Vintage accessories and gifts 'My Vintage Style' Crabtree & Evelyn, Dante, Pia Rossini and more, 2 Main Street Ingleton LA6 3EB 41891 www.myvintagestyle.co.uk

You can advertise here from just £2 per line – see wagtail.org.uk for details

Wagtail

Welcome to the May edition.

All local churches and community groups are welcome to send in news of their activities to Wagtail – reports of recent events as well as announcements of what is coming up. *Colour photographs can now be included too.*

The deadline for items for inclusion in each edition is the nineteenth of the preceding month. Please submit all items to editor@wagtail.org.uk

Wagtail is now online at www.wagtail.org.uk

Thanks as always to all our contributors and distributors.

Michael Hampson (editor)

Notices

The **Whittington Village Hall Annual General Meeting** will take place on Tuesday 12 May at 8pm in Whittington Village Hall.

The **Gressingham Annual Parish Meeting** is to take place on **Monday 11 May** at 7.30pm in Gressingham Old School room. This is a meeting of the electorate at which any parish issues may be raised and discussed. This is to be followed immediately by the Parish Council AGM, at which members of the public are invited to ask questions and express their views on the Parish Council and related matters, and an ordinary Parish Council meeting will follow immediately afterwards.

Arkholme churchyard is a beautiful corner of the village, maintained by volunteers. More help is needed with grass cutting: please contact David Smith on 0333 0119303.

Adam Pelter and Clare Livesey from Fern Cottage Eskrigge were married on 19 March 2015 at Pickup Bank Chapel, Darwen. Many congratulations and very best wishes from family and friends.

Thank you from the family of Peggy Cairns . We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our friends in the Lune Valley, who sent messages of sympathy, cards and flowers following the death of Peggy on 19 March 2015. Grateful thanks also to Anne and Vicki Pleyvey, and all the staff of Keer Sands Residential Home in Crag Bank, for the loving care given to Peggy in the five years she was resident there, but particularly in the last three months when she was in need of additional care and attention, and also to the *Hospice at Home* nurses and the Marie Curie nurses from Saint John's Hospice who tended her in her last weeks. Peggy was interred alongside her husband Norman at Saint John the Baptist Church in Arkholme on 30 March and, again, our sincere thanks go to Reverend Michael Hampson, Canon Paul Warren, Canon David Peacock and Father Stephen Jones, for their wonderful help and ministry to Peggy and for officiating at her funeral. We are indeed very fortunate in living in such a kind and caring community and we are sure Peggy would have been very pleased (and proud!) of her send-off. Thank you all so much.

Margie and Graham Dixon, Vicky and Francis O'Neill and all the family.

Arkholme Parish Council met on 13 April. Dave Airey agreed to clear the ivy and rebuild the wall surrounding the pounds. The request for new speed limits on the B6254 from the Redwell Inn to the boundary with Whittington will be assessed in June by the Lancashire County Council Highways Department. Potholes on the downhill section from Storrs Wood to Bainsbeck Farm were referred to the Highways Department. Two councillors will review the criteria for registered local green spaces and nominate selected areas by the deadline of 25 April. This year's Hopewell Cup competition (six decorated cupcakes) will be judged at the Village Sports Day in June. Present: Charles Waddington, Bridget Smith, Graham Jackson-Pitt, City Councillor Roger Mace and Clerk Gillian Hodgson. Apologies from Councillors May and Howarth.

News from the four parishes

The vicar's annual report to the 2015 AGMs held in April

Sunday services

In all four parishes, average Sunday attendances rose again during 2014.

In Hornby, attendance at the main Parish Communion rose to a new weekly average of 62 adults and 3 children; these figures are regardless of the week of the month (there is Sunday School once a month). The Hornby 8am service (held twice a month) attracts an average of 9 adults.

Gressingham and Arkholme both have average Sunday attendances in 2014 of just over 10.5, representing a small increase for each parish.

Whittington made the bold move to a single weekly service time in 2014, and despite suffering the loss of several key members over the last two years, maintained the same average weekly attendance for Holy Communion services (11.5) as in 2013, when it was already up on 2012. This average was maintained in 2014 across a larger total number of services, representing an increase in attendance over all.

Special events and new developments 2014

In the fabric of the buildings and their surroundings, in addition to all the regular cleaning, maintenance and floral decoration, 2014 saw the *Thankful Villages Centenary Memorial Stone* installed at Arkholme, a new wooden building (for garden equipment and to replace the loo tent) in place at Gressingham, a delightful new set of artworks by Bert Ogden entitled '*Resurrection*' installed at Hornby, the installation of phase one of the new heating at Hornby (with phase two, and additional lighting, following early in 2015), and a Food Bank collection point initiated at Hornby.

