



# Wagtail

The parish magazine  
of Whittington, Arkholme  
and Gressingham  
**February 2018**

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**Saturday 27 January from 7pm**  
**1950s Party Night**



**with The Jetsons**

*dynamic four-piece rock & roll band*

Live music, nostalgia, fun and dance with The Jetsons, specialising in the music of the 1950s and early 1960s:

Billy Fury, Johnny Kidd, Adam Faith, Marty Wilde, Cliff Richard, Chuck Berry, Eddie Cochran, Ricky Nelson and more

*Arkholme Village Hall – all profits to help save Hornby Swimming Pool*

Tickets £10 from David Smith 07482 571360 or [dgsmith2009@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dgsmith2009@hotmail.co.uk)

*Raffle prizes welcome on the night*

**Thursday 1 February 6pm-6.30pm**  
**TurnAround Dance**  
**Theatre – ages 8+**

*Arkholme Village Hall*

Free performance, dance and acting workshop, plus auditions for parts in the April 2018 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Sorcerer* (in association with the Hornby Occasionals) which will feature magic, wizards, traditional folk dance, and live orchestra

**Saturday 3 February from 8.30pm**  
**Cheese and Wine evening**

*The Bay Horse, Arkholme*

**Sunday 4 February 9.30am**



**9.30am Songs of Praise Whittington**

Plus **9.30am Holy Communion**  
in Arkholme and Gressingham

More church services inside

**Monday 12 February 7.30pm**

**Women's Institute**

*Whittington Village Hall*

*Enid Holmes 70 Years in*

*amateur theatre – visitors welcome*



**SHROVE  
TUESDAY**

**Tuesday 13 February**  
**Pancake Party**

**6pm to 7.30pm**

*Whittington Village Hall*

free entry – donations to Whittington church

**Saturday 24 February 10.30-12.30**

**Coffee morning**

**with Book Sale and Cake Stall**

*Gressingham Old School Room*

donations of unwanted books also welcome – *in aid of Saint John's Hospice*

**More events on the back cover...**

# Classified ads

## Pre-school and out-of-school

**Babysitter** Experienced, local, available most evenings, Julia Boot 07875 340642

**Baby Sensory** – our unique learning and development classes include bubbles, music, instruments, puppets and much more – come and join the fun on Tuesday mornings at Arkholme Village Hall – book online at [babysensory.com](http://babysensory.com) or call Heather 07903 920369

**Hornby Day Nursery** – a family run nursery with a traditional friendly atmosphere. 30 hours free childcare for eligible 3 & 4 year olds, 15 hours free childcare for eligible 2 year olds. **Holiday club for ages 4 to 11** during all school holidays. Looking for childcare? 015242 22288 [info@hornbydaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@hornbydaynursery.co.uk)

## Health and wellbeing

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

**Lune Valley Physiotherapy**  
Leah Dalby MCSP HCPC – Maximise potential after surgery, accidents, illness including cancer – Melling 07934 785797 [www.leahthephysio.co.uk](http://www.leahthephysio.co.uk)

## Pets

**Docker Park Kennels & Cattery**  
No ordinary kennels – your dogs join us around the farm and house and they love it! John and Lisa Tamlin 015242 33403 [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)

## Advertising in Wagtail

You can advertise here for just £1 per line per edition. Wagtail has a print-run of 470 copies, and is distributed ten times a year to every home in Whittington, Newton, Arkholme, Docker, Gressingham, Eskrigge and Aughton. The deadline for each edition is the nineteenth of the preceding month. Contact [ads@wagtail.org.uk](mailto:ads@wagtail.org.uk).

## Kitchen, Home and Garden

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

**Darren Jones Plumbing** General plumbing and bathroom installations, Oil and Gas boilers installed and serviced, renewable energy options available – 07738 379328

**Katie's Kitchen** Quality homemade ready meals, pies, soups and baking for your freezer, also wedding and event catering. Steve & Kate Manders, Newton 01524 740995 [wagtailcatering.co.uk](http://wagtailcatering.co.uk)

**Logs Direct Ltd** – local specialists in Winter Fuel. Kiln-dried logs, smokeless fuel, house coal, kindling, firelighters, briquettes and pellets. Also top soil, compost & bark. Collect from us or delivered to your door. [www.logsdirect.co.uk](http://www.logsdirect.co.uk) 01524 812476

