



Wagtail

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

This edition sponsored by



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Friday 10 June 7pm
Thomas McCarthy
"The Irish Traveller"
Gressingham School Room
Talk and performance
Powerful and extraordinary
singing 'recognised from
London to New York' – and a wonderful
speaker too, informative and
entertaining – tickets £5 from
nickysnell@yahoo.co.uk or on the door
includes support act Nywood
refreshments at half time



Tuesday 21 June 7.30pm
Gressingham Open Meeting
Gressingham Old School Room
The working group will report back on
its investigations so far into the
possibility of a major refurbishment to
turn the church into a combined church
and community centre – see page 3



Sunday 12 June
midday onwards
Gressingham
Village Games
for the Queen's 90th
birthday – bring food and
drink to share (plates /
cups / cutlery provided)
and camp chairs or picnic rug – games
including rounders and obstacle course
Lodge Farm field, Rabbit Lane
or in the Old School Room if wet
Details John & Frances 22335

Sunday 19 June 1pm
Arkholme School
Summer Fair
celebrating 50 years of
the Arkholme Rose Queen
with (very nearly) every
former Rose Queen in
attendance – with
afternoon tea in the new
school hall plus Maypole
Dancing and more



Saturday 25 June 7.30pm
Whittington Race Night
Whittington Village Hall
a fun evening with six races
you can be an owner, a trainer,
or a jockey, as well as a punter
free entry, supper, bar and raffle

Sunday 26 June 11am
Patronal Festival of
Saint John the Baptist
Arkholme
United Benefice Service
Arkholme parish church



Sunday 26 June 12.30pm onwards
Open Garden and lunch
at Station House, Arkholme
£5 including lunch – home-made soup
sandwiches and dessert
in aid of Arkholme parish church



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 14 June 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

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

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 *Karan Metcalfe* 71287

Coffee Mornings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 10.30am to 12noon

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

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

Lune Valley Physiotherapy Leah Dalby MCSP HCPC Maximise potential after surgery, accidents, illness including cancer – leahthephysio@gmail.com Melling 07934 785797

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

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

Wagtail

Welcome to the June 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 July and August edition**. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 June. 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

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 fund a major refurbishment of Saint John's church to convert it into a combined church and community centre, 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.

The working group has met four times, and will report back on its investigations so far at an open meeting in the Old School Room at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21 June.

All residents of Gressingham and Eskrigge are welcome.

Scaffolding going up at Whittington Church

If all goes according to plan, the scaffolding should be going up at Whittington church from Thursday 16 June onwards, with work beginning on the renewal of the guttering on Tuesday 21 June. While the scaffolding is up, we will also be replacing some down-pipes, re-painting the others, and checking over the roof and the walls while we have the chance. The work could take up to four weeks.

The work was recommended by the parish architect in the five-yearly building inspection report, and the detailed programme of works has been approved by the relevant conservation bodies and the church faculty board, which looks after listed-building consent for parish churches.

The work on the gutters and down-pipes will cost just over £9,000 including the scaffolding, which has to be found locally. Please do make a contribution: put a cheque through the door at Pearson House (opposite church) payable to Whittington PCC, or make your donation online to Whittington PCC at 01-04-81 83241760. If you include your name and address, the treasurer will contact you with a Gift Aid form to boost your donation by 25% at no cost to yourself. Generations of Whittington people before us have given us this beautiful building. Let's do our bit in our own generation to maintain it and pass it on to the next.



Notices

Thanks from the trustees of Arkholme Village Hall to everyone who turned out on Saturday 21 May for a morning of cleaning and maintenance jobs at the village hall – including chair repairs, drain fixing and power-washing, as well as a range of cleaning and general sorting jobs. It was a great community effort and thanks to everyone who came along.

Eileen's Coffee Morning and book and bake sale raised an amazing £626 for the MND Association. Bill offers a huge thank you to the ladies of the Book Club for all their hard work in making it such a success, and of course to everyone who baked, gave books or just came along and supported it! Follow the rest of the year's fundraising by Bill and the family in memory of Eileen at minesaginandtonic.wordpress.com and justgiving.com/fundraising/EileenTaylor1 including 6 August Lune walk from Gressingham to Kirkby Lonsdale, 13 August Cross Bay Walk (only 15 places left), Fairfield Horseshoe walk, Bike ride around Preston Park Velodrome, and Yorkshire Three Peaks walk.

Meg Horton in Whittington has taken on a new home help, Julie Skirton, for two hours on Wednesday mornings. Julie would be very happy to do at least one other visit while she is in the area: 07503 234 765.

