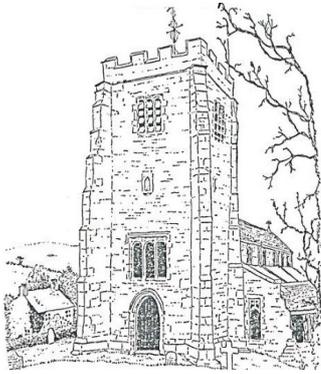




Wagtail

The parish magazine
of Whittington, Arkholme
and Gressingham
June 2015

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Sunday 31 May
**Whittington Heritage
and Thanksgiving Day**
*in Whittington church
with more than a century of
church archives on display*
5pm tea and cake
5.30pm poetry readings
and music on the theme
This Green and Pleasant Land
6pm wine and savouries

Friday 5 June
Arkholme School June Fair
from 3.30pm to early evening
Arkholme Village Hall

Tuesday 9 June
**Sarah Cheyette's
fitness class**
resumes 7pm
beginners welcome
Arkholme Village Hall
£4/session

Magna Carta 1215-2015



*Three events marking the 800th
anniversary – and the local connection
all at Saint Margaret's, Hornby*

Sunday 14 June 3pm to 5pm
Afternoon teas and a peel of bells
one of 25 across the country

Monday 15 June 7.30pm
**Hornby, Magna Carta
and the Montebegons**
a talk on the local connection
by local historian Andrew White

Exhibition open 8am to 8pm all that week

Wednesday 10 June
Gressingham Fellowship
7.30pm Open meeting in the
Old School Room to discuss
refurbishment plans
everybody welcome
see page 3 inside

Saturday 20 June
Gressingham Fellowship
'Vintage Garden Party'
from 2pm at Rand Villa
Gressingham (below the church)
*1940's dress optional, tea and cake
available, bring a bottle, glasses
provided. Raffle, Guess-the-weight-
of-the-cake and traditional games*
in aid of Parkinson's UK Lancaster
and Morecambe Support Group
RSVP to Helen 07453 299446
hsheldon93@gmail.com

Sunday 28 June
Patronal Festival of
Saint John the Baptist
Arkholme

10.30am United Benefice Service
in Arkholme parish church



Sunday 28 June
Lancaster's Dyvers Voices
choral works by Dufay, Leonarda
and Bach, organ pieces by
Buxtehude and Mendelssohn,
and Haydn's Kleine Orgelmesse
Entrance free – collection for
Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund
7.30pm Saint Margaret's, Hornby

Directory

*Local churches and community groups can be listed here for free
Please send additions, updates and corrections to editor@wagtail.org.uk*

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

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

Mobile Library Tuesdays 2&23 June 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 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

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 June 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 next edition is the combined July and August edition. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 June. *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)

Arkholme School

Arkholme Church of England Primary School is hoping to create a shortlist of potential Foundation Governors to fill vacancies which arise on the School Governing Body over the next few years.

Having a full complement of good Governors is vital to maintaining the excellent standards of our school for our children, so please give this opportunity your serious consideration. *We are sure there are many talented parents, grandparents and friends of Arkholme School out there who have the skills we need.*

If you are interested in becoming a Foundation Governor of Arkholme School, please send your details to Robin McIlveen, 7 Carus Park, Arkholme, Carnforth, LA6 1AY (phone 21693) or alternatively email Derek Seber derek.seber@sky.com (phone 21449) .

Information about Foundation Governors' responsibilities can be found at www.bdeducation.org.uk/foundation-governors.html.

Robin McIlveen and Derek Seber

Gressingham Old School Room

Following an open meeting to discuss the idea in January, a small group of volunteers from across the village has been working on ideas for improvements to the Old School Room to make it as attractive an amenity as possible for the village.

The plan is to redecorate the room, replace the curtains, upgrade the lighting and heating, and install fittings for the projector and a drop-down screen.

The Trustees of the Old School Room have already agreed to make some funds available. Gressingham Fellowship will also be looking to pay for some of the work out of its funds, and will be seeking agreement for this from Fellowship members (ie all Gressingham and Eskrigge residents) at the meeting on Wednesday 10 June (7.30pm in the Old School Room).

This meeting is a chance for all residents of Gressingham and Eskrigge to come and see the plans in more detail, make suggestions, and offer help if they wish. Or just come along for a chat: nibbles will be provided, bring your own drinks.