**Calluna Furnishings, Quernmore** creating unique interior upholstery and soft furnishings, made-to-measure curtains, cushions, re-upholstery, Roman blinds, upholstery, alterations and many more. Free consultation and collection service. 01524 805504 [www.callunafurnishings.co.uk](http://www.callunafurnishings.co.uk) [info@callunafurnishings.co.uk](mailto:info@callunafurnishings.co.uk)

## Miscellaneous

**Funeral Services** B&W Funerals (J G Macdonald) – 24 hour Service, Private Chapel of Rest. Covering the Lune Valley and the Dales. 39 Main Street, Ingleton LA6 3EH. Office 41293, Home 61390, Mobile 07758 002260, email [jmfunerals@gmail.com](mailto:jmfunerals@gmail.com)



# Wagtail

Welcome to the February edition.

All local churches and community groups are invited to send in news of their activities to Wagtail – reports of recent events (with photographs if possible) as well as announcements of what's coming up. Other local news is also welcome.

The next edition is the March edition. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 February. 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*

## 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 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

**Arkholme Methodist Church** Rev Steve Charman 01524 33327

**Book Club** *Simon Acomb* 07710 721108

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

**Drama Group** Tina Helm 07890 628636 [c.helm63@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:c.helm63@yahoo.co.uk) [hornbydrama.org.uk](http://hornbydrama.org.uk)

**Hornby Singers** Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm at Hornby Institute *Pat* 21449

**Kirkby Lonsdale Voluntary Car Scheme** Car and volunteer driver, 45p per mile measured from driver's house back to driver's house 07788 522511

**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

**Lunesdale Decorative and Fine Arts Society** [katebrady52@gmail.com](mailto:katebrady52@gmail.com) 01524 782117

**Playgroup/Toddlers** *Danielle Barker* [wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com) 21921

**Police** PC3573 *Rob Barnsley* [morecambept@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:morecambept@lancashire.pnn.police.uk) telephone 101

**Whittington Village Hall** *Karan Metcalfe* 71287 [facebook.com/WhittingtonVillageHall](https://facebook.com/WhittingtonVillageHall)  
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](mailto:vicar@these4parishes.co.uk) 21712

**Arkholme and Whittington Parish Council Clerk** *Gillian Hodgson* 21814

6 Meadoway Arkholme LA6 1AT [gillianhodgson6@gmail.com](mailto:gillianhodgson6@gmail.com)

**Details of all three parish councils**, and full minutes for Whittington and Arkholme, are online at [committeeadmin.lancaster.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetailsList.aspx](http://committeeadmin.lancaster.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetailsList.aspx)

**Gressingham Parish Council** agendas and minutes are available online at [www.hornbyvillage.org.uk/organisations/gressingham-parish-council](http://www.hornbyvillage.org.uk/organisations/gressingham-parish-council)

**Details of all planning applications** are online at [www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning](http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning)

**Local problems can be reported to** [www.FixMyStreet.com](http://www.FixMyStreet.com)

*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)*

# Arkholme and District WI



Janice, our president, welcomed twenty-one members and guests to December's meeting in Arkholme Village Hall with a glass of mulled wine. Our guests included five members from Borwick and Priest Hutton WI and one from California. We began with a brief business meeting at which Janice told us that Carolyn Lowe had been co-opted on to the committee as Minute Taker. February's outing to Bretherton Antique Centre has been brought forward to January. Subs are due in January and resolutions have to be considered before voting at January's meeting. New members were invited to sign and then embroider their names onto our tablecloth. 2018's programme was revealed and it looks like another varied, interesting and entertaining year.

Janice then introduced Rachel Mercer, who entertained us wonderfully with her beautiful voice. Rachel sang a wide range of songs including Christmas songs, songs from the shows, country music, and sixties pop songs, ending with *Walking in a Winter Wonderland*. We were invited to join in, which we did with great enthusiasm. We then enjoyed mince pies, Christmas biscuits and tea. It was a most entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Thirteen members were welcomed to our January meeting in Arkholme village hall. The evening began with the evenings speaker, Rob David, whose talk on the Yellow Earl – The Right Honourable Earl of Lonsdale – was illustrated with slides. The talk reflected on the trip taken by the Earl to Alaska in 1888. As usual, Mr David's talk was engaging and entertaining.