Special events in the programme drawing in all four parishes included the Sunday morning coach trip to Anne Pettifor's *Ordination in Carlisle Cathedral* at the end of June – we filled the coach – and the November *Hynning Hall Away Day* on the theme of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, shared with Saint Mary's as well as the four parishes.

Cultural special events through the year included the February visit of *Gathered Voices* (the former Galloways Choir) in Hornby, April's moving *Voices of the Great War* in Arkholme, a fine *Summer Evening* at Newton Gate in May for Whittington, *Shakespeare in Song* with Julia Doyle and the Rushley Singers in Hornby also in May, Whittington's *Heritage and Thanksgiving Day* in June, *Songs for a Summer Evening* with Grupo Voces and Flexitime in Arkholme in July, *Psalms of Praise* with Hornby Choral Society also in July, *Barbecue and Jazz* in Hornby in August, and the first annual *All Souls concert for the hospice* at the beginning of November.

This was all in addition to our 'regulars': Prayer Group, Mothers Union, Shrove Tuesday pancakes, Lent course, Lent Lunches, Women's World Day of Prayer (hosted in Hornby), Holy Week services, summer afternoon teas, four Harvest Festivals, four Remembrance Sunday observances, carol and crib services, Christmas donations through Vincent de Paul charity, and other direct charitable giving throughout the year.

Confirmations, First Communions, Youth Fellowship and work in schools

In May 2014 we presented eighteen candidates for Confirmation and First Communion to the Bishop of Blackburn from across the benefice – fifteen young people and three adults. Three further young people were admitted to communion before the end of the year. All four parishes were represented. All eighteen of these young people were part of our weekly Monday after-school club at various stages during the year, a format which worked both as preparation for Confirmation and First Communion, and later as a weekly Youth Fellowship, incorporating songs and activities, and concluding each week with holy communion.

A team of six leads weekly school assemblies across the two schools. Each school also attends a service in one of the parish churches three or four times each year, and Sunday School continues during the 10.45am service on the first Sunday of each month.

Links between churches

We continue to share with Saint Mary's, Hornby, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the combined choirs carol service, the Remembrance Sunday parade, the Palm Sunday procession, and Pentecost drinks in Saint Mary's garden – now supplemented by an annual shared Lent course and a commitment to an annual shared autumn Away Day, both initiated in 2014.

Links within the benefice continue strong as well, not only in the united programme of youth work, and the promotion of all events in all four parishes through the shared weekly bulletin, but also through the Benefice Advisory (or coordination) Committee, and in Sunday United Benefice services, held for each Patronal Festival and in every month with five Sundays.

Conclusion

I am of course enormously grateful to all those who contribute in any way to the life of the four churches: leading and taking part in Sunday services, offering music and hospitality, decorating the churches with flowers, organising special events, serving as churchwardens and on the PCCs, taking communion to the housebound and to The Old Vicarage, ringing the bells, winding the clocks, cleaning and maintaining the churchyards and the buildings and their contents, caring for one another within the church community and beyond, and all those other things that contribute to our church's ministry. For me it is a privilege to be a part of the church community across the four parishes, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside you all in the year ahead.

Michael Hampson (vicar) April 2015

Sunday 31 May
Whittington
Heritage and
Thanksgiving Day
Saint Michael
the Archangel
Whittington

the annual heritage and thanksgiving day with refreshments, church archives on display, and poetry readings and music
5pm tea and cake
5.30pm poetry readings and music on the theme *This Green and Pleasant Land*
6pm wine and savouries

Sunday Services in May

	Whittington	Arkholme	Gressingham
Sunday 3 May	-	9.30am	10.30am
Sunday 10 May	9.30am	9.30am	8am
Sunday 17 May	9.30am	9.30am	-
Sunday 24 May	9.30am	-	9.30am
Sunday 31 May	<i>United Benefice service, Hornby 10.45am</i>		

...and in Hornby

10.45am Parish Communion every Sunday
8am Holy Communion on Sundays 3 and 17 May

Also this month

Sunday 10 May 3pm-5pm Afternoon teas in Hornby church

Sunday 17 May 7.30pm Concert by Carnforth Choral Society in Hornby church

Wednesday 20 May 2pm Mothers Union
 Marjorie Hold 'The Beat Goes On' Hornby Institute

25-29 May Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 12noon daily at Saint Mary's, Hornby

Arkholme and District WI

'Chutney and Cheer', our speaker **Melanie Lytham's** topic on Monday 13 April, was no ordinary cookery demonstration. Melanie, the owner of *Holly Cottage Preserves* from Sandbach, managed to entertain us with amusing anecdotes, jokes, and the history of her business, whilst making and bottling a huge pan of beetroot chutney. We sampled many different flavours of delicious chutneys including one called 'Wobbly Gob' – so named because a young boy in one of Melanie's school sessions said that this particular chutney made his gob go wobbly. We were able to buy jams, curds and chutneys at the end of a thoroughly entertaining evening.

