



Wagtail

March 2016 • GRESSINGHAM EDITION
also published in Whittington and Arkholme



The Pearson Trust and the future of the community buildings in Gressingham

Several residents of Gressingham and Eskrigge attended a public meeting in the Old School Room on Wednesday 27 January, to hear Sir Nicholas Pearson outline an offer of funding by the Pearson Trust to help secure the future of Saint John's church, Gressingham. (Sir Nicholas Pearson grew up at Gressingham Hall, and the trust has previously donated sums of money to Saint John's).

The aim of the Pearson Trust's offer is to help secure the future of the church building, adapted as a single village community centre, functioning both as a centre of worship and for general social activities. With Saint John's facing a gradually declining congregation, the trustees are keen that the uncertain future of the church building should be addressed before it is too late.

The trustees envisage the church building being adapted to make it a warm and comfortable meeting place, the cost of this conversion to be shared between the Pearson trust, the Parochial Church Council, and the Old School Room trust. The Pearson trustees believe that the cost of conversion is manageable in this way.

Sir Nick posed the question, "What do you want to leave to your descendants? My assumption is that the church will remain". He stressed that the Pearson trust is offering help only if that is what is wanted by the community. However, this offer from the trust is conditional upon the Old School Room building being adapted and used to provide a significant additional source of funding for the 'new' church building community centre. (The trust sees two community centres within a small village such as Gressingham as being unsustainable).

What do we want from a community centre within the church building? Sir Nick suggested that the village should be proud of its Grade-1 listed building, that it should retain a sense of history and tradition, reflect 'decent English values' both religious and non-religious, and be warm, bright, and adaptable to accommodate many different uses. It should reflect the needs of the community as a whole, including being available for worship, with one end of the building being reserved as a practising church.

After some discussion, it was proposed that a small working group be established with volunteers from the community, the aim being to consider all options for the future development of the church building and the Old School Room, and to evaluate the cost and viability of each option.

Note that one option is to do nothing! The result of this work would then to be debated by the village community, possibly leading to a democratic decision to establish a mandate for change.

Next steps: A public meeting, open to all residents of Gressingham and Eskrigge, is to be held on Thursday 10 March at 7.30pm in the Old School Room. The intention is to limit the

duration of this meeting to about 1 hour. The (limited) agenda is (1) to formally establish the Working Group, and (2) to draw up an initial list of the possible options to be considered. Note that it is not intended to engage in an in-depth discussion about the pros and cons of each option during this first meeting!

– Neil Read

Notes of the earlier meeting (with thanks to Frank Wareing): lunar.co.uk/temp/GressinghamOpenMeeting270116a.pdf

more GRESSINGHAM events on the back cover...

Directory

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 1 and 22 March 9.45-10.25 Arkholme School, 10.45-11.00 Carus Park, 11.30-11.45 Whittington Village Hall, 11.50-12.05 Whittington Loyne Park

Arkholme and Whittington Parish Council Clerk *Gillian Hodgson* 21814
6 Meadoway Arkholme LA6 1AT arkholmebrownies@hotmail.com

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

Arkholme Village Hall www.arkholme-village-hall.co.uk 07716 122940 Committee usually meets second Thursday of each month (email or phone to check) – all welcome

Book Club *May Levick* 21669

Choir *Louise Jones* 22366 / 07970 191998 louisejones65@btinternet.com

Drama Group *Neil Read* 21339 realneed@hotmail.com

Lunch Club *Carole Webb* 22202 or *Doreen Airey* 22023 for retired residents of the three villages – usually on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May

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 *Janice McIlveen* 21693

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

Local churches and community groups can be listed here for free

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

Classified ads

We hope you find these listings helpful

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Wagtail

Welcome to the March edition.

All local churches and community groups are welcome to send in news of their activities to Wagtail – reports of recent events (with photographs if available) as well as announcements of what's coming up. Other local news is also welcome.

The next edition is the April edition. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 March. Please submit all items to editor@wagtail.org.uk

Wagtail is also available online at www.wagtail.org.uk

Many thanks as always to all our contributors and distributors.