Rosie Smith and Gillian Coulthwaite

The Quarter Days and the local saints

Winter solstice • Spring Equinox • Summer Solstice • Autumn Equinox

Here in Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham, we continue to mark the ancient 'Quarter Days'.

Different calendars in use over the centuries mean that the Quarter Days do not always fall on exactly the same dates on the various calendars, but essentially it's the end of December, the end of March, the end of June and the end of September.

Across the three parishes of Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham, we mark all four as major festivals.

The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year, near the end of December. For thousands of years, up here in the northern hemisphere, it has been a day for celebrating light in the darkness – a festival of hope and trust, that the days would begin to lengthen again, that fruitfulness would return to the earth, that the gods would once again visit us with their favour. For the Christian church, it was the ideal date to adopt for marking the birth of the saviour.

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is known in German as *Ein Johannis Nachts Traum*: the eve of the summer solstice, the shortest and lightest night, is *Johannisnacht*, Saint John's night. With Saint John the Baptist supposedly born just six months ahead of his cousin Jesus of Nazareth, placing the birth of Jesus at the winter solstice means placing the birth of John the Baptist at the summer solstice. **Arkholme** takes Saint John the Baptist as its patron – making midsummer's day, the summer solstice, its Patronal Festival.



The other Saint John was one of Jesus of Nazareth's closest companions: the inner circle was always "Peter, James and John". The fourth gospel – *the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John* – refers to John throughout as 'the beloved disciple', and apart from the occasional speculation that this might refer to Mary Magdalene, it is usually taken to mean Saint John himself. This is the 'default' Saint John, as opposed to Saint John the Baptist; for clarity he is called Saint John the Apostle (which means messenger), or Saint John the Evangelist (which means gospel-writer – the other three 'evangelists' are Matthew, Mark and Luke). This title – and many other aspects of John's gospel – suggest that John was Jesus's closest confidant. In honour of this, the church places his festival right next to Jesus's own, at the end of December. **Gressingham** takes Saint John the Evangelist as its patron – making the winter solstice its Patronal Festival.

Angels still have a strong instinctive following in our culture – from Annie Lennox to Robbie Williams, apart from anything else. With the Archangel Michael as their chief, they were awarded the autumn equinox as their date in the calendar, marking the final days of summer: *The Michaelmas daisies, among dead weeds, bloom for Saint Michael's valorous deeds*. **Whittington** takes Saint Michael the Archangel as its patron – making the autumn equinox its Patronal Festival.

The spring equinox marks the beginning of summer, and new life emerging from the cold, dark, dormant winter. It is the obvious date for Easter, for Resurrection, in the northern hemisphere, and the link with the Hebrew festival of Passover makes this date authentic. Easter follows the date of the Passover in the lunar calendar: it falls – in

theory – on the first weekend after the first full moon after the spring equinox, giving a variation of up to five weeks (starting at the spring equinox, a wait of up to four weeks for a full moon, then up to another week for a weekend).

The other spring equinox festival is dictated by the nine month lead-up to the birth in the stable: it is Lady Day, or The Annunciation – the visit of Gabriel to Mary. Overshadowed in the calendar by Lent, Holy Week and Easter, it survives in many of the traditional rites of spring, including the crowning of a May Queen.

Here in the four parishes (Whittington, Arkholme, Gressingham, Hornby), we celebrate the Patronal Festivals on three of the four ancient Quarter Days with United Benefice services, where all four parishes gather for a combined festival service. These are held at 10.30am on the last Sunday in June (Saint John the Baptist, Arkholme), the last Sunday in September (Saint Michael the Archangel, Whittington), and the last Sunday in December (or New Year's Day if that's a Sunday – Saint John the Evangelist, Gressingham).

Some time this month, make a visit to your local parish church – you will find it open daily during daylight hours – and remember the parish patron, and their link with the ancient Quarter Days. Then join us at 10.30am on the last Sunday in June, for Arkholme's biggest Sunday service of the year, on – more or less – the summer solstice.