This was followed by the business meeting which was presided over by Angie in Janice's absence. WIs are invited to design a Tribal Mask for the Betty Sanderson trophy at the County Show. Nominations are invited for the Standfast Trophy, awarded every year to a WI member for service to the community. WI Sports week is 15–22 September and all WIs are encouraged to put forward a programme of activities for the week and share this with other WIs. Resolution voting forms were collected and will be sent to Federation. It was agreed Barabra will be the delegate for Southport on 7 March, whilst Kathy will be the delegate at Cardiff on 6 June. Members were given details of two workshops being held in Bretherton: Japanese wood blocks on 9 March and Lino printing on 17 March.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 12 February in Whittington Village Hall, when the speaker will be Enid Holmes, whose subject will be 'Seventy Years in Amateur Theatre'. As always visitors will be welcome.

## Village Hall Draws

### Arkholme

Oct 2017

£20 Jason Brown  
£10 Mr and Mrs Tomlinson  
£10 Mr and Mrs Barker  
£10 Mr and Mrs Tamlin  
£10 Mr P Wood

Nov 2017

£20 Mrs J Fairhurst  
£10 Brian Shepherd  
£10 Mr and Mrs Acott  
£10 Mr and Mrs Smith  
£10 Mr and Mrs Clifton

Dec 2017

£20 Maxine Ogden  
£10 Mr and Mrs Burns  
£10 E Helme  
£10 Pat Benson  
£10 Derreck Burrows  
£10 Mr and Mrs Hargreave

Jan 2018

£20 Mr and Mrs Collingwood  
£10 Mr and Mrs Day  
£10 Mrs C Shannon  
£10 Mr and Mrs D Barton  
£10 Mr and Mrs Fell  
£10 K Warburton

Feb 2018

£20 Mr John Benson  
£10 Mrs M Levick  
£10 (Trina Pardula)  
£10 Mr and Mrs Ellam  
£10 Mr and Mrs McPhail

### Whittington

December 2017

£20 Eric Pelter  
£10 Maureen Keegan  
£5 Colin Tomlinson

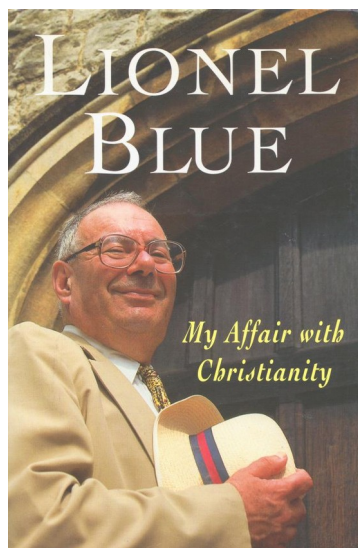
Christmas Draw

£20 D McDonald  
£10 Anne Lister  
£5 Thomas Atkinson

January Draw

£20 Ian Atkinson  
£10 Margaret Sheilds  
£5 Jane Binney

# Lent Book 2018



We are spending Lent this year with the delightful **Rabbi Lionel Blue**, and the book that he only dared to write in retirement, *'My Affair with Christianity'*.

Lionel Blue falls in love with 'the religion of the English' – which includes not only country churches, dreaming spires, choral evensong, and English decency and fair play, but also (in the immediate post-war years) the new NHS, and the chance for a Jewish refugee boy to go up to Oxford.

And there in Oxford, it also comes to include a profound experience of God, transforming his life, and his perspective on everything.

Soon the representatives of all the various Christian factions in Oxford (of which there are many) are falling over each other for the chance to baptise him.

But before they get the opportunity, it all goes wrong. He is suddenly struck by all the things that are wrong with religion in general, and with Christianity in particular.

Read the book and join one of the Lent Book Groups to find out how he resolves it all, and ends up being the nation's favourite radio Rabbi – with a secret, ongoing affair with Christianity.

**7.30pm on Wednesday evenings** at Station House, Arkholme *starting 21 February* or  
**4pm on Monday afternoons** at 3 Montbegon, Hornby *starting 19 February*

*The book is out of print, but there are second-hand hard-back copies at the back of each church, all priced at £5 (or you can buy online from Amazon if we sell out).*

