

Autumn Edition September to November 2023

Farlam Parish Village News



Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of the Farlam Parish Village News. Publication of the newsletter has been delayed by a week to enable our Reporter to cover the Hallbankgate Flower Show.

Our cover photograph shows the recent wildlife survey of Farlam churchyard being undertaken by botanists from Fellfoot Forward. The findings and recommendations are on Page 3. Also inside the newsletter is another fascinating article by Chris Hind on local owls, exciting news as always from our school, details of Church services, Hallbankgate WI events and the 100⁺ Club draw winners.

There is news from the Community Hub which has a new manager and Councillor Roger Dobson has provided details on Cumberland Council's Community Panels, grants for good causes and links which residents can use to give direction to the new Council's Community Plan. There is also a separate survey link to help shape local Police activity.

The Editor has written an article about Parliamentary boundary changes, the implications for us and provided advice on the new ID requirements to enable people to vote.

Thanks again to all our contributors, advertisers and volunteer distributors for helping to create and support our community newsletter.

If you would like to get in touch, share any items that might be of interest to our readers, or request an electronic copy then email the Editor at *farlamvillagenews@gmail.com*



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Farlam Churchyard survey

On 21st June (Summer Solstice!) a small group of botanists ventured into Farlam churchyard on a hot sunny day to survey it's plants as part of Fellfoot Forward's Citizen Science Project.



The group focussed on grassland, the main habitat and discovered a variety of wildflower species which reflects the environmental conditions and management of the site.

The shorter, more frequently mown grass around the church supports low growing wildflowers: common daisy, creeping buttercup, dandelions, white clover, thyme-leaved speedwell, mouse ear, selfheal and ribwort plantain. All of these are fairly common but nice to have for their colour and for the insects they support.

They are here because they are able to survive the frequent mowing and take advantage of the light that reaches ground level. However these species cannot survive in the taller grassland across the churchyard whereas the meadow type of wildflowers like pignut, red campion, oxeye daisy and knapweed can, provided they are able to flower and set seed before being cut down. Much of this wildflower meadow habitat has been lost from our countryside so it is important to try to save what remains and expand it.

Removing cut material helps to keep the soil fertility low which is a key requirement for flower rich meadows. So it was good to see cut material from the churchyard being piled into hidden corners creating habitats for insects, amphibians and fungi as it gradually rots away.

Pignut, a small, knee high umbellifer, was found to be nicely scattered across the churchyard and this species indicates the grassland hasn't been significantly disturbed for a long time or had significant inputs of fertiliser. However the other meadow wildflowers are not abundant or well distributed across the taller grassland, probably due to dominance of grass and the mowing not leaving enough time for wildflowers to produce viable seed.



As well as wildflowers, tall grassland is also good for supporting insects and during the survey we heard grasshoppers and saw a range of insects including chimney sweepers, an active day-flying moth that feeds on pignut flowers and seeds.

Although the churchyard is already an important site for supporting wildlife, there is an opportunity for diversifying the tall grassland habitat with more wildflowers which would also benefit insects, especially pollinators.

This would require adjusting the mowing regime and only cutting the tall grass area after the wildflowers have produced viable seed later in summer, and then removing the cuttings. If this practice was adopted and more wildflowers don't emerge from the existing seed source in the soil after several years, the grassland could be enhanced with wildflower plug plants or seeds.

Despite the very warm day, the team had a very enjoyable day surveying the churchyard and Fellfoot Forward can provide more advice and support if the church community wishes to take some of the suggestions forward.

Tim Jacobs, Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer, North Pennines AONB Partnership

Forthcoming PACT Survey

Cumbria Police conduct regular PACT surveys to enable them to identify and respond to people's concerns. PACT stands for Police and Communities Together.

The North & East Area Police team have dedicated officers covering Brampton and the surrounding areas and they want to hear from you about the issues the Police should be focussing on in our locality.

The Police team in this area is led by Inspector Leather, assisted by Sgt Stevens. Completing the team are PCSO Prescott-Bell and PCSO Jackson who both cover Brampton and Longtown as Community Support Officers. PC Zegveld is the community police officer for Longtown and surrounding villages while PC Leigh is the community police officer for Brampton and surrounding villages. There are plans to expand the team and increase overall visibility.

