

**Spring Edition March 2024 to May 2024**

# Farlam Parish Village News



Welcome to the Spring edition of the Farlam Parish Village News. Our cover photo was kindly provided by Gemma Evans at Unsplash.

Thanks to everyone involved in producing and supporting the newsletter: our contributors, advertisers, volunteer distributors, and of course our readers.

Inside this edition you will find an update on the sale of the Greenside Estate and some interesting history relating to it, a list of 100+ Club prize winners, and a snapshot of recent Parish Council activity.

Also included are details of Church services, Roger Dobson's briefing on Cumberland Council activity, very exciting news from our primary school, Hallbankgate WI events and Chris Hind has kindly produced yet another fascinating article on migrating birds.

There is news from Hallbankgate village hall with dates for your diary and information about Brampton Medical Practice's Patient Participation Group.

If you would like to get in touch and 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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Ample Parking

## Tree Services by David Alty

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## News from the Greenside Estate Trustees

At the end of 2023, some farms and houses on the Greenside Estate were advertised for sale. We are happy to report that even though there will be new owners, all the tenant farmers will remain in place. Ian Bell of Hallbankgate Farm was successful in his bid to buy the farm that his family has worked since Len Walker's time. Greenside Farm will continue as part of the restructured Estate.

The family is pleased that the playground on the Crossgates Road will now be owned by the Parish and the school playing field owned by Hallbankgate School. The Brampton Allotments will be passing to a newly formed cooperative association of the 'allotmenters' as they call themselves. The Coalfell allotments will be owned by those who have been gardening there for years.

Stephen Murray inherited the Estate in 1950 and on New Year's Day 1951 with his wife Margaret and four boys, moved from London into Greenside. The farmhouse had no glass in the windows, there was an outside, 3-seat 'netty' and no electricity. On their own admission our parents had no idea about farming but within a few years they made Greenside a going concern. All four boys were put to work and grew to love the farming life and the friends and neighbours made in the village and in the rounds of the farming calendar: the sales, the shearing, the threshing and the extended licensing hours during haytime.

This transition has taken place 73 years after our parents moved up north. Gilbert, the eldest son, became a physics teacher in New Zealand where he could also pursue his passion for alpine mountaineering. He died in a rockfall in 1963, as recorded on a memorial stone in Farlam churchyard.

Alexander (Sandy) became a professor of medieval history at Newcastle University and then at Oxford. To this day, the Howard is his home.

Robin, an economist lived and worked in Brighton and London with his wife Frances and daughters Marika and Bethany. He was Chief Economist to the Greater London Council and advisor to governments and organisations (many of them farmers) all over the world, always returning with his family to the Howard over 50 years whenever work allowed. In later years he put in a lot of his time helping get Hallbankgate Hub launched. Robin died in 2017 and is buried at Lanercost (close to the grave of our mother).

Hubert, the last, was four years old when the family moved north. As the one with the smallest hands, a formative experience was his being designated to help in the breech birth of a calf, an invaluable skill on a farm but not subsequently called on. As an architect Hubert has worked in Kenya, London and now Boston, Massachusetts. His wife Nancy grew up on her grandmother's farm in West Virginia, also coalmining country. Hubert and Nancy were married in Farlam Church (in a blizzard) by the Reverend Henderson. Their second daughter Jessica was born in the Brampton Cottage Hospital.

A major reason for our parents moving north, leaving their urban life behind, is that they did not wish to be absentee landlords. At the end of his life Stephen remarked that he had spent exactly half of his life on the farm, by far the better half. Growing up on the farm, all brothers would agree, was a major formative influence on each of our lives as well as for the grandchildren. The passing of time, the passing of lives and the various paths that have been taken by the generations that have followed Stephen and Margaret Murray have been the cause and motivation behind this transition.

Sandy, as the one who has stayed on, will be a continuing presence at Greenside and the Howard, as will the acres of woods he has planted and overseen for the last 61 years. Thompsons of Prudhoe will continue the workings at Silvertop quarry and continue to make donations to the Parish and the Hub.

It has been, and is, a heartache to make such decisions but we think and hope that the continuance of farming in the valley under new ownership and especially the passing of land to the Parish and the School, the small pieces that keep a community alive, will ensure a prosperous future for Hallbankgate.

*Alexander, Frances and Hubert Murray, Trustees of the Greenside Estate*

# Church Matters Eden, Gelt & Irthing Ministry

## **Team Rector: Rev'd Canon Tricia Rogers**

The Team Rector has pastoral responsibility for the parishes of Brampton, Irthington, Crosby-on-Eden and Scalby.

