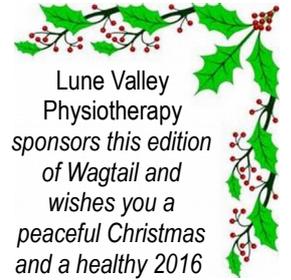




# Wagtail



Lune Valley  
Physiotherapy  
sponsors this edition  
of Wagtail and  
wishes you a  
peaceful Christmas  
and a healthy 2016

**December 2015 and January 2016**

*The parish magazine of Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham*

## DECEMBER DATES

**Sunday 6 December**

### **The Ugly Duckling**

2.30pm at Arkholme Village Hall  
family Christmas show  
see details inside on page 3

**Friday 11 December**

### **Arkholme School Carol Service**

6.30pm in Whittington church

**Saturday 12 December**

### **Arkholme Children's Christmas Party**

12.30pm-3pm Arkholme Village Hall  
for all children in Docker and Arkholme  
up to and including school year 6  
Please let us know if you would like to be  
there – simplyheather@hotmail.com

**Wednesday 16 December**

### **William Sturgeon of Whittington inventor of the electromagnet**

a talk by Richard Harrison  
7.30pm at Whittington Village Hall  
coffee and biscuits, bar

**Friday 18 December**

### **Carols round the Christmas Tree**

6.30pm Arkholme Village Green  
with warm mince & apple pies, mulled  
wine and warm blackcurrant juice

**Saturday 19 December**

**80s night** at the Bay Horse, Arkholme  
fancy dress and 80s music, quiz and  
games from 8.30pm – hotpot supper £5  
advance booking recommended 21425

**Thursday 24 December**

**Children's Christmas Eve Party**  
at the Bay Horse, Arkholme  
games, prizes, and a gift from Santa  
tickets £2.50 from the Bay Horse  
from after the crib service to 6.30pm

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES



**Wednesday 16 December 7.30pm**  
**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Joint Churches Carol Service  
with the combined choirs of  
Saint Mary's and Saint Margaret's  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies  
Saint Margaret's, Hornby

**Sunday 20 December 4pm**

### **Whittington Carol Service**

in church – followed by  
mince pies and mulled wine

**Tuesday 22 December 7pm**

### **Gressingham Christmas Punch**

Gressingham Old School Room  
Carols, punch, spiced apple, festive quiz  
and more. Bring mince pies to share.  
If you have a reading or performance  
to bring, contact frances@lunar.co.uk  
or john@lunar.co.uk 22335

**Thursday 24 December**

### **Christmas Eve Crib Services**

Putting the characters in the crib  
4pm Arkholme  
or 6pm Hornby

**Thursday 24 December**

### **'Midnight Mass'**

10pm Whittington  
or 11.30pm Hornby

**Friday 25 December**

### **Christmas morning services**

9am Gressingham  
10am Arkholme  
10am Whittington

**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  
**Mobile Library Tuesday 8 December** 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  
**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](mailto:editor@wagtail.org.uk)*

## Classified ads

**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

**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](http://wagtail.org.uk) for details*

# Wagtail

Welcome to the combined December and January 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 February edition. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 January. Please submit all items to [editor@wagtail.org.uk](mailto:editor@wagtail.org.uk)

Wagtail is also available online at [www.wagtail.org.uk](http://www.wagtail.org.uk)

Many thanks as always to our contributors and distributors – and wishing you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Michael Hampson (editor)

**Sunday 6 December 2.30pm**

## The Ugly Duckling

at Arkholme Village Hall

Northumberland Theatre Company's Christmas Family Pantomime – a funny and heart-warming story for all the family, with song, dance and visual treats, about growing up, finding your own identity, and a mother's struggle to protect her children or let them go. *"It starts with a rock & roll rooster and ends with a shimmering swan – and in between it's the most fun your kids will have this Christmas"*.

£7 adults / £5 children / £20 family ticket (2 adults and 2 children)

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/208841](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/208841) or Chris 07519 281 305

## Christmas Services

Join us this Christmas Eve for the Crib Service – 4pm in Arkholme or 6pm in Hornby – and later for 'Midnight Mass', now also available at the earlier time of 10pm in Whittington ... plus Whittington Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday 20 December, Gressingham Punch from 7pm on Tuesday 22 December (all details on the front page) – and we're here every Sunday through December and in the New Year.