The local team want to hear about what matters to you. The next PACT survey starts on 6th October and will run for two weeks. The survey results once analysed will help shape police activity in our locality over the following three months.

A direct link enabling people to participate in the survey will be available on both the Carlisle Police Facebook and Twitter pages on 6th October. Alternatively you can scan the QR code below on 6th October using your smartphone camera. This will take you online to the survey form.



If this is a bit 'techy' then email PC Leigh, the community police officer for our Parish, to share your concerns on Nick.Leigh2@cumbria.police.uk

However don't wait for the survey to open to report an ongoing crime: visit cumbria.police.uk and click on Report It. This gives several options: Dial 101 to speak to a call handler, use Live Chat or complete an online form. Alternatively phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or use their website: crimestoppers-uk.org

Dialling 999 is for reporting a serious crime in progress when there is immediate threat to life or a serious road accident with people injured.

Hallbankgate WI

The WI has had a busy few months with a visit to Warwick Bridge Corn Mill, a meal at the Duke of Cumberland, the President's Coffee Morning and our regular Morning Coffee at Farlam Hall.



At the most recent meeting on 27th July we welcomed local author, Claire Askew. Claire wrote poetry for many years as well as teaching Creative Writing before 'falling accidentally' into crime fiction. Now she has five successful novels published in her DI Helen Birch series. Claire entertained us with readings from her poetry and from three of her novels between talking about how she became a successful crime writer. Members absolutely loved her talk and after asking a range of questions snapped up the books she had brought with her to sell.

In September we will be celebrating with a number of guests from other WIs our 68th Birthday Party with an evening of Sea Shanties. In October we will be hearing about the work of Blood Bikes Cumbria followed in November by an account of volunteering at Vindolanda. The year ends with our Christmas Meal.

Hallbankgate WI welcomes guests and new Members. We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Small Hall within the Lacy Thompson Memorial Hall, Crossgates, Hallbankgate. Talks are followed by a supper provided by Members. For information contact President, Claire Skeates, at hallbankgatewi@gmail.com

Not To Be Missed Local Events

Another Crack in the Pennines: 30th September, from 2:30pm to 9:30pm

An afternoon and evening of stories and the spoken word in Old Chapel in Coanwood (near Haltwhistle). In the afternoon members and friends of **A Bit Crack** will share stories old and new, followed by a contribution from north east poets. In the evening **Tim Ralphs** will present "**Rebranding Beelzebub**", his innovative re-imaginings of traditional tales as he exhumes the bones of old Devil stories and stitches them into a new skin. His stories are darkly humorous with disturbing turns and a distinct whiff of sulphur.

For more information and to book your place (£8 on the door) please register online through Eventbrite. Search for 'Another Crack in the Pennines' at www.eventbrite.co.uk or contact **Richard Birmingham** on 07984195513

Tim Ralphs is a storyteller raised in the UK revival tradition. He tells and adapts folk stories from around the world, always seeking innovation in the ancient craft of bringing a tale to life in the imagination of his listeners. His work has taken him around the world, from projects with the British Council in Colombia and India, to muddy festival fields, sophisticated theatre spaces and cosy clubs closer to home.

Talkin Village Events

Further details of the following events are listed on A Church Near You website. Check back periodically if the event you are interested in hasn't yet been listed:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12243/service-and-events/events-all/>

- 9th September Macmillan Coffee Morning
- 24th September Talkin Church Harvest Service & Lunch
- 6th October Quiz Night & Supper
- 29th October Talkin Singers
- 3rd December Festive Afternoon Tea
- 9th December Brass Band

A Train and Historical Trip - 7th October

The Coanwood, Featherstone & Lambley Local History Group has organised a nostalgic trip on the South Tynedale Railway on a narrow gauge steam train from Slaggyford at 11:30am to Alston, returning back at 3:00pm.

Also included is a visit to the Hub Museum in Alston, viewing of the engine sheds and work done there, along with other exhibits including motorcycles and a visit to the Alston History Archives.



There is sufficient choice of venues in Alston to purchase refreshments or have lunch.