Michael Hampson

More events coming up this month

Thursdays 10 and 24 March

Mind Alive

2.30pm Hornby Village Institute
current affairs and philosophy
discussion group for seniors
derek.seber@sky.com

Saturday 12 March

Bingo

7.30pm at Aughton Village Hall
good prizes – gammon, chicken,
chocolates – plus raffle and free
refreshments – for Saint Saviour's Church



Sunday 13 March

'The Baghdaddies' and their blistering brass world music

7.30pm Arkholme Village Hall
world music with strong Balkan tendencies alongside
Caribbean grooves, Middle Eastern rhythms & even some
Geordie (native Newcastle) touches. £7/£5
c.may@lancaster.ac.uk or 07519 281 305 or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/220299

Wednesday 16 to Saturday 19 March

Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe

nightly at 7.30pm at Hornby Village Institute
The Hornby Occasionals
£10/£8/£5 from 22227 or 0793 007 2010

Friday 18 March

Countryside Society

7.45pm Hornby Village Institute
Philip Rawsthorn
'The Fascination of Soils'



Easter Day 27 March

3pm Songs of Praise service

Arkholme Parish Church

launching the new set of 'BBC Songs of Praise' Hymn Books
donated by Oxford University Press in memory of Pauline Hall
Send hymn requests to vicar@these4parishes.co.uk or 21712
then come along to enjoy singing a whole list of favourites
on Easter Day afternoon

Loyn Bridge update

Repair work is scheduled to begin on 24 February. In addition to the obvious damage to the bridge piers, there is also damage to the foundations of the bridge underwater, where the water has scoured holes which need to be filled.

Reconstruction of the piers and repairs to foundations will take 3-4 weeks, and it should be possible to reopen the bridge once this is done. Further work to protect the bridge will follow on immediately and take another 8 weeks or so. This includes removing a build-up of gravel which is banked up before the bridge and which over time will erode the river bank and bridge foundations if not removed. There will also be work to protect the east bank from erosion, work to the west bank having been carried out last year.

with thanks to Neil Read (Gressingham Parish Council)

Campaign to save bus 81A

At the moment it looks as though the only buses through Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham on the existing 81A route (from Lancaster to Kirkby Lonsdale) will be the school services, once subsidies are withdrawn at the end of March.

In contrast the 81B – also from Lancaster to Kirkby Lonsdale but along the other side of the valley (Melling, Tunstall, Burrow) – will continue to run every two hours.

John Keegan is suggesting that Stagecoach should run alternate 81A and 81B services instead, giving each side of the valley three buses a day in each direction, and promotes his suggestion by observing that the population on this side of the valley is 22% higher than on the other side.

see www.whittingtonvillage.org.uk for more

Notices

Hornby Flower Club is organising a Flower Festival in Saint Margaret's Church, Hornby, from 20 to 22 May 2016. Joan Bentley, who was instrumental in arranging the Cartmel Priory Flower Festival, will be sharing her expertise with us, including leading a workshop on Thursday 10 March (7.30pm at Hornby Institute). We are looking for volunteers to assist with the many tasks involved in the Festival, so if you would be interested in creating a display, or helping in any other way, please do come along to one of our meetings, or contact Pat on 21449, or Liz at the flower Bank on 21510.

An afternoon of creative arts activities for young people aged 16-25 is being organised for **Saturday 12 March** 2pm to 5pm at Green Close Studios, Melling, by Sue and Pete Flowers of Melling and Matt Wilde of Blaze – pete@greenclose.org or 21233

Donations in memory of Richard Haston came to £634, which is divided equally between the Children's Air Ambulance and the Royal Lancaster Infirmary – very many thanks to all who gave so generously. And **congratulations to the Morrow family** (Jordan, and Emily née Haston) of Hinton, Alberta, on the birth of their first baby, Lilianna Mae, on 14 January – *Joan Haston and Family*

'Nutty Nana wishes to say a huge thankyou.' On Saturday 6 February the family surprised Jean with an 80th birthday celebration held at The Orange Tree in Kirkby Lonsdale. Needless to say she was very surprised and had a thoroughly wonderful afternoon. Instead of presents, we asked should any one wish to give a donation on the day, that would be much appreciated towards a charity of Jean's choice. Jean would like to thank everyone for their generosity as £380 has been raised, which is to be split between St Johns Hospice and Cancer Care – *Gavin and Karen Charlesworth and family*

More events for Lent, Holy Week and Easter



Wednesdays 2, 9 and 16 March
12noon-1.15pm Lent Lunches
 Home-made bread and home-made soup
served inside Saint Margaret's, Hornby



Friday 4 March
Women's World Day of Prayer
 2pm at Saint Wilfrid's, Melling



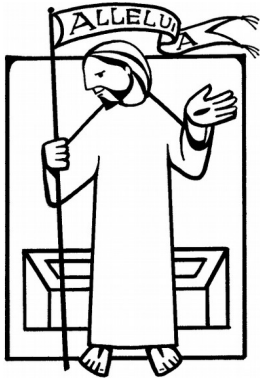
Palm Sunday 20 March

Palm Processions in all four parishes including
10.30am Saint John's, Gressingham
 with traditional palm crosses
 to take home after the service
Other service times in the table below

Monday of Holy Week 21 March 7.30pm at Saint Margaret's, Hornby
 Fr Luiz of Saint Mary's, Hornby concludes our Lent programme – *everybody welcome*

