



Wagtail

November 2015 • *The parish magazine of Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham*

This edition sponsored by



Lancaster 01524 598300
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Wednesday
28 October
**Public Consultation
on Arkholme
Conservation Area**
4pm to 7pm
Arkholme Village Hall
see page 5 inside

Saturday 31 October · Halloween Party
Gressingham Old School Room · Little horrors from 6pm,
Big ghouls and boys from 7:30pm-11pm · Fancy dress,
party games, pumpkin competition, Jacobs Join (bring a
drink and food to share) · Gressingham/Eskrigge
residents and their guests only due to limited space –
please confirm if you're coming by text to 07810 508 788
or email alexphillips@promotional-goods.org.uk

Sunday 1 November – All Saints and All Souls



All Saints – All Souls service
9.30am Arkholme · 10.45am Hornby
*with the opportunity to light a candle
in memory of a loved one, plus
readings hymns and prayers for the day*

All Souls Day concert
3pm at Saint Margaret's, Hornby
classical and lighter music
from Bartok to The Beatles
in aid of Saint John's Hospice



Bonfire Night Thursday 5 November



Whittington Bonfire
6.30pm start · 7pm fireworks
hot food, bar, cake stall

Arkholme Bonfire
7pm Arkholme Village Hall
fireworks, food, guy competition



Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Sunday



Acts of Remembrance
*including the 11am silence
starting at 10.30am in
Whittington, Arkholme
and Gressingham parish
churches, and at 10.55am
in Hornby at the war
memorial (full parade with
uniformed organisations)*

Concert for Remembrance
6pm in Whittington parish church
with the **Divers Voyces** choir, including:
Richard Farrant's *Call to Remembrance*,
Thomas Tallis' *If ye love me*, William Byrd's *Ave
Verum Corpus*, Bruckner's *Christus factus est*
and more – followed by refreshments
*in aid of Whittington Parish Church and
Royal British Legion – everybody welcome*

Saturday 14 November
2pm Arkholme Village Hall
Arkholme PTFA Jumble Sale
plus cake stall and refreshments – for
Arkholme School and Rosemere Cancer
Foundation – offers of help to Karen
Charlesworth 07786 390 965

Friday 20 November
7pm Gressingham Old School Room
Sausage making demonstration
with Billy from Hornby Butchers,
including the opportunity to sample
two of their speciality sausages
please bring a bottle

more 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

Arkholme and Whittington Parish Council Clerk *Gillian Hodgson* 21814

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

Arkholme Village Hall bookings arkholmevillagehall@gmail.com 07716 122940

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

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

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 useful

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

Babysitting by Joe Schofield of Whittington, age 16. Any time, any place. Raising funds for World Expedition Challenge. References can be supplied. 07787 908 072

Bay Horse Hotel Arkholme open daily – lunchtime 12noon-3pm and evening 6pm-11pm. Open all day (12noon-11pm) Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Food served all day – last food orders 9pm. (Closed all day Monday, and Tuesday lunchtime). LA6 1AS. (015242) 21425. Rooms available. www.thebayhorsearkholme.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 HCPC Lune Valley Physiotherapy Maximise potential post surgery, accident, 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

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Wagtail

Welcome to the November 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 **combined December and January edition**. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 November. Please submit all items to editor@wagtail.org.uk

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

Thanks as always to all our contributors and distributors.

Michael Hampson

November: season of Remembrance

With the days growing shorter, the harvest gathered in and stored away, and the year winding towards its conclusion, November is the traditional season for remembering.

It all begins with **All Saints and All Souls**, right at the beginning of the month.

On *All Saints Day*, we remember the heroes of the faith – and then the next day, *All Souls Day*, is for the rest of us: saved souls, third rank, somewhere at the back of the crowd as the saints go marching in. (We combine them both on 1 November this year.)

Hallowe'en has been tagged on to the eve of the two day festival. It has no biblical or faith-based claim on the date, but it does tell of the worries and fears that the great celebrations of *All Saints Day* and *All Souls Day* dispel. In the dark night of Hallowe'en, we make a play of laughing in the face of our fears – then celebrate the triumph of good over evil in the festival days that follow.

Remembrance Sunday fits right into the pattern. Sombrely we remember the terrible costs and sacrifices of all wars, as we give thanks for those who served, and pray that wars may cease, that this one human race might learn to live in peace.



And the church year concludes with the great festival of *Christ the King* on the Last Sunday before Advent (22 November this year), celebrating our hope and trust that – at the end of time – all things will be restored as they should be, even as the one proclaimed as righteous king bears the scars of the cross.