## DECEMBER AND JANUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

|             | Whittington                                    | Arkholme | Gressingham |
|-------------|--|----------|-------------|
| 6 December  | -  | 9.30am   | 3.30pm      |
| 13 December | 9.30am   | 9.30am   | 8am         |
| 20 December | 4pm  | 9.30am   | -           |
| 27 December | <i>Gressingham Patronal Festival 10.30am</i>   |          |             |
| 3 January   | -  | 9.30am   | 3.30pm      |
| 10 January  | 9.30am   | 9.30am   | 8am         |
| 17 January  | 9.30am   | 9.30am   | -           |
| 24 January  | 9.30am   | -        | 9.30am      |
| 31 January  | <i>United Benefice Service, Hornby 10.45am</i> |          |             |

### Hornby

10.45am Parish Communion every Sunday  
except 27 December, 10.30am Service in Gressingham

8am HC on 6 & 20 December then 3 & 17 January

**Sunday School 10.45am in Hornby church**

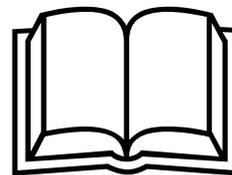
First Sunday of every month – 6 December and 3 January

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

Third Sunday of every month – 20 December, 17 January

## SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER

Patronal Festival of  
Saint John the Evangelist  
Gressingham



**United Benefice Service  
10.30am Gressingham**

*The whole benefice gathers  
in Gressingham to celebrate  
the Patronal Festival of  
Saint John the Evangelist*

No separate services  
elsewhere that day

# Charity thanks

**The RNLI collection in Gressingham and Eskrigge** raised £173, and Elizabeth Sedgwick would like to thank all those who contributed so generously and cheerfully.

**Julia and Jorien Boot** successfully completed their 214-mile cycle ride from Gressingham to Amsterdam to raise funds for *Open Arms Malawi*. They followed the coast-to-coast route and took the ferry from Hull. So far they have raised more than double their pound-a-mile target, at just under £500. If you want to help tip it over £500, visit their *Just Giving* page, where you will also find a blog and photographs. [www.justgiving.com/Julia-Boot/](http://www.justgiving.com/Julia-Boot/)

**The North West Air Ambulance Charity Dinner at Arkholme Village Hall in October** raised just over £3,000 – a big thank you to everyone who helped make it such a great success.

## Parish Councils

**Whittington Parish Council** met on Monday 28 September. Eric Pelter was elected chair, and Colin Hall was elected vice-chair. The other councillors (all present) are Barbara Atkinson, Stuart Close and Ted Lawson. City councillor Peter Williamson and clerk Gillian Hodgson were also present. The annual gardening competition had been judged by Barbara Dale. Outpayments included £323.50 to Whittington Village Hall for tarmac. Planning permission had been granted for the solar farm at Sadler Nook Lane, but once again refused for the wind turbine at Sunny Bank Farm. There may be a planning application for housing development at Whittington Farm. Next meeting Monday 23 November, 7.30pm in Whittington Village Hall.

**Gressingham Parish Council** met on Monday 9 November. A tribute was paid to councillor Eileen Taylor, a prominent member of the Parish Council for five years, including as Chair. Notification of a vacancy for a Parish Councillor will be advertised. The request for a white-line painted hatch marking pedestrian reservation along the roadside on the hill approaching Towns Bridge had been declined, as this is not normal practice given the road layout, however the requested extension of the centre-line markings on the approach to the bridge had been agreed, and should be completed within the next 12 weeks. The request for a 20mph speed limit through the village had been declined as not in line with the current criteria, given the good safety record, and the provision of relevant safety signs and road markings. The Chairman is to investigate the possible acquisition and use of a vehicle-activated speed sign, similar to the one in Hornby. It was agreed that a parish council website was not needed, and its maintenance would be a burden. The (much extended) repairs to Mill Bridge have been completed by LCC. A quad bike has been stolen from Fleet Farm on the night of 27 September. The white railings at Sunny Bank have been repainted, to good effect. Lancashire County Council is seeking views on its proposed parish-based public transport scheme, whereby a minibus would be provided for the parish to operate its own local community bus service; it was decided this would not be practicable for Gressingham. Present were councillors N Read (chairman), M Brooks, Sally Riley, G Parker and clerk G Metcalfe. Next meeting (to which members of the public are welcome): 5 January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Old School Room.