The ashes of the late John Ireland Hayton, age 90, recently of Lathom, Ormskirk, second son of Braithwaite Edward Hayton and Marjorie Ireland Hayton of Arkholme, were interred in a family grave in Arkholme churchyard on Saturday 9 April. Several family members were present with the vicar, Revd Michael Hampson, officiating.

Arkholme Village Hall 150 Club: May draw £20 Mr and Mrs J Cash, £10 Mr I Close, £10 Mr G Barton, £10 Mr and Mrs C Tomlinson, £10 Mr and Mrs Fell, £10 Pam Manton; **June draw** £20 Dr Weeks, £10 Mr and Mrs D Howarth, £10 Mr and Mrs Blacow of Bruntholme, £10 Mrs S Stephenson, £10 Mr J Hayton, £10 Mrs M Hodgson.

Whittington Parish Council

Whittington Parish Council met on Monday 21 March.

Stagecoach Bus Service 81A has been cut to a school service only (for Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale). Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham councillors are in discussion with local bus and coach providers, Lancaster City Council, and Lancaster Bus Users Group, with a view to providing a future service during the day for parishioners.

Potholes and poor surfaces have been reported for Burrow Mill Lane and Coneygarth Lane.

The Community Payback team will be asked to continue painting the railings.

Councillors and 25 volunteers had joined in with "Clean for the Queen", collecting sixteen bin-bags of rubbish.

There had been some anti-social behaviour reported on or near Main Street during December (no other crimes reported in December or January).

Present were Councillors Eric Pelter, Barbara Atkinson, Colin Hall, Ted Lawson, City Councillor Peter Williamson, two members of the public, and the Clerk Gillian Hodgson; apologies from Councillor Stuart Close.

The next meeting was to be the AGM on Monday 23 May, report next month.



**The Church of England parishes of
Hornby, Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham**

Vicar: Revd Michael Hampson
vicar@these4parishes.co.uk · 015242 21712
weekly bulletin online: www.these4parishes.co.uk

**Sunday 26 June 11am
Patronal Festival of
Saint John the Baptist
Arkholme**

United Benefice Service
Arkholme parish church



After the carol service, this is the
biggest service of the year – for
Arkholme's Patronal Festival
Everybody welcome

**Sunday 26 June 12.30pm onwards
Open Garden and lunch**

at Station House, Arkholme

£5 including lunch

home-made soup

sandwiches and dessert

in aid of Arkholme parish church



MORE SUNDAY SERVICES in JUNE

Whittington Arkholme Gressingham

5 June	-	9.30am	6.30pm
12 June	9.30am	9.30am	8am
29 June	9.30am	9.30am	-
26 June	<i>United Benefice Service, Arkholme 11am</i>		

Hornby

10.45am Parish Communion every Sunday
except 26 June, United Benefice Service 11am in Arkholme

8am Holy Communion on 5 and 19 June

Sunday School 10.45am in Hornby church

First Sunday of every month – next one is 5 June

Youth-led service 10.45am in Hornby church

Third Sunday of every month – next one is 19 June

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

PLUS:

Sunday 5 June 3pm to 5pm

Afternoon Teas

served inside Saint Margaret's, Hornby

Sunday 19 June 6.30pm

Songs of Praise *at Saint Margaret's, Hornby*
concluding Hornby Institute Centenary weekend



The weather in Arkholme

Robin McIlveen

April Weather in Arkholme

Rain Days 22 out of 30

Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+) 6 of those 22

Extremely Wet Days (25mm+) none

Wettest Day 28th-29th 8.2mm

Monthly total 66.6mm (2.6 inches)

2016 so far 436mm (17.2 inches)

April followed March's precedent in being only half as wet as each of January and February, but it managed this in a very different way from March.

There were only eight dry days in April (as compared with fifteen in March), and the number of Decidedly Wet Days was the same (six), but in April these six were each only a little wetter than the defining 5mm, so that their total contribution came to a modest 40mm. So – lots of rainy days in April, but none of them very wet.

The cloudy nights prevented morning frosts, except for four days at the end of the month; and the cloudy days kept afternoon temperatures low by obstructing the increasing sunlight.

May has been dominated so far by anticyclones, with the result that the accumulated rainfall as I write on the 18th is only 14mm, compared with a more typical 40+. Wetter weather is forecast, but it will have to be very wet if May is not to end up as a dry month overall.

The dramatic and violent vagaries of rain and river have been a feature of the last six months. The global picture is more stable, since local and temporary extremes are averaged out. The global annual average rainfall is around 1 metre per year (2.7 mm per day). This is extremely difficult to measure accurately even today, especially since 70% of the surface being rained upon is ocean. Equatorial zones exceed 4 metres per year, and subtropical deserts (on land and sea) can be below 0.25 metres per year. My garden averages close to the global average.