Cost will be £20 for History Group members, £23 for non members and £10 for children under 17. (This includes train fare, engine sheds viewing and entry to the Hub museum, but **not** lunch or refreshments. Booking is essential as there are limited places. Please contact Richard Macdonald on 074848 00632 or email macasrich9@gmail.com

Important Changes for Voters in Farlam Parish - New Brampton and Fellside Ward created within the Carlisle Parliamentary Constituency

Changes were made to the boundaries of all the Cumbrian parliamentary constituencies earlier this year as part of a wider UK review of parliamentary seats designed to more evenly distribute constituencies across the UK and even up the number of voters in each constituency.

Dr. Neil Hudson remains as our MP until the next general election. Once the election is called our parish will fall within a new Brampton and Fellside ward and become part of the Carlisle parliamentary constituency. John Stevenson, the current MP for Carlisle will, if re-elected, become our MP.

If you are not familiar with John Stevenson, he was educated in Scotland and qualified as a solicitor. Prior to becoming an MP for Carlisle in 2010 he was a partner at Bendles Solicitors in Carlisle. His website (johnstevensonmp.co.uk) contains details of his parliamentary work and his activities in the constituency. He chairs three important all party parliamentary committees and sits on two others. He is a member of the 1922 Committee of backbench Conservative MP's. He was elected chair of the Northern Research Group which pressures government for greater investment in the north of England.

His voting record since 2010 is interesting and can be viewed in summary at: theyworkforyou.com.

The Register of MP's Financial Interests records that he still works for Bendles Solicitors and receives £2,800 each month for between 10 and 45 hours work. He employs his partner as a senior secretary in his constituency office and her salary is paid from Parliamentary expenses.

By law the next General Election must be held no later than 24th January 2025. The legislation relating to elections was changed in 2022 and the Prime Minister can once again ask the monarch to dissolve Parliament and call an election with 25 days' notice. Barring some calamity, the smart money is on an election in May 2024.

To vote you must be a British citizen, at least 18 years old and listed on the electoral roll. Some foreign nationals settled here can also vote. You can register online. It takes about 5 minutes. Knowing your national insurance number simplifies the process. Once registered your details appear on the electoral register which is open to public inspection. You can choose to have your details withheld from the public register and will still be able to vote.

To check that you are registered and that your details are up to date, contact the Electoral Registration Officer, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG. 0300 373 3730 elections2@cumberland.gov.uk

You now need to show photo ID to confirm your identity when voting in person (or on behalf of someone else) at UK Parliament general elections, by-elections, local elections for councils, mayors, recall of MP petitions, Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner elections, referenda on planning issues and those for Council Tax increases.

Acceptable examples of photo ID are a UK photocard driving licence, a UK passport, a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme), a Voter Authority Certificate and an older or disabled person's bus pass. Your details need to match those on the electoral register and the photo must look like you. If you do not have an acceptable photo ID to vote with, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate from your local electoral office. You will need to provide your National Insurance number and supply a digital photograph. Download the form from: www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

You can bypass all this for the time being by using a postal vote. You will need to get organised beforehand and download a form from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-a-vote
Send the completed form to the Electoral Registration Office at the Civic Centre.

It is important to vote. It gives you a say on a wide range of issues from potholes to recycling, on housing, health and employment, education and climate change. It allows you to choose your local and national representatives. If you don't vote then other people get to choose who represents you and who makes decisions that affect you, your family, and your community. Finally, elections can be called at short notice. If you don't register in time and organise your photo ID, you will likely lose your right to vote in the next election.

The Editor

Owls with 'ears'

Britain hosts two species of owl that have 'ears'. Both of these breed within or very close to our Parish boundaries. They are the Long-eared Owl and the Short-eared Owl. The 'ears' of these owls are actually ear-tufts that sit on top of the head where we would expect to find the ears of a mammal; they have nothing to do with hearing. Owls certainly have very acute hearing but their actual ears are invisible structures hidden beneath the feathers of the facial discs that surround the eyes; they are placed asymmetrically in order to pinpoint the sounds of their prey.

Both of these owls are heavily reliant on voles as their food source. These voles undergo cycles where their numbers rise to the point where they can be seen scurrying across the turf and disappearing down their burrows every few steps as we walk across rough grassland. After a period of great abundance the vole numbers suddenly crash and that same rough grassland will suddenly be empty of these little creatures. When there is a vole crash these owls will either move to a completely different area which may be another country in the case of Short-eared Owl, or they will fail to breed and be almost impossible to detect in the case of the Long-eared Owl.

