



# Wagtail

April 2016 • The parish magazine  
of Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham

This edition sponsored by



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## Songs of Praise 3pm Easter Day

Sunday 27 March Arkholme Parish Church

A celebration of favourite hymns to launch the 'BBC Songs of Praise' Hymn Books donated by Oxford University Press in memory of Pauline Hall

- *Praise, my soul, the king of Heaven*
- *Guide me O thou great Redeemer*
- *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*
- *When I survey the wondrous cross*
- *Abide with me*
- *Thine be the glory*
- *Jerusalem*



### Saturday 9 April Comedy Night

Arkholme Village Hall

7.30pm for 8pm  
with JellyBean Martinez  
(‘Anarchic fun’ – *The Scotsman*) plus Scott Walker,  
Nina Giligan and John  
Lebbon – bar open all  
evening – Tickets £8 from  
07519 281 305 or  
[ticketsource.co.uk/  
date/220300](http://ticketsource.co.uk/date/220300)



### Monday 11 April 7.30pm Women's Institute

Arkholme Village Hall

Mr G Magee on ‘Life as an  
Aviator’ – visitors welcome



### Thursday 14 April Fashion Show

Whittington Village Hall

7pm to 9pm. See clothes  
modelled, try your size,  
discounts up to 75%.

Oasis, Next, River Island, M&S and more.  
Tickets £5 to include first glass of wine or  
soft drink from Mitzi Hayhurst

01524 811305 [www.shop2drop.co.uk](http://www.shop2drop.co.uk)  
in aid of Saint Saviour's Church, Aughton

### Wednesday 13 April 1pm Lunch Club

Arkholme Village Hall

Open to all retired residents of  
Whittington, Arkholme and  
Gressingham – three-course  
lunch for £6 – please  
book by Monday with Carole  
22202 or Doreen 22023



### Thursday 21 April Gressingham Fellowship

*Queen's Ninetieth Birthday Beacon Party*  
Lighting a beacon and keeping an eye  
out for others – feel free to bring a flask,  
a camp-chair, and a blanket – for times  
and directions to venue call John 22335

more church services 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 12 April** 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](mailto:arkholmebrownies@hotmail.com)

**Arkholme School** *Headteacher Joy Ingram* [www.arkholme.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.arkholme.lancs.sch.uk) 21418

**Arkholme Village Hall** [www.arkholme-village-hall.co.uk](http://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

**Bowling Club** Arkholme Monday evenings *David Smith* 03330 119 303

**Drama Group** *Neil Read* 21339 [realneed@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com) 21921

**Police** PC3573 *Rob Barnsley* [carnforthnpt@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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

*We hope you find these listings helpful*

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**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](http://www.docker-park-kennels.co.uk)

**Boarding Kennels and dog day-care** Aughton Road, Gressingham LA2 8LS [helen.burrow@hotmail.com](mailto:helen.burrow@hotmail.com) 07766 446272 [www.aughtonroadkennels.co.uk](http://www.aughtonroadkennels.co.uk)

**Lune Valley Physiotherapy** Leah Dalby MCSP HCPC Maximise potential after surgery, accidents, illness including cancer – [leahthephysio@gmail.com](mailto:leahthephysio@gmail.com) Melling 07934 785797

**Painting and Decorating** A Holloway (Decorators) Interior and exterior Established over 25 years [tonyholloway@hms.me.uk](mailto:tonyholloway@hms.me.uk) 01524 771880

**Physiotherapy** Marie Colyer MCSP HCPC Bentham 62216 [www.benthamphysio.co.uk](http://www.benthamphysio.co.uk)

**Plumbing** Darren Jones General plumbing, bathrooms, renewable energy systems, no job too small. 1 Crosslands Whittington [jonesplumb@me.com](mailto:jonesplumb@me.com) 07738 379328

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# Wagtail

Welcome to the April 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 May edition. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 April. 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 all our contributors and distributors.

*Michael Hampson*

## Gressingham and The Pearson Trust

At an open meeting in Gressingham on 27 January, Sir Nick Pearson (who grew up in Gressingham) set out a proposal whereby The Pearson Trust would be willing to help with capital funding for a new village community centre – based in a refurbished Saint John's Church – if the village is willing to ensure the long-term future of the facility by committing to it the resources of both the church and the Old School Room.

A follow-up meeting for villagers on 10 March (expertly chaired by Sally) went through a whole range of outline options, and a working group was formed to do some preliminary work on the pros and cons of each, with a mandate to report back in June. Watch this space.

## Parish Councils

Arkholme and Gressingham Parish Councils both met on Monday 7 March. Both discussed the latest information about the 81A bus and Loyn Bridge (see page 5).

