



Wagtail

March 2016 • ARKHOLME EDITION
also published in Whittington and Gressingham

This edition sponsored by



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Songs of Praise 3pm Easter Day Arkholme Parish Church

A celebration of favourite hymns to launch 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.

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 and even some Geordie (native Newcastle) touches
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Palm Sunday 20 March



9.30am Arkholme Parish Church
Palm Sunday service
with Palm Procession
and traditional palm crosses to take home



Easter Day 27 March
(clocks go forward)
9.30am Arkholme Parish Church
Easter Day service with
Easter eggs to take home

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 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

Architectural Services Chris Potts BSc MRICS – full architectural design services, alterations, extensions and planning advice 015242 73228 info@cnpassociates.co.uk

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

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

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

Parish Councils

Arkholme and Whittington parish councils both met during February.

Planning issues reviewed included the granting of outline planning permission for a further seventeen new homes in Arkholme, 'on land east of Arkholme Methodist Church'; an outline application for eighteen new homes and a shop/tearoom on the site of Whittington Farm, Main Street, Whittington; and an application for the conversion of the old school and its site in Whittington (currently an office/workshop) into three new homes. All applications are available for public viewing at the Lancaster City Council website.

Buses: At the moment it looks as though the only buses through Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham on the existing 81A route will be school services, once subsidies are withdrawn at the end of March. The combined subsidy for routes 81A and 81B is currently £170,000 per year. Stagecoach has to give 56 days formal notice of any changes.

A speed indicator device (of the type that flashes up your speed as you approach) may be funded through a *Community Action Fund* grant for Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham to share. It was noted that Gressingham Loyn Bridge is likely to remain closed until the end of April. Both parish councils invite members of the public to attend their meetings.

Arkholme Parish Council met on Monday 1 February in Arkholme Village Hall. The festive wreath competition was won by Hilary Jagger (Old Hall) with runners up Louise Jones (14 The Herb Gardens) and Rachael, Phil, Ezra & Remy Gibson (Tithe Barn). The pot hole adjacent to Lane Cottage had been repaired. The Christmas tree had cost £150, plus £178 for lighting. £100 annual grants were made to: Wagtail Playgroup and Toddlers, Arkholme Lunch Club, Arkholme Crown Green Bowling Club, Arkholme Village Hall Playing Fields, Arkholme and District Women's Institute, and North West Air Ambulance. The precept request would be £3,472.08 (in total for the whole village), a 2% increase on last year's request. Annual rent on the two 'pounds' at the bottom of the village was due at £12 each. Present were councillors Charles Waddington, Graham Jackson-Pitt, David Howarth and Chris Preston, city councillor Roger Mace, and clerk Gillian Hodgson. *Next meeting Monday 7 March at 7.30pm in Arkholme Village Hall.*

Whittington Parish Council met on Monday 18 January in Whittington Village Hall. The Burrow Mill Lane potholes will be inspected as soon as possible. Grants were made to Royal British Legion (£40) and £100 each to Wagtail Playgroup and Toddlers, North West Air Ambulance, and Arkholme & District Women's Institute. Present were councillors Eric Pelter, Stuart Close, Barbara Atkinson, Colin Hall and Ted Lawson, city councillor Peter Williamson, two members of the public and the clerk Gillian Hodgson. *Next meeting Monday 21 March at 7pm in Whittington Village Hall.*

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
9.30am Saint John the Baptist, Arkholme
 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)

9.30am Saint John the Baptist, Arkholme
 Easter Day service *with Easter eggs to take home*

3pm Saint John the Baptist, Arkholme
 'Songs of Praise' service – 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



SUNDAY SERVICES *across the four parishes this month*

	Whittington	Arkholme	Gressingham	Hornby
h	9.30am	9.30am	3.30pm	10.45am
h	9.30am	9.30am	8am	10.45am
h	9.30am	9.30am	10.30am	10.45am
h	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

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

The funeral of John Mackereth of Gowan Hall, Arkholme, will take place at Arkholme Parish Church on Wednesday 2 March at 12noon.

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*



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

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



Thursdays 10 and 24 March
Mind Alive 2.30pm
Hornby Village Institute
current affairs and philosophy
discussion group for seniors
derek.seber@sky.com

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 7.30pm
The Art and Palaces of Vienna
Gressingham Old School Room
Anthony Adamson with a slideshow of Vienna. Light refreshments provided but but bring a bottle anyway.

Friday 18 March 7.45pm
Countryside Society
Hornby Village Institute
Philip Rawsthorn
'The Fascination of Soils'

...and coming up later this summer

Sunday 15 May
Whittington Heritage Day
5pm onwards with tea and cakes,
and wine and savouries
Theme for 2016: the church bells

Sunday 26 June
Saint John the Baptist Patronal Festival
10.30am Service
11.30am onwards
Arkholme Open Gardens

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