Long-eared Owl

While these two owls have many similarities they do behave in rather different ways. Long-eared Owl is a very secretive bird, it is extremely nocturnal and spends the daylight hours roosting in trees or bushes so that it is rarely seen.

It is bird of scattered but dense woodland blocks and usually uses the old stick nest of a crow to breed. It needs some open areas where it can hunt over rough ground where it seeks out its favoured vole prey. An isolated conifer block or shelter belt next to rough grazing land is ideal. As these birds are active only during darkness, their quiet hooting calls of the breeding season are really the only indication of the presence of breeding adults.

When their young leave the nest, they give begging calls that sound like a squeaky gate and these calls can often be heard on a summers evening to give what is frequently the first indication that breeding has taken place.



Short-eared Owl

This is a bird of the moorlands and has no need for trees as it nests on the ground, usually among heather.

It is not strictly nocturnal although it prefers to hunt at dawn or dusk except during times when food provision is particularly urgent, when there are hungry young to feed or when winter weather makes hunting difficult; during these times it can be seen hunting through daylight hours.

Birds seen during the winter may very well have crossed the North Sea from the continent in order to escape from food shortages further north in Fennoscandia. By the same token, some of our breeding birds depart to southern Europe for the winter.

Chris Hind chris.m.hind@gmail.com

Hallbankgate Village School News

016977 46237 www.hallbankgate.org.uk mandy.davidson@hallbankgate.org.uk



It is difficult to believe that another school year is now over and everyone will be enjoying their well-deserved summer holidays, despite the weather being not so summery! We have a lot of things to celebrate and share with you since the last edition and we hope that it gives you a flavour of all of the wonderful things that happen in our school.

In Class 1, we have been learning all about water in our geography and science learning. To support our learning, we all enjoyed a very special and exciting visit to Tynemouth, where we walked out to the lighthouse and identified the human and physical features that we often see around the UK coast. We also had the opportunity to apply our science learning by visiting Tynemouth Aquarium where we classified, observed and carefully handled a range of sea-creatures that can be found in rock pools. We've also been learning about the Victorians and we really enjoyed looking closely at artefacts to try and work out what they are and what they were used for! To enhance this learning even further, we completed a fieldwork study in the village to identify how the village has changed from the Victorian era, as well as the human and physical features that we can see today.

In Class 2, we have been learning about people throughout history who made a difference in the world: from Emily Davison to Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jnr. We all found it interesting to consider how the world has changed in many ways but reflected on how we can all do our bit to make positive contributions to the place in which we live. We've also been learning about different religions and we enjoyed a visit to St Thomas a Becket's Church. Whilst there, we made a journey through the labyrinth, thinking about a special wish that we had before placing our special wish into the centre of the labyrinth. We also spent time looking at and drawing the various features of the church, which supported the learning that we had completed in school. Thank you to Reverend Johnsen for helping us.

In Class 3, we have had an exciting term learning all about the Victorians. In our Design and Technology lessons, we worked in pairs to design, plan and build 3D models of Victorian modes of transport, complete with Computer Aided Design software for our plans and electrical circuits and pulleys to make the wheels turn! We found it interesting that some of the earliest vehicles were powered by batteries and, over 100 years later, cars are now returning to this mode of power. In our science learning, we have completed lots of investigations linked to forces and motion and we enjoyed dissecting plants as part of our learning about plant lifecycles: this supported our Cumbria in Bloom entry this year and we are eagerly awaiting our results! We also completed our 10-week block of swimming, where we focussed on developing our swimming skills and learning how to be safe in water, and headed to Middleton-in-Teesdale for our weekend residential visit. We took part in stand-up-paddle-boarding, raft-building and - the best bit of all - gorge walking, where we really pushed ourselves out of our comfort zone to jump off the gorge into the plunge pool below: it was exhilarating! We also really enjoyed camping and drinking delicious hot chocolate by the camp fire each night!

As well as all of that exciting learning, we held our annual Sports Day and a musical concert for all of our musicians to perform their favourite pieces. Both events were well-attended by parents and family members. Everyone performed our school song too (complete with Year 6 playing the music on Caribbean steel drums!) and we held a special celebration event to say farewell to the wonderful Year 6 children who will be heading to secondary school in September. We also held our Community Summer Fete (the first since the COVID-19 pandemic) and we are pleased to let you know that we raised over £1100 for our school! This fundraising event will ensure that we can continue to have lots of educational visits next year to support our learning in school. A **huge** thank you to everyone that donated a raffle prize or attended this event, as well as the Hallbankgate Village School Parent and Friends Association, Church, WI, Hub and Belted Will for all of their support. It was a fantastic day!