## **Week 1** 19/21 February **Falling in love with Christianity**

Chapter 3 *Old time religion, Marxism, and anarchism*

Chapter 4 *Christianity in Oxford*

Chapter 5 *A conversion experience*

Chapter 6 *The world turned inside out*

## **Week 2** 26/28 February **Growing in faith**

Chapter 7 *Heaven on earth*

Chapter 8 *Meeting Jesus*

## **Week 3** 5/7 March **Not all is well in the world of religion**

Chapter 10 *The disappointment of the book*

Chapter 11 *The dry bones of religion and dogma*

Chapter 12 *Still finding Jesus in Christian lives*

## **Week 4** 12/14 March **Crashing out**

Chapter 13 *Doubts become a crisis*

Chapter 14 *Rejecting all religion*

Chapter 15 *Listing the follies*

## **Week 5** 19/21 March **Conclusions**

Chapter 19 *Back to Oxford and the Carmelite Priory*

Chapter 24 *Finding or losing or finding again*

**Our Guest speaker** on Monday 26 March will be Dr Robert Ash, who was a student of Lionel Blue while studying at Leo Baeck College, London. He is currently researcher for Liberal Judaism in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University. *7.30pm Saint Margaret's, Hornby*



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

**Vicar:** Revd Michael Hampson  
vicar@these4parishes.co.uk · 015242 21712  
weekly bulletin online: [www.these4parishes.co.uk](http://www.these4parishes.co.uk)



**Sunday Morning Songs of Praise** is a half-hour service featuring the very best all-time favourite hymns with Anthony Smith at the organ plus readings and prayers and refreshments afterwards  
*9.30am on the first Sunday of every month at Whittington church*



**Whittington** has its Sunday service at 9.30am on the first three Sundays of every month – that's every Sunday up to and including the 21st of the month



**Arkholme** also has its Sunday service at 9.30am on the first three Sundays of every month – that's every Sunday up to and including the 21st of the month



**Gressingham** has two 9.30am services each month (first and fourth Sundays of the month), and one early service at 8am (second Sunday of each month)

**Hornby** has Parish Communion with a congregation of 70 and a full robed choir every Sunday at 10.45am.



The 'youth-led' service is on the first Sunday of every month in Hornby at 10.45am – Parish Communion with our young people present and helping to lead, and the Junior Choir in addition to the regular choir.

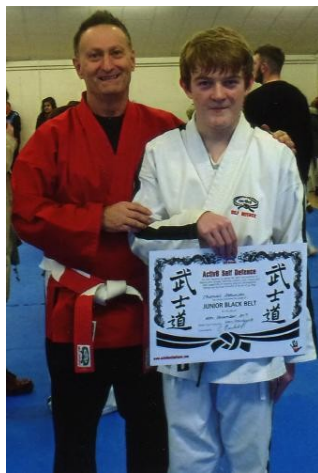
**Lent Lunches**  
*supporting*



run weekly  
starting **Wednesday**  
**21 February**  
12noon-1.15pm  
*fresh home-made  
bread and soup  
served at your table*  
inside Saint Margaret's  
church, Hornby

# Notices

**The buses are back!** A new 582 is scheduled to run all day, every two hours, six days a week, beginning on Monday 5 March, between Kirkby Lonsdale and Lancaster, via Whittington, Arkholme, Gressingham and Hornby. At the Kirkby Lonsdale end, the service extends (using the same vehicle) as the 581 to Ingleton and Settle, and as the 580 beyond Settle all the way to Skipton. To get to Lancaster, there's an early service around quarter to eight, and then a two-hourly service from mid-morning onwards; the last bus back is mid-afternoon. For Kirkby Lonsdale and beyond towards Skipton, the first bus out is around 7.30am, with another an hour later and then every two hours until mid-afternoon; and buses back run until the middle of the evening, the last one getting you home at about 8.30pm. More details next month!



**Thomas Atkinson passed his Junior Blackbelt in Ju Jitsu** as the culmination of seven years of hard work. He is pictured here with the Sensei (head instructor)

**The campaign to save Hornby Swimming Pool** is the beneficiary of Arkholme's 1950s Party Night on 27 January. Latest news on the campaign is at [www.hornbyvillage.org.uk/lvcs](http://www.hornbyvillage.org.uk/lvcs)

**The Poppy Appeal** in Whittington raised £289 towards the Hornby and District total of £2,029. Many thanks to everyone who bought a Poppy and to Sue and Phyllis for organising.

**Gressingham is planning another litter-picking day** following the success of the 2017 exercise – starting 10am on Saturday 10 March. More details next month.



**Bacon Butties were served on New Year's Day morning** in Whittington Village Hall. Many thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed a Bacon or Egg Butty – and to John and Phyllis for organising. The event raised £150 for the Air Ambulance.