**A vacancy exists on the Gressingham Parish Council.** Expressions of interest should be made by 9 December to the clerk, Mr G Metcalfe, Fleets Farm, Gressingham, Lancaster, LA2 8LN (015242) 22261 [fleetbridge@gmail.com](mailto:fleetbridge@gmail.com)

# Notices

**The Arkholme Village Hall events group** looks after the events at Arkholme Village Hall – running some and coordinating others, from the regular *Spot-On* arts events, to evenings like the recent charity dinner for North West Air Ambulance. “We are currently looking for new members of the group to help us keep these events happening. We meet once a month (first Tuesday in the month) and run between six and eight events a year. If you’ve enjoyed some of the things we have done why not join us and help with our future events.” To get involved, or for more information, contact Christopher May [c.may@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:c.may@lancaster.ac.uk) 07519 281305

## **Arkholme Hopewell Cup Competition 2015 – Festive Christmas Wreath**

To be judged from the pavement/path outside the property – judging to commence Monday 21 December – winning household announced Christmas Eve – winner to receive the Hopewell Cup and £15 book voucher – runner up to receive £10 book voucher. Nominations to the Parish Council clerk, Gillian Hodgson (21814 or [arkholmebrownies@hotmail.com](mailto:arkholmebrownies@hotmail.com)) by Saturday 19 December

**Whittington Village Website** now includes up-to-date bus service news – which includes Loyn Bridge flooding news. It also has Parish Council minutes and upcoming agendas. The blog includes planning applications, and news items including that bus and Loyn Bridge flooding news. Anyone can contribute to give their opinions an airing – but the blog is moderated so please don’t expect rude comments to remain! [www.whittingtonvillage.org.uk](http://www.whittingtonvillage.org.uk)

**Arkholme PTFA 2015 Jumble Sale** raised £1,300 to divide between the school and the Rosemere Cancer Foundation (currently creating a quiet room for relatives and patients at Lancaster Hospital). Thanks to all who provided such high quality goods, children’s bedroom furniture, doll’s houses and so much more, to everyone who helped with collecting, and to everyone who helped on the Friday afternoon and the Saturday, including with cakes, teas, and sorting and tidying after closing time. Best wishes to Sandra Blades for a speedy recovery from a knee injury – which didn’t stop her from helping to organise and support this her twentieth Arkholme Jumble Sale.

**From the proceeds of the 2014 Jumble Sale – the Arkholme defibrillator has arrived.** It still needs its external cabinet fitting to the village hall, but in the mean time, if you would like to be amongst those trained to use it, email [arkholmedefib@aol.com](mailto:arkholmedefib@aol.com)

**A new Youth Choir and Music Group is launching at Saint Margaret’s, Hornby,** as part of the monthly youth-led service. Just turn up for the short practice starting at 10.15am, and the service starts at 10.45am, finishing around 11.30am. *The Youth Choir will help to lead the singing during the service, and will sometimes sing an item on their own. Instrumental players will start by playing a piece before the service, and will gradually learn to play for some of the hymns and other service music. You can be a singer, or a player, or both. Young people must be accompanied to church by an adult.* The youth-led service is on 20 December and 17 January – and then every ‘third Sunday of the month’ (that’s the Sunday between the 15th and the 21st). More information from Tony Ewens, director of music, on 21505.

**Golf Clubs for sale – matching carbon-shafted TaylorMade set,** consisting of: Driver, Number (3) Wood, Recovery Wood (Adam), Irons 6 7 8 and 9, Pitching Wedge, 50% Approach Wedge, 60% Lob Wedge, Ping Putter (Standard Loft, Standard Length, Standard Lie, Shaft SHI-SpdBld Gr 55-M), together with Golf Bag. Only had six months use due to ill health. £350. Telephone 21287.