**In other business in Arkholme:** The Lune Valley Rural Housing Association will be involved with the social housing units on The Sheilings development, and a representative of the Association will be invited to a future meeting of the parish council; Rachael Gibson was coopted to the vacant post for a fifth councillor; and a £100 grant was agreed to the Wagtail parish magazine [for which many thanks]; present were councillors Charles Waddington, Graham Jackson-Pitt, David Howarth and Chris Preston, city councillor Roger Mace, one member of the public, and clerk Gillian Hodgson; *the Annual Parish Meetings will be on Wednesday 11 May in Arkholme Village Hall from 7pm with invited speaker city councillor Abbott Bryning, who is the cabinet member with responsibility for Rural Areas.*

**In other business in Gressingham:** thanks were offered to all those who helped with 'Clean for the Queen' litter picking in March (at least fifteen volunteers organised by George); the Old School Room has taken delivery of 40 new chairs, to complement the recent refurbishment, with support from the council; it was noted that city council funding was to cease for Hornby swimming pool, but that the pool might be saved by contributions from the parish councils, including Gressingham; and there was an update on the Pearson Trust plans (see above); present were councillors N Read, M Brooks, S Riley, G Parker and D Wiper, ward councillor Peter Williamson and clerk G Metcalfe; *next meeting Tuesday 3 May in the Old School Room.*

# Notices

**Whittington Coffee Mornings** at Whittington Village Hall are now twice a month – on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The April dates are 6th and 20th.

**Arkholme Bowling Club** would like to invite anyone to come and have a go on Monday evenings from 6.30pm onwards. There is no joining fee for the first year of membership and it is just £25 for subsequent years. If you have time on your hands then you can play at any time of the day. This makes it an extremely good value pastime. Bowls is good for your health and a great social gathering so give it a go. All ages welcome. For more details call David Smith, 03330 119303 or 07482 571 360.



**Clean for the Queen:** a huge thank you to all those who turned out on Saturday 5 March in Whittington for this event. We had over twenty willing volunteers who collected 16 large rubbish sacks of litter on a clear but cold morning. Thank you also to the ladies who provided tea, coffee and wonderful cakes to the team. A great day and we are now ready for any regal visit!  
- *Mike Redmond* [See page 2 for thanks to the Gressingham team]

**Hornby Flower Club is organising a Flower Festival** in Saint Margaret's Church, Hornby, from 20 to 22 May, and is looking for volunteers to assist with the many tasks involved – so if you would be interested in creating a display, or helping in any other way, please go along to one of their meetings, or contact Pat on 21449, or Liz at the Flower Bank on 21510. *The Flower Club next meets on Thursday 21 April at 7.30pm at Hornby Institute, when Chelsea Gold winner Sara Barrow will be speaker and demonstrator.*

**The April meeting of the Countryside Society** will be on Friday 15 April at 7.45pm at Hornby Institute, when Colin Newlands will give an illustrated talk on *Flowers of the Ingleborough Nature Reserve*.

**Arkholme's defibrillator has now been installed** in a yellow steel cabinet on the front of the village hall. It was provided through local fundraising, and training is available. Anyone wishing to find out more can email [arkholmedefib@aol.com](mailto:arkholmedefib@aol.com) – *David Smith*

**Arkholme School has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor.** There is a good team of governors with a whole range of skills – but still space at the moment for one more. It's a great way to contribute to the local community. Foundation Governors also support the ethos of the school as a church school. Anyone interested can find out more by contacting the vicar on 21712 or by email as [vicar@these4parishes.co.uk](mailto:vicar@these4parishes.co.uk)

**Arkholme Church always looks superb inside** – spotlessly clean and with fresh flowers in the sanctuary, a credit to all the volunteers. A couple of gaps have opened up in the rota for cleaning: enquiries and offers please to Bridget Smith on 03330 119303.

**Florence Mackereth writes:** I would sincerely like to thank you for all the love, thoughts and sympathy which have surrounded me at the time of John's death. All the beautiful flowers, lovely cards and baking, and generous donations in his memory, have been such a fitting tribute to his life, and have given me strength and courage to carry on, as he would have wished. God bless you all.