**Concert and Cakes** runs once a month from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at All Saints Church, Burton in Lonsdale, LA6 3JU. Saturday 17 February features the Chameleon Wind Quintet, winner of the Audience prize at the 2017 International Chamber Music Awards, and Saturday 17 March features guitarist Sam Rodwell and his trio. Each event has an hour of music, and refreshments afterwards with a chance to chat to the musicians. No charge for admission, but donations are invited.

**And finally...** More thanks to everyone who helped with the Whittington Church Boon Day in November. I did think, when typing the notice in the last edition, that 'Do alter anything you think could be improved on' was a rather generous open invitation to anyone to go into church and move things around. It was actually an invitation to the editor to edit the notice – 'Do alter anything you think could be improved on'. Rather more important was the omission of the final signature from the notice, which should have been that of Korin Woollard, as the main organiser of the event, who was thanking everyone. Now, of course, everyone else wants to record *their* thanks to *Korin*, for organising the event, and for being the hardest worker, getting into every corner and keeping everyone's spirits up – on top of her usual year-round contributions recruiting and organising and leading from the front with flower arrangements and catering for the major festivals and events throughout the year. Thankyou Korin!



# The weather in Arkholme

Robin McIlveen

## November Weather in Arkholme

16 Slightly Wet Days (less than 5mm) together adding up to 29.2mm

6 Decidedly Wet Days (from 5mm to just under 25mm) adding a further 71.3mm

1 Extremely Wet Day (25mm and above) adding a further 75.6mm

**23 Rain Days** altogether adding up to **176.1mm** (6.9 inches) – leaving 7 dry days

The one Extremely Wet Day was 22nd-23rd with 75.6mm (3.0 inches)

## December Weather in Arkholme

12 Slightly Wet Days (less than 5mm) together adding up to 19.6mm

10 Decidedly Wet Days (from 5mm to just under 25mm) adding a further 83.7mm

**22 Rain Days** altogether adding up to **103.3mm** (4.1 inches) – leaving 9 dry days

The wettest day was 31 December to 1 January with 13.2mm

**Last time I wrote that November was turning out distinctly less wet** than the preceding months, but supposed that recent experience should dampen my optimism. In fact my hope was drenched! From an accumulated 76mm by November 21st, the next 24 hours added another 75.6 mm, sending the Lune into a state only a little below the record-breaking levels reached in Storm Desmond on 5 December 2015. The mangled hedges and fences still visible beside the Loyne bridge are a stark reminder of the force of such floods. A square metre of solid hedge or wall blocking water approaching at 20 miles per hour suffers a horizontal push of 5 tonnes force. An Arkholme garden on the edge of the flood plain was flooded to a level exceeded only once before in living memory (in Storm Desmond of course), though fortunately water did not enter the house this time. The Lancaster University Field Station, just beside the wind turbine by the M6, recorded over 90 mm in the few hours in which most of this deluge fell late on Nov 21st, and nearby Galgate was badly flooded by the river Conder.

**The villain of the piece** was a long stripe of rain cloud which passed lengthways over the north-Lancs south-Cumbria area, maintaining persistent heavy rain for many hours everywhere within the zone. A further 25mm in the final week brought November's rainfall to 176mm, and the total for the months of June to November inclusive to more than 1000 mm – a truly colossal total for just 6 consecutive months.

**By comparison, December's rainfall was more restrained**, being only 13mm above the notional monthly 90mm. 27mm fell in the last 4 days of the month, most of which also had morning frosts and icy roads, ending the unseasonably warm week ending on Boxing Day. Bah, humbug!

Robin McIlveen

## 2017 was the third wettest year in my 17 years of records

170 Slightly Wet Days (less than 5mm) together adding up to 247mm

91 Decidedly Wet Days (from 5mm to just under 25mm) adding a further 981mm

6 Extremely Wet Days (25mm and above) together adding a further 234mm

**267 Rain Days** altogether adding up to **1,463mm** (57.6 inches) – leaving 98 dry days

*This rainfall total for a full year was exceeded only by*

*2012 (with 1,468 mm), and 2015 (1,541mm – the year of storm Desmond).*



# Arkholme School



**We had a very busy second-half to our Autumn Term.** It was great to see so many parents and friends in school at our various events.

There have been lots of sporting events, a wonderful remembrance service where we planted bulbs in remembrance of loved ones, and a visit from a former pupil who told stories of what it was like here at Arkholme School in the early 1900s.