Maundy Thursday 24 March 7.30pm at Saint Margaret's Hornby
 Eucharist of the Last Supper and Gethsemane Watch

Good Friday 25 March 10am at Saint John the Baptist, Arkholme
(also simultaneously at Saint Margaret's Hornby) readings and prayers for Good Friday



Easter Day 27 March

(Clocks go forward)
10.30am Saint John's, Gressingham
 Easter Day service with *Easter eggs to take home*
3pm Saint John the Baptist, Arkholme
'Songs of Praise'



SUNDAY SERVICES *across the four parishes this month*

| | Whittington | Arkholme | Gressingham | Hornby |
|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| 6 March | 9.30am | 9.30am | 3.30pm | 10.45am |
| 13 March | 9.30am | 9.30am | 8am | 10.45am |
| 20 March | 9.30am | 9.30am | 10.30am | 10.45am |
| 27 March | 9.30am | 9.30am | 10.30am | 10.45am |

Sunday School 10.45am in Hornby church *6 March*

Youth-led service 10.45am in Hornby church *20 March*

Hornby 8am service *Sundays 6, 20 and 27 March*

Weekly bulletin online: www.these4parishes.co.uk



January Weather in Arkholme

Rain Days 25 out of 31
Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+) 13 of 25
Wettest Day 9th-10th 19.2mm
Monthly total 150.5mm (5.9 inches)

Quite a wet start to the year, though almost benevolent by the deluvian standards of November and December. There were only six completely dry days (compared with a typical ten), and there were thirteen Decidedly Wet Days (compared to a typical five or six), but no Extremely Wet Days (25mm+), the wettest day having only 19.2mm.

The 150mm total for the month was dominated by the 122mm falling on the *thirteen* Decidedly Wet Days (81% of the total for the month, at an average of 9.3mm per day), with only 29mm falling on the *twelve* days under 5mm (19% of the total for the month, at an average of 2.4mm per day) – a typical imbalance. The nearly continual cloudy, wet weather kept the temperatures well above the seasonal norm, apart from five days in the middle of the month, when there were consecutive sharpish frosts.

The first ten days of February carried on the wet winter monotone and deposited 55mm, but then the relentless procession of Atlantic Lows broke at long last, and high pressures brought the blessed release of sunny days and frosty nights.

Last November and December were so wet that I introduced the category *Extremely Wet Day* (EWD) for days with rainfalls of 25mm (very nearly 1 inch) or more. To simplify extraction from daily data, an EWD is defined to be an extremely wet DWD, so that the categories Rain Day (an international climatic term), and DWD and EWD (my personal terms) are nested like the shells of a Russian doll. You can see this in the table for November and December below (from last month's Wagtail with corrections) – for example of the 30 days of November, 26 were Rain Days, 16 of which were Decidedly Wet Days, 4 of which were Extremely Wet Days.

| | November 2015 | December 2015 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Rain days | 26 out of 30 | 31 out of 31 |
| Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+) | 16 out of 26 | 14 out of 31 |
| Extremely Wet Days (25mm+) | 4 out of 16 | 6 out of 14 |
| Wettest Day | 10th-11th 39.7mm | 5th-6th 94.6mm |
| Monthly total | 299mm (11.8") | 391mm (15.6") |

With this table you can immediately see the numbers of days of the month in each rainfall range. So in November there were four days without rainfall (30-26=4), ten 'ordinary' wet days with rainfalls below 5mm (26-16=10), twelve decidedly-but-not-extremely wet days with rainfalls from 5mm to under 25 mm (16-4=12), and finally the four Extremely Wet Days with rainfalls of 25mm and higher. In December the corresponding numbers were: no days without rainfall (a dismal record), seventeen 'ordinary' wet days (with rainfalls below 5mm), eight decidedly-but-not-extremely wet days (with rainfalls from 5mm to under 25mm), and six Extremely Wet Days with rainfalls of 25mm and higher. Not surprisingly, the huge rainfall total in December (391mm) was dominated by the six Extremely Wet Days, which together produced a total of 270mm at an average of 66mm per Extremely Wet Day – whereas the seventeen 'ordinary' rain days with less than 5mm each contributed only 32mm, at an average of 1.9mm per 'ordinary' wet day.

Extremely Wet Days are always going to be quite rare in my record. Before November and December there was only one other Extremely Wet Day in the whole of 2015 – the 32.8 mm recorded on 2 January – which makes the ten Extremely Wet Days clustered in November and December all the more remarkable. Between them, the eleven Extremely Wet Days of 2015 deposited 435mm in the garden – nearly thirty percent of the total rainfall of a very wet year. I hope rainfall will be less skewed in 2016. No harm in hoping.