**Whittington draw:** £20 Jackie Holmes, £10 Audrey Shaw, £5 Bran Williams



## October Weather in Arkholme

Rain Days 15  
Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+) 6  
Wettest Day 6th-7th 13.6mm  
Monthly total 69.4mm (2.7 inches)  
Total for 2015 so far 847mm (33.3 inches)

**After the very dry September**, October rainfall recovered well toward the 80mm average. It still felt dryish, because of its sixteen completely dry days (instead of the usual ten), and the concentration of virtually all rainfall in the six Decidedly Wet Days. Afternoon temperatures hung around 15°C (seasonally high) in the first ten days, and rose again in the last few days, after a coolish dry middle of the month.

**The first half of November** has stayed very warm, but as I write on the 19th, the first chills of winter are threatening to end an extraordinarily warm wet spell which has drenched the garden and the valley with over 220mm of rain, joining my seven monthly totals of over 200mm (in 185 months of readings), and conceivably topping them all by the end of the month. There will be more about these numbers in the next report, but struggling to read the rain gauge in the driving wet, and splashing through flooded roads, and turning back from a black flood beside the Loyne Bridge, triggered the following note on the basics of rainfall measurement.

Rainfalls in my garden (indeed any location) are expressed as **the depth of rainwater deposited on a horizontal area** (e.g. a flat tray), usually over a 24 hour period. Since a tray is impractical, the rain is actually funnelled from a smallish horizontal rimmed mouth into a collecting bottle, whose water volume is then measured by pouring into a graduated cylinder. The rainfall depth is calculated by dividing the water volume by the area of the funnel mouth. My raingauge has a 5 inch diameter circular collecting mouth – the old international standard – which has a collecting area of 126.7 square centimetres. Just before writing this note, I measured 367 cubic centimetres of rainwater in the bottle, which means that the rainfall was  $367/126.7 = 2.9$  cm (ie 29mm) – a very big rainfall indeed in 24 hours compared to the monthly average of 80mm.

**Rainwater volumes** falling on larger areas can be very large. Since our house has a plan area of about 100 square metres, that 29 mm rainfall must have deposited about 2.9 cubic metres of rainwater on the roofing of our house – 2.9 tonnes of water, quite a lot of which went down my neck as I struggled to unclog a spilling gutter. And assuming the Lune valley catchment to have horizontal area 100km by 30km, a rainfall of 29mm inputs 87 million tons of rainwater, which of course floods the feeding streams and the flood plain, on its way to the sea. Estimates like these depend on the convenient fact that 1mm of rain deposits 1 litre of water (mass 1kg) on every horizontal square metre. Simple!

**The eagle-eyed will have noticed** that in the lists for August and September the inches figures in “Totals for 2015 so far” were doubled in error. We’re back on track now.

*Robin McIlveen*

# Arkholme and District WI

**The Annual Meeting** was opened by the current president Rosemary Blanchfield. The three officers reported on a busy year leaving the Institute with the same number of members as 2014 and in a secure financial position. Members had attended the National Centenary activities at The Royal Albert Hall and at Buckingham Palace; more had enjoyed our own celebration, crossing the border into Yorkshire to have a trip on the Skipton Canal, and tea at Coniston Cold.

**WI Advisor Pam Wade** conducted the nomination and election of President for the coming year. Janice McIlveen was elected to serve, and at a brief meeting later Nicole Davison agreed to serve as Secretary and Jane Binney agreed to remain as Treasurer.

**The short list of resolutions** for next year's AGM in Brighton was announced. Members were asked to read the background information in WI Life and consider their choice for submission. There will be time for a brief discussion before sending final choices to the Federation. The teddy pattern is available and 'knit and natter' session(s) will be organised. Arkholme & District will host the Federation Quiz in January and agreed to provide refreshments. The traditional Group Celebration of Carols and Readings for Christmas will take place in Arkholme Church on 6 December at 3pm, with refreshments to follow. Our own Christmas Lunch was finalised for Tuesday 15 December at The Highwayman. Mulled wine and a hotpot completed the serious business. Carolyn Lowe then conducted a hilarious game session.