We have raised a lot of money for various charities – Children in Need, Save The Children UK and Rotakids.

In one week our choir took second place in a competition at Carnforth High School, the Athletics team took third place in the Athletics competition (meaning they are through to the final next year), and Thomas took the young engineer award at the Lancaster and Morecambe Education awards.

The whole school took trips to experience a Victorian Christmas at The Judges Lodgings, and Aladdin at The Dukes, both of which were enjoyed by all. Thank you to all the volunteers who accompanied us.

The Christmas Fayre was a great success. The school was bustling with fun and festive cheer. KS1 pupils performed brilliantly in their Nativity and the pupils in years 2-6 put on a great show at Whittington Church.

We have had workers on site this half term completing work to install a new boiler and heating system which is now complete.



The term was rounded off with fantastic Christingle which was held in school. The gasp when the lights were switched off and the flickering candles filled the room with soft light was wonderful.

**We hope to see you in school** at one of our many events to celebrate our 150th year soon. Keep an eye on the noticeboard.

*Joy Ingram - Headteacher*

# Gressingham Parish Council

**Gressingham Parish Council** met on 15 January and discussed a range of issues to improve safety and amenities in the parish.

A Speed Indicator Device (SpID) has been in use in Gressingham for some months. Initially Gressingham was sharing one with Caton, but Gressingham now has its own, bought second-hand from another parish council. It will be used on the main road, alternating between each end of the village.

The Parish Council is also considering the purchase of a defibrillator and/or the training of first responders and is consulting with the community through the Gressingham Fellowship.

The Parish Council will run another Litter Picking event in early March and also organise an information meeting about ways in which Himalayan Balsam and other pernicious weeds might be kept in check.

The Council is also taking action to try and prevent dog-fouling, and to continue to pursue and monitor the cutting of grass verges.

It has also been in correspondence with Lancashire County Council about work to protect Loyn Bridge from further traffic damage.

Gressingham Parish Council wishes to acknowledge the initiative taken by the Gressingham residents who organised the repair of the collapsed wall and blocked drain in Rabbit Lane in an attempt to contain any future flooding.

The Council discussed and agreed a Precept request for 2018/19, details of which can be found in the full meeting minutes [see the link in the Directory on page 3].

Councillors are continuing to monitor BT's intention to erect a four-foot high green cabinet beside the Church gates, and also local planning applications which have the potential to impact upon Gressingham such as the application to build approximately 80 houses on Fleet Lane in Hornby.

The Parish Council noted and welcomed the planned reintroduction of a two-hourly bus service through Gressingham from early March and acknowledges the work done by the Lune Bus Action Group in bringing this about.

Councillor David Wiper gave a progress report from the Pearson Trust Working Group (PTWG), which had organized a meeting in early December for all stakeholders and parties interested in the planned project.

The next meeting of Gressingham Parish Council will on 5 March in the Schoolroom at 7.30pm.

# Gerald writes...

**What a happy afternoon we had** at the pensioners Christmas lunch. The meal was beautifully prepared and served along with all the usual festive trimmings. After the meal we were entertained by the school children singing Christmas carols. Thanks must go to all the ladies who help prepare and serve the lunches. They really do a first class job.

**We really owe a great deal of thanks** to all the people involved in getting the bus service reinstated, to John and Duncan and our local councillors who have put enormous pressure on the County Council to fund and support the service. I am sure all those people who use public transport will be so glad to see the return of the local bus.

**Many years ago when the church boiler was coal-fired** the ashes were spread on the footpath across the Crofts. This winter, the gateways that the footpath passes through have become very muddy and very difficult to navigate in normal shoes. Would it be possible to have a barrow-load of hardcore tipped in each gateway?

**The next dance at the Village Hall** is on Saturday 3 February when Denis Westmorland will be providing the music for dancing. A very enjoyable night is guaranteed.

*Gerald Hodgson*

## Whittington Parish Council

**Whittington Parish Council** met on Monday 20 November.

The open meeting at 6.45pm was attended by 2 members of the public, and discussed financial regulations, numbering of cheques within minutes, notification of precept, placement of dog bin, Lune Bus Action Group, speed enforcement through the village, and the potential for re-using the old BT phone box as housing for a defibrillator.

Guest speaker David Read, of Kirkby Lonsdale First Responders, advised the meeting about defibrillators and potential costs, funding and training.