Robin McIlveen

Arkholme and District WI



February's meeting was very well attended and Janice welcomed a new member to our group, Jean Fairhurst. The speaker, Mathew Lepp, of Tigermuffin Soap, was welcomed and began his very interesting, and frequently very amusing, talk about soap.

Mathew taught us the history, science and manufacture of soaps and finished with a demonstration of soap, bubble-bath, and bath-bomb making. We all received a small tablet of the soap which he had made. We were able to buy all kinds of soaps and more in many colours and perfumes. Allison thanked the speaker.

After the retail therapy, we began the business meeting chaired by Janice. Jane made sure we all had our membership booklets and cards. Smilingly she told us that we had received some financial support from both Arkholme and Whittington. For this we are very grateful. Thank you Arkholme and Whittington. Our hosting of the Quiz went very well and we made a small profit. The Whitty Wizards were congratulated on their success. Many interesting and varied courses and talks were advertised, ranging from a book signing in Carnforth to the creation of a Fascinator or Hatinator (for the Betty Sanderson Trophy). Lots of Teddies have been made by our group. Carolyn has made no less than forty. Carolyn was also the winner of 2015's Monthly Competitions. Our committee voted for 10 members from the whole of Lancashire to serve on the Federation Committee. On 23 May we are going out for a meal and a hanging-basket planting demonstration. Pat Mann and Manon Ogden served refreshments.

The next meeting will be in Gresingham Old School Room on Monday 14 March when Jim Bowness will talk about 'Old Kendal'. Visitors are always welcome.

Gerald Hodgson writes...

I celebrated my 80th birthday at Christmas, and have been thinking of the changes in my home village of Arkholme in that time.

Before the war the majority of the working men lived within walking distance of their employment. There were at least sixteen working farms within two miles of the crossroads, most of them employing one or two farm workers who lived with the farmer's family. They milked between ten and thirty cows by hand, morning and night, with the milk to be ready for collection on the milk-stand by 8am each morning. Each farm also had a flock of sheep, fifty or sixty hens, two pigs that were killed for eating in the home, a flock of geese with all but three of them killed at Christmas – the three left to produce the next years flock – and two or three heavy horses for the heavy farm work: ploughing, pulling the mowing machine, hay-making and all the other daily jobs around the farm.

Kit Bibby was the blacksmith. The Metcalfes were landlords at the Bay Horse. The Swindells family had the garage, Albert Ireland the post office, and next door Tom Williamson had a cobblers shop. He lived at Ferrocrete with his brother Jack, who was the local joiner, and his two sisters Alice and Agnes. The Irelands lived at Willow Cottage. Charlie, the last basket maker, was an absolute artist, and made all sorts of lovely designs from willow. Bob Robinson was a stone-mason, and lived at Poole House. He had a concrete block making press that produced stone faced blocks. Ferrocrete (the house that was demolished when the Herb Garden was built) was erected using these blocks. The Holmes family used to live at Rose Cottage. They had been the village joiners and had a small steam engine in the garden behind the house to drive the woodworking machinery. They supplied a lot of the woodwork when the Church was restored. More next month!

There are two dances at Whittington this month: the annual charity dance on the fifth, and Lupton Church dance on the twelfth, when Bill Johnston will provide the music.



Wagtail

GRESSINGHAM EVENTS

Monday 14 March
Women's Institute
7.30pm Gressingham Old School Room – Jim Bowness
'Old Kendal' – visitors welcome



Friday 26 February
Gressingham Fellowship
AGM Pie and Quiz night
7pm Gressingham Old School Room
A fun social evening with hot pie and peas (£3) a fun quiz and a brief informal AGM. RSVP by 23 February so we know numbers for food and seating. Bring a bottle. john@lunar.co.uk 22335

Friday 18 March
The Art and Palaces of Vienna
7.30pm Gressingham Old School Room
Anthony Adamson shares with us the fourth of his very popular cultural tours to Europe – this time with a slideshow of his visit to Vienna. Tea/coffee and biscuits served later, but bring a bottle nonetheless. john@lunar.co.uk 22335

Sunday 6 March
 **CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN**
Gressingham 'Clean for the Queen' part of a country-wide tidy-up ahead of the Queen's 90th birthday in April backed by a whole range of social, heritage and environmental charities. For the Gressingham litter-pick, meet 2pm at the Old School Room, high visibility jackets and litter picking devices provided.

Palm Sunday 20 March
10.30am St John's Gressingham
Palm Sunday service with Palm Procession and traditional palm crosses to take home



Easter Day 27 March
(clocks go forward)
10.30am St John's Gressingham
Easter Day service with Easter eggs to take home



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