Sunday Services in June

	Whittington	Arkholme	Gressingham
Sunday 7 June	-	9.30am	6.30pm
Sunday 14 June	9.30am	9.30am	8am
Sunday 21 June	9.30am	9.30am	-
Sunday 28 June	<i>United Benefice service in Arkholme 10.30am</i>		

...and in Hornby

10.45am Parish Communion every Sunday
except 28 June, United Benefice Service in Arkholme

8am Holy Communion on Sundays 7 and 21 June

Sunday School takes place during the 10.45am service
on the first Sunday of every month (next one is 7 June)

Young people help lead the 10.45am service
on the third Sunday of every month (next one is 21 June)

There is a **midweek communion service**
every Wednesday morning at 10am

Vicar: Revd Michael Hampson
vicar@these4parishes.co.uk · 015242 21712

Weekly bulletin online: www.these4parishes.co.uk

The United Benefice of **Hornby** with Claughton and
Whittington with **Arkholme** and **Gressingham**

Magna Carta 800 – the local connection

Magna Carta was the great charter of rights signed on **15 June 1215**, at Runnymede by the Thames, by King John of England and a council of twenty-five barons, who were to be the guarantors of the rights enshrined in the charter.

One of those twenty-five barons was Roger de Montbegon of Hornby, right here in the Lune Valley.

Along with the twenty-four towns and villages representing the other twenty-four barons (they include Skipton, Helmsley, Thirsk, Greenwich, and the City of London), Hornby has formed the Magna Carta Barons Association, to mark the 800th anniversary. There are special events planned to mark the occasion simultaneously in all twenty-five locations.

Hornby is joining a national three-hour full peal of bells on the afternoon of **Sunday 14 June**, whilst also serving Afternoon Teas in church. The Magna Carta exhibition – organised by the Barons Association – will be in place by then, and open 8am to 8pm daily all that week. The exhibition includes an exact facsimile on parchment of one of the four surviving copies of the original 1215 document.

And then on the evening of the anniversary itself – at 7.30pm on **Monday 15 June** – local historian Andrew White will be giving a talk on *Hornby, Magna Carta and the Montbegons ...* because the full story of Magna Carta – renowned the world over as the great charter of liberty – is inevitably far more complex than it first appears...

More events around the villages

Sunday 28 June

Morecambe Bay Walk – 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 are being organised. Tickets 01524 811305 or thegreenroom@hotmail.co.uk. *For Saint Saviour's Church, Aughton.*

Wednesday 17 June 2.30pm

Mothers Union Deanery Festival – all welcome
Preacher: **Anne Pettifor** *Saint Margaret's, Hornby*

Wednesday 17 June 7pm

A talk on the history of Hornby Castle
by Sue Bull *at Hornby Village Institute*

Thursday 18 June 7pm

Hornby Flower Club Open Evening

A coffee evening and a chance to look at the entries in the floral competition. *Entries in three classes (free to enter) can be dropped off between 1pm and 7pm. Floral arrangements entitled 'Hornby'. Classes: school years 1 to 6; school years 7 to 11; adults. Judging and prizes at 8pm. Further information Flower Bank 21510 or Pat 21449.*

Sunday 21 June 6.30pm

Songs of Praise Ten favourite hymns *Saint Margaret's, Hornby*

Saturday 1 August 2pm to 5pm

Eskrigge Open Gardens

with refreshments, plant stall, raffle, face painting and more

Parking at Eskrigge Hall LA2 8LX *in aid of St. John's Church, Gressingham*

Arkholme and District WI

A large number of guests attended the May meeting, no doubt attracted by the evening's speaker on *The Thirlmere Hundreds*. Rosemary Blanchfield welcomed members and guests alike, and it was decided to introduce the talk at the beginning of the meeting, so Carl Sanders began his presentation without further ado.

Carl Sanders is the programme manager for the project to take water from Thirlmere to the North, so has more than a passing interest in the achievement by engineers to take water to Manchester 120 years ago.

The need for clean water was vital to the rising population of 'Cottonopolis' in the mid-19th Century, when cholera and other water-borne diseases were rife. It was safer to drink beer or gin than water, and spirits were taking their toll on the population.

Of all the lakes, what became Thirlmere was favoured because the fall in the land meant that gravity would carry water on its 97 mile journey. There are no pumps, only siphons, to keep the water flowing through different levels en route. Mr Sanders did not deny the effect on the environment of such a project but defended the efforts to minimise and repair damage. He admitted that they planted the 'wrong trees' but pointed out that the mining industry had already felled them and the conifers are now being replaced by broadleaves and more suitable species.

To build 97 miles of tunnels and aqueducts without modern technology is a feat still to be admired; it took 4,000 men, with families in attendance, to achieve it, beginning with the tunnel through Dunmail Raise. The finish on the tunnels and the standard of the various buildings has kept maintenance easy, and the system remains largely unchanged to this day, delivering 500 million gallons of clean water a day, enough for a cup of tea for every person on the planet...