This rain falls from a very small atmospheric reservoir, most of which is invisible water vapour (ie water gas) – cloud droplets and crystals being only a small short-lived transition between vapour and fast-falling rain. If all the vapour in the air at any instant (most of it in the first 10 km above sea level) condensed and fell out with a splash, the rainfall would average about 30mm worldwide. Obviously to maintain global rainfall at 1 metre per year there must be at least 33 splashes per year. In fact we get a much larger number of smaller splashes.

To maintain the reservoir of water vapour in the atmosphere, there must be evaporation from the surface – from the oceans of course, but also from well-watered soils and vegetation, and snow and ice (which can evaporate significantly without melting). Evaporation is more continuous than rainfall, but must balance rainfall globally very exactly, otherwise the tiny atmospheric reservoir would empty (world desert) or overflow (world fog) in a few weeks. More glimpses next time

Robin McIlveen

The year so far:

In 2016 so far, there have been 37 dry days and 84 rain days (total 121 days).

Just one of the rain days qualified as an Extremely Wet Day, but 35 of them qualified as Decidedly Wet Days, with April adding six to the running total of 29 for January to March (not 19 as printed last month).

Arkholme and District WI



Gressingham Old School Room was the venue for May's Meeting. Janice, our President, welcomed thirteen members to this Resolutions Meeting. (Perhaps the beautiful summery weather was responsible for the low attendance.) After a short time spent on our usual business of new courses, trips, ACWW charity event and our group's finances (which are healthy), we began the evening's main business which was the discussion of these two resolutions.

The WI calls upon the Government and the NHS to provide facilities for carers to stay with patients with dementia when admitted to hospital for an unrelated reason. The voting was one for, six against, and six abstentions.

The WI calls upon all supermarkets to sign up to a voluntary agreement to give all surplus food to charities, to avoid food-waste and food poverty in the UK. The voting was five for, seven against and one abstention.

Whilst we all thought that both resolutions were truly laudable, there were concerns about the wooliness of the wording and the practicalities of carrying out such resolutions.

Our voting results will be taken to the national AGM by Jane Binney, our Delegate. A Fun Quiz and refreshments followed.

The next meeting will be on Monday 13 June at 7.30pm in Whittington Village Hall, when Carol Marsden's talk will be, "It Shouldn't Happen to a Vicar". Visitors are welcome.

Gerald Hodgson writes...

That wonderful man John Haston was ninety-nine years old last month. Congratulations John – we hope to help you celebrate your century next year.

The swallows arrived at Docker around the 19th of April. They were much later arriving in Whittington, and once again fewer birds have arrived there. Just seems to be a general decline in the whole bird population in our area.

The volunteers who have connected the village to the B4RN network have done a wonderful job, to say they were complete novices only a short time ago. The way they connected my house to the system was very professional, congratulations go to everyone involved, thank you.

I have been reminded of some omissions on my piece about Arkholme last month. I never mentioned that the Metcalfes had a sweet shop at Reading Room Cottage. It always seemed to be open and we would regularly pop across there whilst waiting our turn to play a game of tennis. Another character was Ben Haythornthwaite who lived in the old Cottage on Brunt Hill. His claim to fame was that he took in boot and shoe repairs, but he did all the repairs sat up in his bed with the cobblers last resting on his lap. He was lucky there was no health and safety regulation in those days. Arthur Tallon reminded me that the Tallon family took over Arkholme smithy. When the Bibbys retired there was only enough work to work it two days per week as the working horses were getting fewer as tractors took over. The Millburn family took over The Bay Horse Hotel – Mr and Mrs and their three daughters. Mr Millburn came from the Lake District and claimed to have driven the last carriage and four horses from Ambleside up The Struggle and down Kirkstone Pass to Ullswater – we had no reason to disbelieve him.

The next dance at Whittington is on June 4th when the Tartan Sound are providing the music for dancing.



Wagtail

Free money for teenagers

The Whittington and Arkholme charities make small cash grants to young people from Whittington and Arkholme who are in further education.

If you are aged 16+ and in full-time education this September, send your contact details and details of your course and year to vicar@these4parishes.co.uk.

The Whittington and Arkholme charities hold old educational endowments associated with the two villages, and the trustees include the vicar and representatives of the two parish councils.

Wednesdays 1 & 15 June
Whittington Coffee Morning
10.30am-12noon Whittington Village Hall

Monday 13 June 7.30pm
Women's Institute
Whittington Village Hall
Carol Marsden – "It shouldn't happen to a vicar" - *visitors welcome*



Tuesday 14 June 8pm
Whittington Village Hall AGM
Whittington Village Hall

Saturday 25 June 10am to 12noon
Drama Group Coffee Morning
Hornby Institute

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