Rosemary Blanchfield chaired the meeting, ably assisted by our secretary, Allison Dawson. ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) had emailed their thanks for our donation of £100 towards their project in Uganda. Their Project will directly benefit nineteen grandmothers and eighty-three children. The beneficiaries will see their living standards improved by the project's provision of clean water. Thursday 14 May is ACWW day, which we will be marking with a walk around Capernwray followed by tea and cake. It should be fun and there is an open invitation to all our readers.

The many and varied causes, trips and courses offered to all WI members were announced. Our own group's centenary celebration, which is a canal cruise in Skipton, followed by afternoon tea at the Coniston Hotel, will be in the first week in September.

The Lancashire Federation's AGM was held in Southport and our delegate, Barbara Atkinson, gave her report. She had obviously greatly enjoyed the meeting and she encouraged us all to attend the next AGM.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 11 May at 7.30pm in Whittington Village Hall**. This will be the meeting at which resolutions are discussed, followed by John Butcher talking about **The Thirlmere Hundreds**, a history of the reservoir and pipeline to Manchester. All are welcome.

Whittington's B4RN Open Day

...was a great success. It was a celebration of the fact that B4RN's superfast, fibre-optic broadband network has now arrived in Whittington and that the village hall and several properties have now gone 'live'. A further cause for celebration was the news that 1,000 properties across rural north Lancashire and beyond now have connections to the B4RN network.

The afternoon presentation gave a clear picture of all that has been achieved to date in bringing the network to the village, and provided information on the benefits to be expected from a connection to the B4RN broadband service.

Tooby's of Ingelton demonstrated their smart TVs and Wi-Fi radios, while Ray Woollard demonstrated his locally-based 'Phone & Data' service; and it was great to see so many young and older people also logging on at the same time without loss of signal.

Whittington's B4RN team, however, were keen to emphasise the fact that they are **only half way through the project** and they appealed for new volunteers to help out. The team work most Saturdays and would much appreciate anyone coming along to help, even if only for a morning or an afternoon.

The team also need to know about those householders who want a connection to the B4RN network, so that they can be included in the overall plan. The cost of connection is £150 regardless of whether the actual service is taken up at the time of connection or at some time in the future.

If you would like to be connected to the B4RN network, or if you are still undecided, please let the team know at whittingtonb4rn@gmail.com

Jeff Eaman

Whittington bells on Easter Day

A “full peal” was rung on Easter Day in Whittington, taking 2 hours and 49 minutes to ring each bell 5,040 times in a predetermined sequence – a feat of considerable physical endurance, and even greater mental endurance, as any mistake can mean the peal is ‘lost’ and you have to abandon or start again!

This feat of endurance had only previously been completed seven times in Whittington – the first time in 1931, the most recent in 1981 – and none had been attempted since the bells were refurbished in 2009. So on the afternoon of Easter Sunday a group of intrepid ringers from across the county gathered to attempt the first peal on the rehung bells as follows: *Lancashire Association of Change Ringers, Easter Sunday 5 April 2015, in 2 hours and 49 minutes, 5,040 changes in seven different treble-dodging minor methods (one extent each of Oxford Treble Bob, Wilmslow Delight, Wells Surprise, Pembroke Delight, Cambridge Surprise, Bourne Surprise and Norwich Surprise); 1 Anne E Pettifor, 2 Pauline Campling, 3 Simon D Woof, 4 R Owen Battye, 5 James E Andrews, 6 George H Campling (Conductor); rung to celebrate Easter; first peal rung on the bells since 1981.*

We hope the experience was a positive one for the rest of the village – we have had lots of comments saying how much people enjoyed listening to the ringing but we are aware that bells are one of the loudest musical instruments you can play and that the audience does not have much choice about whether they listen or not!

If you are interested in learning to ring to help ensure this ancient tradition continues into the future, want to know more about ringing, have any questions or just want to come along and have a look please contact Anne or Rob Pettifor on 015242 71904 (anne.pettifor@btinternet.com) – there are bells at Whittington and Hornby and we are always on the look out for new members. Initial tuition can be at a time to suit you and then our regular practices are on Tuesday (Whittington) or Thursday (Hornby) evenings. We won't expect you to ring a full peal if you don't want to but if you catch the bell ringing bug – who knows what the future might hold!

Rob and Anne Pettifor

Gerald writes...