**There will be an exchange of gifts** at the Christmas meeting on Monday 14 December when Major Margaret Watkins will introduce us to 'Aunt Mabel's Hats'.

**Trish Clarke, The Lady Cobbler**, will be our speaker at the meeting on 11 January 2016. Both meetings will be at 7.30pm in Arkholme Village Hall. Visitors are welcome.

*Jane Binney*

## Gerald writes...

**The rain stopped just long enough** for us for the Remembrance service at the war memorial. We do right to remember those men who lost their lives so we can enjoy the life they never knew. The choral service that night was a wonderful experience – beautiful unaccompanied voices in a lovely setting just proved how good the acoustics of Whittington Church are.

**I am informed** that now the company developing the solar farm on Saddler Nook Lane have got their plans passed by the local authority they no longer feel obliged to give any money to local good causes. I had thought of all kinds of wonderful projects to spend it on. What a pity. We should be very wary of strangers offering gifts.

**I am so pleased to hear** that a few volunteers have come forward to help wind the church clock. That venerable piece of Victorian engineering is 140 years old this year, and when properly maintained, still keeps wonderful time. Long may it continue.

**What is it about religion** that turns sane rational people into wild murdering terrorists? Why do the worlds religious leaders not get together and start a UN-type peace forum to teach all their followers that other religions are just as devout as theirs, and that we should tolerate other peoples rational views?

**We all have special memories of Dick Haston** who died last month. The local boy, born at Lane Foot farm, went to Whittington School, and was such a popular member of our local community. Farm worker, truck driver, farmer, market gardener and Whittington race course chief steward – Dick did all these jobs, took them in his stride, always with a smile and a cheery word for everyone who crossed his path. Dick will be sadly missed by his family and friends and all who knew him, a wonderful character with a fount of local knowledge and always willing to give a helping hand.

*Gerald Hodgson*



# Wagtail

**Sunday 6 December 7pm**

**'A Christmas Bouquet'**

**Seasonal music and readings**

**with Flexitime Choir**

**(conductor Robin McIlveen)**

at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church,  
Caton (down the smaller side road at the  
Caton mini-roundabout, parking on site)

The programme will include choral  
music from Germany, France, Portugal,  
Holland, Africa, Ireland and England,  
and readings from Charles Dickens,  
Dylan Thomas, and T S Eliot.

Seasonal refreshments.

*No admission charge. Donations in  
aid of Saint John's Hospice, Lancaster.*

For more information – Robin on 21693

**Thursday 10 December 7.30pm**

**Hornby Flower Club**

*Hornby Village Institute*

with Liz and Jill from The Flower Bank.

Theme: *Christmas Inspirations*

including ideas on table decorations,  
flowers as gifts, boxing and wrapping  
floral arrangements, and much more  
£4 including refreshments

**Friday 22 January 7pm**

**Une soirée avec un tour de France**

*Gressingham Old School Room*

Paul Brooks will take us on a cycling  
tour from Nice to the Atlantic coast in a  
social evening with Gallic soup, bread,  
and cheeses (£3pp). Bring a bottle of  
your finest French plonk. Please let

Lynne know by 20 January  
if you are coming: 21678 or  
lynnrowling4@gmail.com



**LUNE VALLEY PHYSIOTHERAPY**  
Leah Dalby MCSP Physiotherapist  
leahthephysio@gmail.com  
07934 785 797

**Wishing you a peaceful Christmas  
and a healthy 2016**

## Maximise potential

after surgery, accident, or illness including cancer

leahthephysio@gmail.com 07934 785 797

*Please feel free to contact me if you are:*

stiff and sore after an accident, broken bone, or new joint

wanting to regain ability after illness or surgery

experiencing tightness after surgery, accidents, or radiotherapy

diagnosed with a life-limiting or degenerative condition

*30 years experience including 12 years with Saint John's Hospice*

This edition of Wagtail sponsored by Lune Valley Physiotherapy. For ads and sponsorship information see [www.wagtail.org.uk](http://www.wagtail.org.uk)