Anyone interested in becoming a First Responder or attending training in the use of defibrillators can contact the Clerk [details in the Directory on page 3] or contact David Read direct as [rread831@btinternet.com](mailto:rread831@btinternet.com) or on 07767 265006.

Planning issues discussed included the siting of 7 holiday lodges on land to the West of Sellet Hall (for which Councillor Hall declared an interest as a neighbour and left the room during the discussion), and a single storey side extension at Newton Green Barn.

The data from the Speed Indicator Device trial had still not been received. Alternative speed reduction and traffic calming initiatives will be explored, eg chicanes, speed bumps, extending 30mph signage, etc; the clerk will contact LCC Speed Management Department for their support.

Mike Harper will continue painting the railings during the fine weather.

Phone box removal has taken place.

The possibility of a Christmas Tree and/or festive lights will be explored for 2018.

Next meeting Monday 15 January.



# Wagtail

**Saturday 27 January 7pm**

**Eye-witness stories**

**from the West Bank and Israel**

Helen Close (of Whittington and Arkholme) will be speaking about her experiences in Palestine earlier this year as a volunteer with the Ecumenical Accompaniment program. Organised by Kirkby Lonsdale Fair Trade Group.

Tickets £5 to include refreshments – Pat Close 21766 or Liz Saunders 72124

*At Lunesdale Hall*

*(formerly Kirkby Lonsdale Institute)*

**Sunday 4 February 3pm**

**Organ Recital** Popular organ pieces with Tony Ewens and Peter Entwistle.

Free admission, donations invited for the organ fund, coffee and cake to follow at 4pm. *Saint Margaret's church, Hornby*

**Friday 9 February 7.45pm**

**Countryside Society**

Robert Pocklington on 'Hawfinches and the Sizergh Estate' *Hornby Institute*

**Thursday 15 February 7.30pm**

**Flower Club** Pamela from Flower Fields in Bentham on 'A winter's tale' *Hornby Institute*

**Saturday 17 February 10am-4pm**

**Book Fair** second-hand, out-of-print and antiquarian books plus classical CDs

*Hornby Institute*

**Saturday 17 February 11am-4pm**

**and Sunday 18 February 11am-4pm**

**Hornby Castle Snowdrop Weekend**

View the wonderful snowdrops in the borders and along the river woodland walk – plus evergreens, coloured stems, scented shrubs and winter flowering perennials. More than 70 varieties of snowdrop in flower in the winter borders of the walled garden. Plants for sale, ceramics exhibition by Wyn Abbot, talks on the History of Hornby Castle by Sue Bull at 12pm and 3pm, Garden Talk by Ken Green at 2pm. Dogs allowed on leads. Wheelchair and pushchair access limited. Refreshments available.

Admission £4/£2 and under 5s free.

**Saturday 10 March 7pm**

*Gressingham Old School Room*

**Gressingham Fellowship**

**Dinner and AGM**

A delicious dinner at 7pm by a professional world-food chef (bring a bottle), followed by a brief AGM from 8pm (non-diners welcome)

Book early for the meal (limited places) with John on 22335 or [john@lunar.co.uk](mailto:john@lunar.co.uk)



**Saturday 24 March 7pm**

**QES Jazz Band and Sixth-Form Choir**

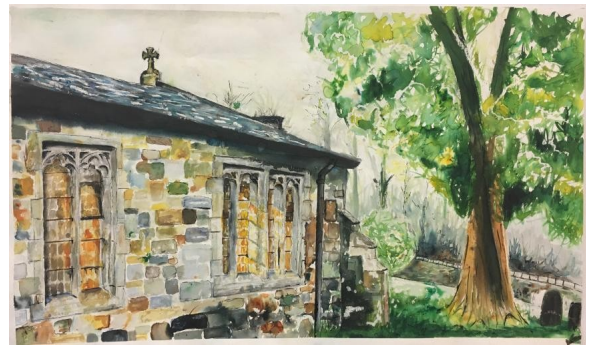
'Goodnight Sweetheart', 'Summertime', 'Big Spender' and more

*Arkholme Village Hall*

Tickets £10/£7

Bar available plus raffle and auction of this painting of

Arkholme Church by Jasmine Weeks



*All proceeds towards Fiona's 12 months volunteering in South Africa with Project Trust – [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FionaVolunteeringInSouthAfrica](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FionaVolunteeringInSouthAfrica) more details and advance tickets available from [fiona.d.project.trust@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.d.project.trust@gmail.com)*