The sign at Biggins crossroads advising HGV drivers to use the Whittington road has been removed, I have no idea why. Did someone overstep their authority putting it there or has common sense prevailed?

Is it really 70 years since we celebrated VE day? What a relief it was. The ARP and the Home Guard were stood down, the black out curtains removed, church bells were ringing again, most of the evacuees went home, and the army camp at Storrs Hall was abandoned. No more gas mask practices, no need for people to carry their identity cards. Peace was really returning. We celebrated. Arkholme Trinity Sports restarted, a challenge football match between Arkholme and Whittington was arranged, Whittington won if I remember correctly, and we built an enormous bonfire on the island by the viaduct. Some soldiers who had been abroad for long periods returned. Billy Woodend had been defending Malta for almost four years and seen quite a few of his comrades killed whilst manning the anti-aircraft guns. Reg Bateson came home after four years as a prisoner of war and other men and women who had served in the forces returned to their families. What a celebration it was. Food rationing continued for a few more years – bread rationing was yet to start – but oranges and bananas were back on sale and some shops actually sold ice cream, what luxury and what a treat. The swallows should be returning any day now. Keep watching for them, they are a bit later this year, they must be waiting for the weather to get warmer.

Could our new Parish Council when they take over in May do something with the Parish seats? They are in a bad state of repair and for the last few years they have totally disappeared under the long grass.

Gerald Hodgson

MORE FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Open Garden – Saturday 16 May 11am to 3pm with Plant Sale and Garden Fête – Lune Cottage Aughton (LA2 8LU) – for Saint Saviour's Church, Aughton. *Open studio, cakes, tombola, raffle, lucky dip, games, stalls, refreshments. Admission £4 / £1 children.*

Hornby flower club Thursday 21 May 7.30pm in Hornby Village Institute. Pamela from Flowerfields in Bentham, demonstrating the art of arranging wedding flowers.

Morecambe Bay Walk Sunday 28 June – a chance to do the official 3-4 hour walk across Morecambe Bay from Arnside to Kents Bank, with official guide Cedric Robinson, leaving Arnside at 2.45pm. £10 / £5 under-12s. Coach/train connections being organised. Tickets 01524 811305 or thegreenroom@hotmail.co.uk. For Saint Saviour's Church, Aughton.



**The weather
in Arkholme**
Robin McIlveen

March Weather in Arkholme

Rain Days 18 / Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+) 6
Wettest Day 30th-31st 18.0mm
Monthly total 100.1 mm
Total for 2015 so far 338mm (13.3 inches)

March has been a mixed bag, with a moderately wet first fortnight, a bone-dry middle week, another moderately wet week, and three last wet days to bring the monthly total to 100mm. Four of the *Decidedly Wet Days* were really very wet (bringing 60 mm in all), so that the other wet days produced only another 40 mm between them. There were eight air frosts on my apple tree, four of them in the dry middle week, as the ground cooled to space through the cloudless night skies. Most of the frosts were marginal, but a sharp -4.0°C occurred on the morning of the 25th. Afternoon temperatures reached double figures on fourteen occasions, scattered through the month, the warmest of which recorded a very modest 12.5°C (54.5°F) on the 12th. Thanks to a large anticyclone which established itself over Northern Europe (just as we flew down to a wet and chilly Rome), April has been unusually dry so far, with only 24mm collected as I write on the 19th.

As all aficionados of the radio Shipping Forecasts will know, wind strengths are still quoted in the Wind Force Scale of numbers devised by Admiral Beaufort around Nelson's time. Anemometers (measuring wind speeds) were still 50 or more years in the future in those days, and so Beaufort devised a scale of numbers from 0 to 12 (each associated with a name), on the basis of the corresponding states of the open sea. Overland effects were added later.

Force 0 is Calm ("smoke rising vertically"); Force 2 is a Light Breeze ("wind just felt on face"); Force 4 is a Moderate Breeze ("small branches in motion"); Force 6 is a Strong breeze ("umbrellas used with difficulty"); Force 8 is a Gale ("twigs breaking off, hard to walk against") and Force 12 is a Hurricane ("widespread destruction of trees and structural damage to buildings").

Now that we have anemometers to measure wind speeds, we know that for example Force 4 corresponds to an average wind speed of about 12mph at head height (gusting to about 16mph), and Force 8 corresponds to an average wind speed of 34mph, gusting to 45mpg. So if you should hear in your cosy bedroom at 12.55am, "Tiree Automatic, northerly Storm Force 10, increasing to Violent Storm 11 later", feel for the nocturnal shepherds on that desperately exposed island coping with gusts at head height increasing from 63mpg to 72mph (head out of car window at speed limit on motorway). The sheep do slightly better being lower. Admiral Fitzroy next time.

Robin McIlveen