If you'd like to find out more about about our school and what goes on, our weekly newsletter (www.hallbankgate.org.uk) is jam-packed with photographs and information. Our nursery is open during term time. Please get in touch to arrange a visit and find out about the learning opportunities on offer.

Cumberland Council Update By Roger Dobson



The new Community Panel encompasses seven Council Wards (Longtown, Brampton, Corby & Hayton, Houghton & Irthington, Wetheral, Stanwix and Belah). It held its first meeting at Carlisle Civic Centre on 29th June.

I was elected Chair and John Mallinson Vice-Chair.



Ironically the Civic Centre is not within the panel area but for the first meeting had the advantage of easier access for most people. It is our intention to hold future meetings within the panel area.

For the rest of the financial year meetings will be September 28th 2023 Longtown Community Centre; January 4th 2024 Brampton Community Centre; March 27th 2024 Belah Community Centre.

Our first task is to develop a Community Plan which will be based on what we agree are our most important issues. The Panel's initial thoughts are that they may be:

Highways – including transport, active travel and road safety.

Community facilities and Support – including activities and events.

Environment – including waste, climate change and energy.

However, this is just the initial view of seven Councillors. We would like to hear your views ideally via a survey. Surveys can be completed online by scanning QR codes below.

Adults – scan QR code below:



Children & young people - scan QR code below:



Or alternatively paper copies are available at: Longtown Community Centre, Longtown Library, Brampton Community Centre, Brampton Library, Wetheral Village Hall and Belah Community Centre.

The Community Panel has also assumed responsibility for making grants to local good causes. The total amount for our area this year is £49,000. The process of applying for a grant is similar to that previously administered by the Carlisle Area Committee.

Details can be found on the Cumberland Council website – search Community Investment. Key cut off dates are 31st August 2023, 27th November 2023 and 29th February 2024. Alternatively email rhian.davies@cumberland.gov.uk



Main telephone contact number : 0300 373 3730

Website: Cumberland.gov.uk contains links to council services.

Hallbankgate Community Hub News

Lesley Logan started work as the Hub Manager in June. Her early career started at Marks & Spencer where she worked her way up to Departmental Manager. After 18 years she changed her career direction and went to work for the NHS. More recently she was running her own business making and selling door wreaths via the internet from her rural home near Brampton. Long hours and an element of social isolation led Lesley to apply for the Manager's job at the Hub.

Two months on she has settled in and is enjoying working with the team of enthusiastic volunteers who make the Hub tick. Lesley is pictured below on the left with Julie, one of the volunteers and Odette who is café team Lead.

The café is very popular: the scones and cakes are all baked on the premises with both savoury and gluten free options available.



Lesley is determined to ensure that the Hub remains a place where people can meet and chat over coffee and cake, make new friends and shop for groceries and other goods. It is a lifeline in many ways for a rural community, particularly those without cars.

Managing the Hub is underpinned by backroom systems. At the time of our visit a new point of sale system had just been installed and staff were busy familiarising themselves with it.

Lesley has been busy setting up various systems relating to suppliers, stock control and ensuring that all the products on shelves are clearly priced. She encourages the volunteers to meet regularly and learn from each other, enabling them to undertake a

range of tasks and enrich their volunteer experience.

Currently there are around 22 volunteers. They log onto a time sheet system called Three Rings and select their own hours. This works well with volunteers generally plugging gaps that appear.

Lesley has also been looking at customer needs. Currently a lot of artisan products are on sale and there is a need to widen the product range and make pricing more competitive and affordable. This is part of the plan to generate more footfall and ensure that the Hub remains viable and is able to serve our community well into the future.

Other aspects of the Hub that will be familiar will continue: art exhibitions, hand made greeting cards for sale, felting and drawing classes. Currently there is a drawing class running each Thursday throughout September for those with little or no experience, and Fellfoot Forward continue to use the Hub as a local base. There is a small room available for hire and the library remains well stocked allowing people to borrow and return or buy books for a small donation. Plans are afoot to erect a canopy at the rear of the building to create an outdoor seating area and the Hub is branching out and providing outside catering.