# Notices

**Gerald Hodgson** has kindly made available his archive of newspaper articles and photographs so they can be added to the Whittington Village website. To start with there are six stories, some very humorous. Photos and additional stories will follow. Go to [whittingtonvillage.org.uk](http://whittingtonvillage.org.uk) and look for Hodgson Archives under the History tab on the menu bar – *John Keegan* [The website also has a blog with lots of other interesting and useful information at [whittingtonvillage.org.uk/blog](http://whittingtonvillage.org.uk/blog)]

**Congratulations to Olivia Redmond** who ran the Rivington 10km Night Race in January, raising over £300 for Alzheimer's Research UK. It was her first race and the weather was atrocious, so well done Livvy from Mum, Dad and Dan and Holly.

**A fundraiser in aid of the Lunesdale Show:** Sarah Fulwood of Newton is involved in the Lunesdale Show, which is always a great day out at Underley Park in Kirkby Lonsdale (aka the Rugby Club). This year's show is on Tuesday 9 August. The upcoming fundraiser is the annual Cheese and Wine evening on Saturday 7 May from 7.30pm, at the venue's delightful namesake Underley Grange, a mile the other side of Casterton, courtesy of this year's show president Philip Pease. Food, drinks, fun and games for all the family. Tickets £8 (to include food and a first drink from the bar) from Sarah in Newton on 07834 039713 or on the door.

**Whittington draw for April:** Margaret & Ken Harrison, Tessa McCormick, Ann Nelson.

## Latest on Loyn Bridge

The formal closure order has been extended to the end of May, to allow some leeway with a nominal target completion date for the works of 20 May. Gressingham Parish Council noted that an ambulance requested for Gressingham had recently been routed via Hornby; the service is now aware of the bridge closure. Google Maps has known for a while, and is good for route planning. The closure order continues to include closure for pedestrians and cyclists. The repairs are expected to cost £600,000.

## Latest on Bus 81A

As we go to press, neither Stagecoach nor Lancashire County Council has issued a definitive timetable for April for the reduced 81/81A/81B service. It is expected that the only service through Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham will be the QES school service; there is no news about services for those needing to reach Lancaster schools. All other buses between Lancaster and Kirkby Lonsdale will be 81B, going up the other side of the valley – because more people on the other side of the valley were making use of the service. The subsidy which is being withdrawn was running at £84,000pa, and Stagecoach will now be operating the service without subsidy.



# The weather in Arkholme

Robin McIlveen

## February Weather in Arkholme

Rain Days 21 out of 29

Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+) 10 of those 21

Extremely Wet Days (25mm+) 1 of those 10

Wettest Day 29th-1st 35.4mm

Monthly total 142.4mm (5.6 inches)

2016 so far 293mm (11.5 inches)

**The wet start to the year continued in February**, but over 90% of the highish monthly total came in the ten *Decidedly Wet Days* (one of which was an *Extremely Wet Day*, and another was only just under the 25mm threshold) leaving eight completely dry days to give welcome relief and some brightness. The associated clear nights produced ten consecutive morning frosts (none of them at all severe) in the middle of the month, and seven more in the last week, one of which got down to  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the apple tree.

**The wettish weather continued** through the first week of March, but then, at long, long last, the wet westerlies died away, and high pressures have so far produced ten consecutive dry days (and nights), with lots of slight to moderate morning frosts.

**High pressures arise locally because air is being piled over the British Isles** by a very slight but persistent convergence of the clockwise rotating (anticyclonic) air mass. The convergence is strongest 5 to 10 km above sea level, and this converging air subsides gently but persistently towards the surface, evaporating all but the lowest clouds, and eliminating the thick cloud layers which are needed to produce rainfall. It is not all good news however, since this subsiding air traps the bottom 400 or so metres of air under an invisible soft lid, and with it the pollution from local and upwind industrial surface sources, producing the characteristic pale haze (of microscopic particles) typical of our anticyclonic weather. In rainy weather this pollution is mixed up to heights of 10km or so (diluting it by a factor of about 20), and is largely washed out by the falling rain, maintaining much lower levels of pollution – a very important though invisible silver lining of our rain clouds.

## Gerald Hodgson writes...

**The rooks are busy building their nests**, the hedges are just showing green shoots, and the daffodils have started flowering. Still some snow on Ingleborough – but what a lovely time of the year. Keep watching for the first swallows, they should be here before too long.

**My old school friend John Mackereth** passed on last month. John was the third generation of the Mackereth family to have farmed Gowan Hall farm. The large attendance at his funeral just showed how well thought of he was in the local community. He and his wife Florence were loyal supporters at many local events, and we always had a long chat whenever we met. We always had so many memories of our younger days to talk about. Our good wishes go to Florence and her family.

**The annual Charity Dance** held on 5 March 5 raised £1,290 which will be divided between Macmillan Nurses, Cancer Care, and Saint John's Hospice.

**Well done the litter pickers** – the roads look a lot tidier. What a pity people still throw litter out of their cars instead of taking it home.