Michael Hampson (vicar)



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Sunday Services

	Whittington	Arkholve	Gressingham	Hornby
1 November	-	9.30am	-	10.45am
8 November	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.55am
15 November	9.30am	9.30am	3.30pm	10.45am
22 November	9.30am	-	9.30am	10.45am
29 November	United Benefice Service, Hornby 10.45am			

Eileen Taylor

It is with great sorrow that we report Eileen Taylor died peacefully in her sleep on 13 October, after a long illness. For many years Eileen served the Gressingham community well, as assistant manager of the Old School Room and as Chair of the Parish Council. Our deepest sympathy goes to Bill and family. - *Neil Read*

Notices

A warm welcome to Phil and Rachael Gibson and their two boys Ezra and Remy, who have moved into Arkholme. Phil is a digital map designer and Rachael is a secondary school teacher and examiner. Rachael writes: *Thank you for your October edition of the Wagtail parish magazine. It's so fantastic to see how much is going on in the local area. We look forward very much to the future editions and to getting involved in the variety of local events and activities on offer.*

Enterprising Joe Schofield of Whittington (age 16) is raising funds for the World Expedition Challenge, and offering baby-sitting services through the Wagtail classified ads (see page 2). My guess is that "any time, any place" excludes school hours on school days... but then again... References can be supplied. Call Joe on 07787 908 072.

Arkholme School is looking for a permanent Midday Welfare Assistant, to work school days 11.45am to 1.15pm. Contact the school office on 21418.

This is the clock, the Whittington clock. Judith Greenwood (Whittington churchwarden) writes: "Whittington church/village clock has to be wound twice a week. This involves going up the tower. We currently have two faithful clock winders but they do need reinforcements. It has to be a regular commitment. Paul Ogden will be happy to show anybody what is required." Please contact Judith on 73055.

Village Hall draws: Arkholme £20 Mr & Mrs Duxbury, £10 Mr & Mrs Ireland, £10 B Acott, £10 Mr & Mrs Baker, £10 A Heynes, £10 Mr G Barton, £10 Mr & Mrs Clark, £10 Mr & Mrs Pearson; Whittington £20 Lesley Pelter, £10 Colin Clarkson, £5 Anne Bell

Six more big charity thankyou's

Arkholme's **Macmillan Coffee Morning** on 26 September was a great success and raised £800 for the charity. We would like to thank all the helpers, the people who donated cakes and a range of wonderful raffle prizes, and Atkinson's in Lancaster for donating the coffee.

Thanks to everyone who came to the Arkholme **Charity Dinner** in aid of the **North West Air Ambulance**. It was a great night and together we raised £3,000 for this worthy cause.

Whittington **Harvest Supper** made a surplus of £250.79, and donation and the Sunday collection brought the total to £443.79 for **The Olive Branch**.

Steve Manders and Kate Midgley would like to thank everyone who supported and contributed to the fundraiser in Whittington for **Saint John's Hospice** on 10 October. Together we raised £856 which has been topped up to £900 by Whittington Village Hall from the bar takings on the night. This far exceeds the sum we had hoped to raise and we are most grateful to everyone involved.

Thelma Bennett and Janet Hilton wish to thank everyone who attended and helped at the coffee morning to raise funds for the **Motor Neurone Disease Association** on Saturday 3 October in Hornby Institute. The amount raised was a staggering £1830 (and still counting). The atmosphere on the day was wonderful and the North Lancaster and South Cumbria branch of the MNDA was delighted with the event and the number of people who turned out to support it. So again a very big thank you to you all.

After weeks of hard work and commitment by members of the village, the refurbished **Gressingham School Room** is now open for everyone to see and enjoy. On 25 September we enjoyed a Jacob's Join and watched slide-shows of the work that has been done, and in complete contrast an illustrated talk about Norway from the cities of Oslo and Bergen to the Northern Lights. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the work and to the Trustees and Fellowship for the funds to do it.

Whittington B4RN update

The Whittington B4RN team has been making great progress since the last update in August. Over the late summer and autumn months we have laid ducting, blown fibre and made connections at Whittington Hall, up and down both sides of Church Street, and all the way up Hosticle Lane as far as Sellet Hall.

We have been grateful for the long spell of dry weather which has made the digging that much easier - and wonder how much longer it will hold out. We are grateful also to those residents at that end of the parish, and our friends from Hutton Roof, who have helped out on our Saturday sessions.

We keep pressing on and think we may be three-quarters the way towards our goal. Is that light we can see at the end of the tunnel - or is it just the busy flickering of fibre-optic traffic?

Jeff Eaman

Arkholme Conservation Area

“Arkholme is characterised by its traditionally constructed agricultural and residential buildings, which have a distinctive aesthetic appearance due to the predominant use of local materials...”

Lancaster City Council is conducting a public consultation on the Arkholme Conservation Area.