In another quite surprising way, Tom McLaughlan has organised a forthcoming Blossoms dementia café with two dates to be announced in September. His late father Bill called everyone 'Blossom'. The aim is to encourage those affected, their family members and carers to call in and through discussion and sharing of experiences get a better understanding of dementia and become better equipped to help those suffering from this terrible disease.

Currently Kathy Kemp has a stunning exhibition of colourful oil paintings entitled 'On the Verge' that is well worth viewing.

She also makes cushions with similar designs. The paintings are for sale and the cushions are made to order.



New volunteers are always welcome. Call in for a chat or contact us on:
volunteer@hallbankgatehub.org

FARLAM PARISH TRUST next meets in the Village Hall at 6:45pm on Wednesday 13th September prior to the Parish Council meeting. If you have a project which you think the Trust could support with funding then please download and complete the Trust's PDF grant form and send it to the Administrator. Their website is:

<https://www.farlamparishcouncil.com/grantsparishtrust>

The Trust's Administrator is Mr. C. Raine, Farlam Farm, Farlam, Brampton CA8 1LA

Email enquiries to charles.raine@youngsrps.com

Farlam 100+ Club Prize-winners

	July	August	The next draw will take place on 30th September. Anyone wishing to join the 100+ Club or who has not yet renewed, please send in your forms before 30th to be included in the Christmas draws. Call Ann Freer on 016977 46933 for more information.
1st Prize £25.00	Richard Hicks	Claire Skeates	
2nd Prize £15.00	Tim Arndt	Gerald Ritson	
3rd Prize £10.00	Bill Armstrong	Bill Palmer	



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Memorial Rose Border at Farlam Church

Many parishioners donated money to purchase the special 'St Thomas a Becket' roses planted in this border - one for each name on the War memorial - in April 2019.

Sadly, they have not done as well as we all hoped and have suffered from successive hot and dry summers. Not only that, but deer and rabbits have found the roses a nice tasty treat each spring, just as they start sprouting!

Despite efforts to keep the roses fed, watered, weeded and sprayed with an 'ecological' animal repellent periodically, they have continued to decline. Even replacing 6 roses has not improved matters and further replacements will probably struggle or be eaten.

One option would be to replace the roses or inter-planting them with proven 'rabbit & deer-proof' shrubs or perennials at no further cost to parishioners. This will be our church project for 2024, once I've reserched suitable shrubs and before spending any more money. I'll keep you posted with developments.

Tim Arndt Churchwarden



Church Matters

Eden, Gelt & Irthing Ministry

Team Rector : Revd Canon Tricia Rogers

Team Vicar: Revd Edward Johnsen

Tel: 01228 670248

The Team Vicar has pastoral responsibility for the parishes of Farlam, Talkin, Hayton, Castle Carrock, Cumrew and Cumwhitton.

Please contact Edward for christenings and wedding enquiries.

Revd Janice Murray (016977 46400) is a retired priest who remains part of the ministry team. Mr Timothy Arndt (016977 46942) is Churchwarden of St. Thomas a Becket Church (Farlam Church in Kirkhouse).



Welcome to Tricia our new Team Rector!

I'm delighted to announce that by the time you read this, the Revd Canon Tricia Rogers will have been licensed as the Interim Team Rector for our Benefice – ie the ten parishes of the Eden, Gelt and Irthing Team. I'm sure she will introduce herself more fully in the next edition of the Village News, in the meantime please keep her in your prayers as she settles into our area. Edward Johnsen

Forthcoming Services

Services at Farlam Church usually take place at 11:00am on the first and third Sundays of the month. All are very welcome to join us. When there is no service at Farlam everyone can worship at Talkin Church where services are usually held each Sunday at 9:15am.

For more information please see our website: farlamparishchurch.co.uk

Farlam Harvest Festival 7:00pm Friday 29th September

All are welcome to Farlam Church for our joint harvest festival service with Hallbankgate School, with contributions from the children and refreshments and an auction of produce afterwards.

We congratulated Laura Elliot and James Neve on their wedding in May and are now able to share this photograph of the happy event at Farlam church.





The alter cloth shown overleaf in the wedding photograph has been painstakingly restored over a 12 month period by Lynne McKenzie. It was finished a few days before the wedding.