## **Team Vicar: Rev'd 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.

**Rev'd 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).



## **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](http://farlamparishchurch.co.uk) or check out events at Farlam and Talkin churches on the [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) website.

## **Services at Farlam Church - March to May**

Sunday 3rd March at 11:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 17th March at 11:00am Holy Communion

Easter Sunday 31st March at 11:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th April at 11:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 21st April at 11:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th May at 11:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th May at 11:00am Holy Communion

Farlam Church usually has a simple 20 minute service of Morning Prayer at 9:00am each Monday

## **Holy Week Services 25th to 30th March**

**Monday** Morning Prayer at 9:00am at Farlam - Taize Service at 6:30pm at Gilsland

**Tuesday** Morning Prayer at 9:00am at Cumrew - Evening Prayer 5:00pm at Cumwhitton  
Compline 8:00pm at Nether Denton

**Wednesday** Service at Brampton Methodist Church at 10:30am

**Maundy Thursday** Morning Prayer at 9:00am at Hayton - Holy Communion at Talkin 7:00pm with Talkin Singers

**Good Friday** Morning Prayer at 9:00am Castle Carrock - Walk of Witness at 11:00am in Brampton  
Deanery Service at 2:00pm at Lanercost Priory

**Holy Saturday** Easter Vigil Service & Lighting the Fire at 8:00pm at Irthington

**Easter Morning** Dawn Service at 6:00am Brampton Old Church

## LOVE LIVES AGAIN

I still have the big book of old ballads which I used to pore over as a boy. The illustrations of knights, outlaws, ladies, beggars and minstrels enthralled my imagination. Of course many of the ballads were from the borders of Scotland and England: Chevy Chase; Thomas the Rhymer; Edom O'Gordon. And then there was the ballad of Hynd Horn.

Hynd Horn must part from his true love, and travel to distant lands. He's gone for many years. But he always carries the ring his lady gave him:

'When that ring keeps new in hue, ye may ken that your love loves you.  
When that ring turns pale and wan,  
ye may ken that your love loves another man'.

The day comes when he sees the ring's lustre fade. Returning to his homeland he meets a beggar and asks him for local news, and hears that that very day his erstwhile lover is to wed. Hynd Horn swaps clothes with the beggar and in disguise goes to his lady's door to beg. Unaware of his identity she gives him a cup of wine. He drops the ring into the emptied cup. His lady sees it and the penny drops! They are together again.

'She has ta'en the scales of gold from her hair,  
and she has followed him evermair.'

The return of the lover, given up for dead or lost, but coming back in disguise, is an archetypal story line. It's a divine narrative too. Easter tells of the One who loved each one of us into life, who died for the world, and who returns to us to invite us into new life. To quote a hymn:

'Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.'

So we proclaim in our Easter services: "Christ is risen! Alleluia!" And the invitation to celebrate goes out to all.

Edward Johnsen

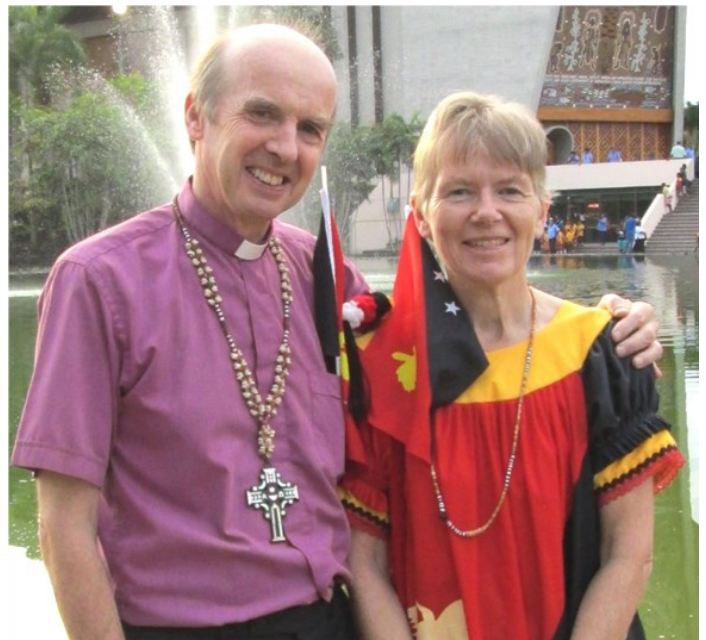
## Bishop Peter Ramsden

Bishop Peter Ramsden is originally from the Wirral. He read Geography at University College London and was trained for ordination at the Theological College in Mirfield, West Yorkshire.