Conservation Areas are designated by local planning authorities as areas of special architectural and historic interest. **Conservation Area Appraisals** are produced by the local authority to identify the character of the area, assess its special interest and help inform the future management of the area.

The draft Appraisal document is now available, and comments are invited:

<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/conservation/conservation-area-appraisals/>

The public consultation period runs until Monday 16 November. There is a public drop-in event at Arkholme Village Hall on Wednesday 28 October from 4pm to 7pm.

Comments can also be submitted...

by email to Megan Atkinson (Conservation Officer) as matkinson@lancaster.gov.uk or **by post** to Planning and Regeneration, Town Hall, Dalton Square, Lancaster, LA1 1PJ

Gressingham Parish Council

Gressingham Parish Council met on Monday 7 September. The chairman will continue to press LCC for some form of traffic calming in the village, including particular concerns that the road appears too wide at the new bridge (encouraging vehicles to speed), and requesting white hatching on the bend for pedestrians, and wheelchair access to the footpath. There were concerns about lack of signage for concealed entrances, and the grass on road verges being left uncut (in contrast to excellent emptying and cleaning around the road gulleys). The annual audit has been completed and accepted. *Present: N Read (chairman), M Brooks, E Taylor, Sally Riley, G Metcalfe (clerk), and Sheila Liggett (recently retired councillor). G Parker sent apologies. Councillors thanked Sheila for her many years' service to the community. Sheila's place is taken by Sally Riley, who was formally co-opted onto the PC. Next meeting (to which members of the public are welcome): Monday 7th November 2015 in the Old School Room.*



The weather in Arkholme

Robin McIlveen

September Weather in Arkholme

Rain Days 13 / Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+) 2

Wettest Day 1st-2nd 16.2mm

Monthly total 33.9mm (1.3 inches)

Total for 2015 so far 778mm (61.2 inches)

September has been a really dry month, with only 34mm of rain, just like June. In fact there has been a quarter-by-quarter decline in rainfall this year, with 338mm in the first quarter, and 247mm and 193mm respectively in the second and third quarters. There were only 13 days with rain, only two of which were *Decidedly Wet Days*, though they provided just over half the monthly rainfall.

The dry weather has continued into October, with only 5 rain days (totaling 17.4mm) as I write on 16th. The rapidly lengthening nights should have given some morning frosts by now, but fortuitous overnight cloud has prevented this so far, though the mornings of October 2nd and 14th nearly made it, with 0.5 °C in the apple tree box.

A quiet Autumn is now in full cry, with apples thumping down sporadically from the straggly apple trees which are all that remain from the orchard of Carus House, which had fallen into ruin by the early 60s, bequeathing its old coach turning circle in the stone wall on the south side of Arkholme Main Street, and of course the polyglot development of Carus Park, which is now nearly 45 years old.

You may have noticed that weather forecasts on radio and television have recently begun to use the term "grass frost" in place of the old familiar "ground frost", meaning a minimum surface temperature below 0°C, whether or not hoar frost actually forms. My minimum temperatures (in a ventilated box on the trunk of an apple tree 1.5m above the ground surface) are technically called "air frosts", and are generally at least a couple of degrees warmer than the corresponding grass (ground) frosts on the same occasion. If I wanted to measure grass (or ground) frost, I would lay a minimum thermometer horizontally on a little trestle nestling among the grass stems of my lawn, well clear of overhanging bushes, walls or trees. By international agreement it is always measured in short grass, rather than over sand, tarmac or concrete (which can give slightly different values), presumably because grass is so widespread. So my apple tree minima are "air frosts" (if below 0°C) and the broadcaster's grass frosts are just that, though they used to be called ground frosts, and still are in technical communications. That's all right then.

Robin McIlveen

Hornby Flower Club

We had a wonderful start to our new Flower Club Programme in September.

Jane Burns demonstrated how to incorporate driftwood into floral arrangements with designs that ranged from the very simple with just one or two flowers to the more elaborate designs using larger pieces of driftwood with stunning effect. In our October meeting Lisa Winn took the autumn colours and a little bit of Halloween magic to delight and entertain us. Of course at this time of the year we have a rich harvest of fruit and vegetables which if we are brave enough we can be use as containers or to add extra charm to our designs. On Thursday 19 November we are looking forward to welcoming Susan Fairhurst as our demonstrator. Susan is a well known local flower arranger and has competed in many national floral competitions where she has gained many top awards. Her theme for the evening is 'Woolly Thinking' ...intrigued? Come along to Hornby Institute on Thursday 19 November at 7.30pm to discover what Susan has in store and perhaps enter the raffle to win one of her arrangements. Entrance £4 to include refreshments.