The resolution for the AGM in The Royal Albert Hall on 4th June was discussed, and members instructed their delegate to vote in favour. Our contribution to ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) 'Walk the World' is set for Sunday 14 May around the canal near Borwick and Capernwray. The centenary trip along the Skipton canal, by boat, is on Tuesday 1 September. A £10.00 deposit will be required next month. We host the Group Meeting on 19 June, when Frances Benton will share her 'Passion for Pearls' and a strawberry supper will be served. We look forward to the evening with our neighbouring institutes.

Arkholme & District meet next in Gressingham Old School Room on Monday 8 June. The Kendal Town Crier, Richard Matthews, will speak – 'The Name Rings a Bell'.

Gerald writes...

What a shame that the antique Whittington road sign is lying at a drunken angle in the hedge on Kirkby Lonsdale road. Might it be possible to arrange for it to be removed and repaired and put in a less vulnerable place, away from the hedge-cutter drivers, who seem to delight in decapitating road signs and footpath finger posts?

Marie Blackburn saw the first swallow on 16 April but there are a lot fewer birds about this year and I have yet to see the usual ones flying around the Church.

We will be doing a small presentation in church on 31 May at the Heritage Service at 5pm. There will be some of the Church records on view and lots of other interesting material to look at if you are interested in our village's long history.

The Tartan Sound will be back playing music for dancing in Whittington Village Hall on Saturday 6 June at 8pm, well worth a visit.

Gerald Hodgson

Charity Cycle Ride from Newcastle to Edinburgh



The Wagtail Wheelers would like to thank everyone who supported our Newcastle to Edinburgh charity cycle challenge which we completed over the early May Bank Holiday weekend.



We cycled on roads, tracks, and cliff-top bridleways, along promenades, and through sand dunes, parks and fords, in every kind of weather, to achieve our goal to finish at The Mound in Edinburgh (above left). **We have so far raised a fantastic £5,379** for the GBM brain tumour charity *Headcase*. Please visit our JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/Wagtail-Wheelers-Headcase-cycle-2015 *Thankyou – Louise Jones*



**The weather
in Arkholme**
Robin McIlveen

April Weather in Arkholme

Rain Days 15 / Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+) 2
Wettest Day 28th-29th 11.1mm
Monthly total 50.1 mm
Total for 2015 so far 388mm (15.3 inches)

April has been quite dry from three points of view. The monthly total of 50mm is about 60% of our average 80mm; 15 days with observed rain is about 70% of our usual 20 plus; and 2 Decidedly Wet Days is less than half of the usual 5. The monthly total completes the series for the first 4 months of the year – January 174mm, February 64mm, March 100mm, and April 50mm – whose total of 388mm is 20% above the benchmark of $4 \times 80 = 320$ mm. However, May is turning out to be a much wetter month than April and February, with over 120 mm by the 19th as I write.

After a cool first week, April afternoon temperatures rose through the seasonal average of about 15°C, and peaked at 20.5°C (70°F) on the 10th, before falling sharply, staggering back to the seasonal average for a week, reaching to 20°C again in 3 days centred on April 22nd, and falling to abysmal levels (about 10°C) for the last week. Nothing to write home about there.

Admiral Fitzroy has hit the headlines in the last week or two, courtesy of a new and appreciative biography. I first heard about him in 1963, in lectures in Imperial College on the excellent start he gave to the British Meteorological Office in the early 1850s. His experience in the Royal Navy combined with a very good technical and scientific 'nose' to produce by far the best of the weather observation and reporting networks being established in Europe and the United States at that time – all making use of the new-fangled electric telegraph to send hourly observations to central forecasting offices. His depressive sensitivity to press criticism of inaccurate forecasts led to his suicide some years later, after which the British Met Office languished for nearly 50 years, before it was taken in hand by the brilliant scientist Sir Napier Shaw, who by about 1910 had restored it to its position in the top league of observing and forecasting services, a position which it has maintained to the present day through the work of recent directors, Sir John Mason (world authority on cloud physics, who died a few months ago) and Sir John Houghton (world authority on global warming).

In the early 1900s another distinguished British scientist (Sir Gilbert Walker) pioneered the recognition and study of a vast interconnected rhythm in world climate, now called the Southern Oscillation, of which the El Nino event off the coast of Peru, is a dramatic part. More next time.

If you were troubled to see some wind speeds quoted in miles per gallon last month, instead of miles per hour – fear not, the system is human and drives cars.

Robin McIlveen