**If you want a good laugh** go to the village web site ([whittingtonvillage.org.uk](http://whittingtonvillage.org.uk)), click on history, then the Hodgson Archives. Read about the court case over a duck, the feud between two blacksmiths over who makes the best plough, and the life and times of the good ship Whittington, owned by Mr Greene of Whittington Hall, built at Glasson Dock, and lost without trace between America and Ireland; also the tragic death of a young blacksmith who died when a horse he was shoeing kicked him in his chest.

**I will continue my memories of Arkholme** next month.

# Arkholme and District WI



**The March meeting** was held in the refurbished Old School Room at Gressingham, where Mrs McIlveen welcomed Carole Webb as a new member. **Our speakers for the evening** were Jim Bowness and Andrew Leitch, who have created a film archive of the area. It includes Kendal, Carlisle, Keswick and many more familiar places. The night's examples concentrated on Kendal and the Lake District. Kendal: 'a place of full employment where no young person needs to leave the town to find a job' – that was in the 1970s. Interestingly, traffic was a problem in the town in 1950s – no change there then! K Shoes featured as a major business, and their own archives are a rich source of material. Andrew and Jim have just been given a 1935 film of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, soon to be King and Queen. The glimpse of local history, from travel by horse-bus to a helicopter view of Kendal, totally absorbed our attention. Andrew and Jim have been working on the collection for 20 years, so far! What a legacy.

**Two resolutions** have been chosen by the national membership for discussion at the AGM in Brighton: 'avoid food waste, address food poverty', and provision of appropriate care in hospital for patients with dementia. These will be discussed at our meeting in May and our votes passed to the delegate who will represent us at the meeting in Brighton in June. We shall celebrate ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) *Walk the World Day* again this year on 29 April with a short walk in the Gressingham area. There will be refreshments to follow and, of course, a raffle (fabulous prizes, as usual!) The federation is holding a Jewellery Jamboree on 29 April where you can donate unwanted items to raise funds for ACWW's work or have pieces valued. New events on the Federation calendar include a walk with Tatham Fells WI, an art course 'Pencils Pastels and Paint', Bakery and Fudge Making, and a visit to Ulverston and the Manjushri Kadampa Meditation Centre. Names were taken, with a £5 deposit, for our visit to a garden centre for a buffet supper and demonstration of successful hanging basket arrangements. Friends and neighbours are welcome to join us on 23 May. The full cost will be £12.

*Our next meeting will be back in Arkholme Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 11 April. The speaker will be Mr G Magee on 'Life as an Aviator'. Visitors are welcome.*

## Whittington B4RN update

**The recent spell of fine weather** has allowed the team to push forward with digging and connecting. Fibre has now been blown to some twenty houses at Manor Farm, Loyne Park, and Church Street, which more or less completes our work there.

**After a short break at Easter** we will begin our next phase, which will be to dig and lay ducting from the rear of the Dragon's Head in a northerly direction.

**The Whittington B4RN team** has worked for almost two years now on an entirely voluntary basis. We can always do with more help – so if anyone can spare a few hours on a Saturday, please come along and join us. The only requirement is enthusiasm!

**Please don't forget**, the opportunity of a low-cost, superfast, fibre-optic broadband connection will only be available for the duration of our project which we expect to complete within the next few months. If there are any Whittington residents who would like a connection, or who are still undecided, please ring me on 72719, or John Pinch on 72030, and we will be happy to discuss.

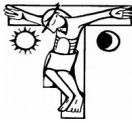
Happy Easter!

*Jeff Eaman*



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

### GOOD FRIDAY 25 March



All four churches open all day as usual plus Good Friday services

10am Arkholme  
10am Hornby

### EASTER DAY 27 March (Clocks go forward)



9.30am Arkholme  
9.30am Whittington  
10.30am Gressingham  
8am & 10.45am Hornby

### SUNDAY SERVICES

#### Whittington Arkholme Gressingham

3 April	-	9.30am	6.30pm
10 April	9.30am	9.30am	8am
17 April	9.30am	9.30am	-
24 April	9.30am	-	9.30am

#### Hornby

10.45am Parish Communion every Sunday  
8am Holy Communion on 3 and 17 April

Sunday School 10.45am in Hornby church  
First Sunday of every month – next one is 3 April

Youth-led service 10.45am in Hornby church  
Third Sunday of every month – next one is 17 April

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

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

Weekly bulletin online: [these4parishes.co.uk](http://these4parishes.co.uk)  
United Benefice of Hornby with Claughton and Whittington with Arkholme and Gressingham

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