After two curacies in Durham Diocese, he and his wife Sue, a landscape architect, served 3 postings with the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea from 1983 – 1996, their first being to a remote jungle mission station and the others in towns.

This period included a 2 year break to study for an MA in Theology at Leeds University, during which he was also priest-in-charge of Micklefield in York Diocese.

In 1996 he became Vicar of St Bartholomew's Long Benton in Newcastle Diocese, where he remained for 11 years until his consecration as Bishop of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea's capital, in 2007.



He and Sue retired to the UK in 2014 and now live just outside Brampton. They have two grown up married sons, one of whom lives in Wetheral. As an Honorary Assistant Bishop in Carlisle Diocese he helps with confirmations and chairs the Overseas Links & Bishop's Harvest Appeal committee.

## Farlam Parish Council Round-up

**The Parish Council met on 8th November.** Apologies were received from Councillors Broomhead and Brown. Unusually, 3 members of the public also attended and left after the item on car parking.

The discussion on car parking opposite Hallbankgate village hall arising from camper vans parking overnight resulted in the Clerk approaching the website to remove their online advert indicating that overnight parking was available and also asking Highways if a 'No Overnight Parking' sign could be erected.

Cumberland Councillor Dobson invited members to a forthcoming community panel policy consultation event and then spoke about other issues; of particular interest was Cumberland Council's financial woes and signs to be erected at nearby Talkin Tarn warning about rats.

After noting that the FPC bank balance was £18,804.01 on 14/10/23 members approved £892.58 for routine expenditure and also £1001.98 of expenditure relating to the new Parish Council website and associated domain names.

Members then considered a draft budget report from the Clerk and provisionally agreed it pending receipt of Cumberland Council's tax base calculations for next year which would then allow the FPC to finalise the budget and set the precept for 2023/24.

Cumberland's Highways Team had asked the PC to re-submit its request for speed reductions on the A689 through 3 hamlets using their 'report a fault' online app. No indication had been received that this issue might be considered by a future meeting of the Community Panel.

The Highways Team had also been silent of the installation of a new SID (speed indication device) near the primary school and the likely costs had risen from £5,100 to £5,611. The Clerk was asked to contact Farlam Parish Trust to request grant aid of £4,000 for the new SID.

Before concluding the meeting some residual items were considered: a new biodiversity policy was adopted; a new grass cutting contract was awarded; and the likely installation of the new swings during December followed by the annual RoSPA safety inspection was noted.

**There was an Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 29th November.** Both the Clerk and Councillor Lingard submitted apologies. No members of the public were present.



The main item for discussion was that the land leased by the Parish Council for the Hallbankgate play area had been put up for sale by the owners Greenside Estate. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would make an offer of £10,000 to buy the land and that the cost (including

associated professional fees) would be the Council's immediate funding priority and would take precedence over the second speed indicator device. It was also agreed to seek grant aid from Farlam Trust.

**The next Meeting of the Parish council took place on 10th January 2024.** All Councillors were present along with the Clerk and Cumberland Councillor Dobson. No members of the public were present.

Councillor Dobson presented a report detailing recent grants given by the Community Panel to village halls and other community assets for improvements and repairs. None were within our Parish. Grant aid of £22,605 remained for applications received before 29th February 2024 deadline. In addition he reported that the Community Panel had confirmed its priorities of Community, Facilities and Support, Environment and Highways.

Councillor Dobson told the PC that he is Cumberland's representative on the North Pennines AONB which has also been recently designated as a National Landscape. He listed some of the AONB's impressive achievements during 2023 relating to woodland and hedgerow planting and restoration as well as working with Eden Rivers Trust to create new leaky dams and new wetland habitat. The RSPB at Geltsdale had also been busy creating and managing habitats to support priority species on farmland and re-naturalising 500m of Howgill Beck.

## Farlam Parish Council Round-up Continued

There followed discussion on the response from Highways via their automated 'report a fault' system that they would add the request for 40mph speed limits through Coalfell, Follysike and Roachburn to their Traffic Regulation Order request list for further assessment. However it was clear that there was no immediate prospect of any action.

The next item for discussion was the planning application to turn the Belted Will pub into two houses. While recognising the difficulties involved in running a rural pub the Parish Council decided to object in order to try and protect the pub which it considered to be an important community asset enabling social interaction within the community, providing employment and also much needed visitor accommodation.

The District Local Plan policies are thought to lend support to the Parish Council's views.

The PC noted its bank reserves stood at £16,897.45 on 14/12/23 and approved the usual ongoing items of expenditure. Also approved was £110 for a Christmas tree for HBG village hall.