This entailed removing the original embroidered panels and applying them to a new silk background. To achieve a professional finish the silk was attached to a slate frame which then rests on a wooden tressle. This allows the embroiderer to work with both hands and repair and renew parts of the original design. The tressle and the two slate frames were made by Roger Forster of Hallbankgate.

Labyrinth in the Church

The Carlisle Diocese Schools Labyrinth has been laid out in the nave in church over the summer. This photo shows it in all its glory. Hallbankgate schoolchildren visited the church on 13th July and enjoyed learning a little about the way the labyrinths can help us reflect on journeys, pilgrimages and prayer.



Thought for the Day

Lately our readings on Sundays have shown us the Jesus who made many powerful enemies as he reached out to those considered 'beyond the pale': Samaritans, lepers, the 'unclean', collaborators, the mentally ill. Yet as he died on the cross Jesus was also praying for forgiveness for those enemies too.

With this in mind, the following words written by Edwin Markham are worth pondering.

How do we respond to those who reject us?
*He drew a circle that shut me out –
 Rebel, heretic, thing to flout.
 But Love and I had wit to win –
 We drew a circle and brought him in.*

Edward Johnsen

Youth Groups at the Green Door Centre in Brampton

These are run by Network Youth Church. For details go to www.achurchnearyou.com and search Farlam Church, or contact Ruth Hutchinson, Green Door Centre, Main Street, Brampton CR8 1RS. 016977 742123 or Edward Johnsen 01228 670 248 edwardajohnsen@gmail.com



Farlam Hall Hotel is a luxurious country house hotel offering a sublime fine dining experience in our Cedar Tree Restaurant by Hrishikesh Desai.

Perfect for a family celebration or special occasion, indulge in good food, great wines, incredible hospitality and personal service, all to create a unique and memorable experience.

Choose either a 3 course A la Carte or 7 course Tasting Menu, carefully crafted by our team of award winning chefs, including the freshest of ingredients from our very own kitchen garden. An extensive range of fine wines are specially selected to accompany every mouth watering course.

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Hallbankgate Flower Show

The range of produce and products on display at this keenly anticipated event did not disappoint and gave the four judges an unenviable task in selecting category winners. Hrishikesh Desai took time off from Farlam Hall to join Nancy Priest, Ann Quean and Susan Turpin. Judging by their smiles they clearly enjoyed themselves.

The vegetable categories were superb with potatoes, tomatoes, carrots onions, shallots, peapods and rhubarb aplenty. Single flowers and plants were displayed in all their glory: a prize-winning corsage, a single rose, a variety of 3 stems of flowers, each group with its own characteristics and charm, cacti, fuchsias and even a chilli plant to mention just a few.

In the baking and preserves section everything was examined and tasted. What further praise can there be when a Michelin star chef asks an entrant for their recipe! Jars of jam and lemon curd were on parade: scones and lemon meringue pies; gingerbread, shortbread and victoria sponges competed for honours with giant tea breads, brown loafs and alcoholic beverages.



Hallbankgate is clearly full of crafty people judging from the range of cross stitch, patchwork, quilting and applique. Photography, painting, knitting, sewing, and a variety of handmade and repurposed items were all on display to keep the judges busy. One item caught your Reporter's eye: a tiny garden on a tin lid!

Children had been busy with their entries ranging from writing, drawing, painting and even darker intriguing stories. The Primary School entry deservedly won a group prize. It told the harrowing tale of refugees fleeing death and destruction and risking all on a perilous journey to find a safe haven.

A snapshot of the day

Roger Forster came 1st in the Vegetables and Flowers Sections with Thomas Halliday Runner-up in both

Sandra Forster was judged best in Baking with Pauline Shaw Runner-up. In the Crafts Section Helen Graham won convincingly with (guess who?) Roger Forster Runner-up! In the Childrens' Section Scarlett Hage pipped Fern Wilkinson Bray.

Finally it was a clean sweep for the Forster family when Roger Forster was declared the Overall Winner and Sandra Foster the Runner-up. Both are shown receiving their prizes from Steve Bray.

Pictured below are a few photographs giving a flavour of the event which began with Steve Bray thanking the entrants, all the volunteers for their respective contributions and of course Lea-Anne for helping make the day a huge success. There were quite a few smiling faces too after the raffle was drawn.





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