Arkholme and District WI

Members arriving for the meeting in October were greeted by a small but glittering display set up by our speaker Damian Carr. Damian is a gemologist who designs and crafts jewellery in the family business which has been thriving in Garstang for 195 years. He spoke of man's long association with gold and precious stones. Gold has been valued for its beauty for millennia but diamonds were first employed later for their hardness. Many myths arose about their properties, some being ground up and included in cures. After the 15th century when the art of cutting and polishing emerged things changed a bit for the diamond, although most are still used in industry for their hardness. Only exceptional stones can be cut and polished, a rather hazardous occupation – if you miscalculate you can shatter a valuable stone with the first cut and if you polish it too hard it can go up in smoke! So near and yet so far! The 'carat' classification for diamonds refers to the weight of the sample in carob seeds; one carob seed always weighs 0.2g. (There's one for the pub quiz!). The gold carat is a measure of the proportion of pure metal in a sample; pure gold is too soft to be used generally. The Assay Office and hall-marking system was set up in England in 1238 and not changed until hall-marking was standardised in 1975.

Damian showed slides to illustrate how he makes pieces, drawing comparison with the work of a blacksmith, not surprising when you stop to think. His design inspiration comes from surprising sources – a delicate pendant inspired by a shrimp! During questions, mention was made of turning a body to a diamond; it is done and Damian has mounted some for those wanting to keep a loved one with them.

There was a second display to admire: entries to the County Show. The co-operative effort had received good marks and individual members gained third place with a fused glass piece (Anne Symons), second place with an embroidered cushion (Ursula Greetham) and first place with decorated biscuits (Sue Ward). Only the last were not on display – shame!! Next year the show will feature knitted teddies for a children's charity – training sessions for non- knitters and knitting novices are in preparation!

Our Annual Meeting will be on 9 November at 7.30pm in AVH. There will be no speaker but a hotpot supper and quiz after the formal meeting.

Jane Binney

Gerald writes...

What a wonderful autumn we have had. The begonias and geraniums are still flowering outside, not a touch of frost yet, the ash trees are turning a lovely pale yellow and the beech, sycamore and chestnut trees are going a beautiful golden shade. Almost November and the grass is still growing. We have been so lucky – it will be Christmas before we know where we are at.

Keith Bateson who died last month was, I believe, the last pupil to attend Whittington school all his school life. He was born at *The Malt Kiln* where his parents were living with Clara Hodgson. The family moved to Docker Lane when those houses were first built and he has lived there ever since. Keith started work at Whittington Hall as an apprentice gardener after leaving school, first for the Howarth family, then the Greenwoods, and finally for Lord Reay. The gardens were always beautiful, a tribute to all his hard work, and the bedding plants and lawns were always well tended and tidy – a large task for someone working on their own. As Lord Reay said at Keith's funeral, his will be a hard act to follow, and the gardens will be a legacy to Keith's memory.

Has no one any pride in our lovely old village? Our road side verges have never been cut this year. Two parish seats are hidden in the long grass, the antique village sign is still laying at a drunken angle in the hedge side, and the bus shelter is slowly filling up with dead leaves. What on earth will people passing through the village think?

Gerald Hodgson

MORE THIS MONTH and beyond

Saturday 7 November
Charity cards and more for Christmas
Gressingham Old School Room

10.30am to 2.30pm

Christmas Cards for North West Cancer Research, coffee and cake, raffle for Gressingham church, and early Christmas gift ideas from *My Vintage Style* of Ingleton

Wednesday 11 November

1pm Lunch Club *Arkholme Village Hall*
book by Monday 9 November
with Carole (22202) or Doreen (22023)



Saturday 14 November
'Sing Us Your Dreams'

with *Spires Philharmonic Chorus* including a new musical setting of Avril Newey's poem for Arkholme, *These Thankful Fields*. 'A meditation in music, images and local stories on aspects of World War I and its aftermath' **4pm** at *Lancaster Priory*
www.lancasterpriory.org

Thursday 19 November
Hornby Flower Club
7.30pm *Hornby Village Institute*
Susan Fairhurst – 'Woolly Thinking'

Friday 20 November
Countryside Society
7.45pm *Hornby Village Institute*
Trevor Pearce with an illustrated talk entitled 'Come to Terms with Worms'

Saturday 21 November
7.30pm Bingo *Aughton Village Hall*
in aid of Saint Saviour's Church, Aughton

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 November
11am to 4pm Lunesdale Arts Trail
fifteen artists in eleven studio venues
paintings, drawings, glass, textiles, prints
see www.lunesdalearts.co.uk

Sunday 6 December
The Ugly Duckling
afternoon family Christmas show
a 'Spot-On' event at *Arkholme Village Hall*

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