Members next discussed and agreed a budget of £9,247.59 plus a prudent level of general reserves of £4,623.79 for 2024/25: in total £13,872.00.38 The Clerk would inform Cumberland Council as this needs to be factored into next year's council tax and Cllr. Marsh would inform parishioners via the Village News.

The PC noted that the new steel swings were substantial and in future consideration could be given to replacing timber structures with steel.



Before the meeting ended it was noted that the online listing of overnight parking availability opposite HBG village hall had been removed and the Clerk was tasked with chasing up Highways about erecting a 'no overnight parking' sign; it was also noted that the new FPC website was up and running with only some minor issues remaining to be sorted.

Finally it was agreed that councillors would respond individually to consultation over Cumberland Council's budget proposals for 2024/25 and also those of Cumbria Constabulary. It was noted that the Parish Council's offer of £10,000 to purchase the playing field had been accepted by Greenside Estate and that Cartmell Sheperd would act for FPC with the costs relating to the purchase and transfer of ownership likely to come under £4,000.

Editor's note: Farlam Parish Council minutes can be viewed at [www.farlampc.gov.uk](http://www.farlampc.gov.uk)

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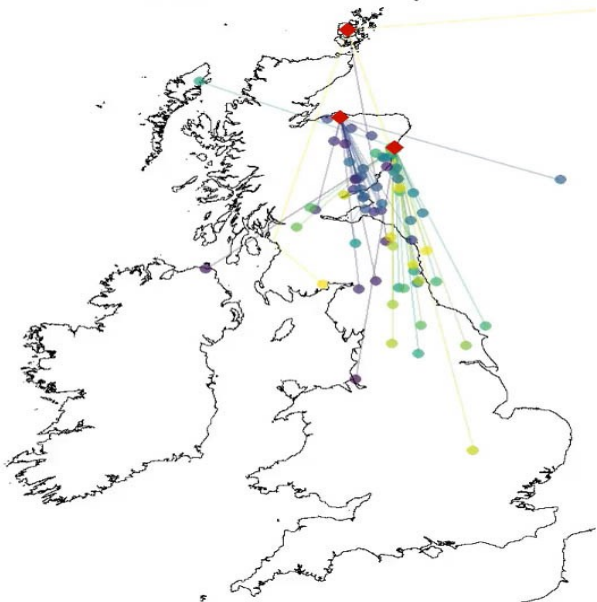
## A Waxwing Winter

The movements of birds is a fascinating and extraordinary phenomenon. Through much of history people have noticed birds coming and going in tune with the seasons; Swallows arriving in spring and departing in autumn. Aristotle believed that Swallows hibernated and it was only at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century that there was a general acceptance that birds travelled from one country to another rather than hibernating. Material proof came in 1822 when a White Stork was found in Germany that had an African spear impaled through its neck – the message was now loud and clear; birds do travel long distances.

Many species of birds make regular journeys from one place to another in response to changing daylight times and temperatures; many spend the breeding season in one specific location only to return to that exact same location the following year having spent the non-breeding season in a similarly regular location. Other species will move to lower altitudes in response to severe weather conditions or move south by relatively short distances if the weather gets colder. There is another group of species that perform irregular long-distance movements in response mainly to food availability; these are known as irruptive migrants.



Waxwing is a species that undergoes irruptive movements to Britain in some winters. There are several reasons why these irruptive movements are well known. Firstly Waxwing is an attractive and striking looking bird with its bizarre crest, pinkish plumage and yellow tail band and wing markings and those strange 'waxy' feather tips. This sort of appearance appeals to us humans: that sort of a crazy haircut is what we lean towards if we want to get noticed. The yellow and red bits resemble the 'bling' that also shouts out 'look at me!'. Secondly Waxwings come to this country in search of berries and those ornamental rowan berries come top of their shopping list and those trees are often found in parks and supermarket car parks where we can easily see them. Other irruptive species that come to Britain include the crossbill and redpoll groups; the species within these groups tend to frequent remote conifer forests and scrubby areas where they don't get noticed as much.



This winter Waxwings arrived in Northern Scotland during October and there were not just a few of them, some flocks involved a thousand birds. This dramatic movement of large numbers was driven by a good breeding season where there was lots of invertebrate food available to swell the population and a subsequent poor berry crop to feed all these birds. And so the birds went on the move. Bird ringers on Orkney and elsewhere trapped some birds and fitted colour-rings in the hope that these individuals would be reported by other people further south as the birds spread through Britain in their search for tasty berries. Birds had arrived in North Cumbria by mid-November and spread to Britain's south coast by early December.

**Chris Hind**



## Blossoms

Maybe you or a loved one is about to go to see the GP or has a Memory Clinic appointment. Maybe you've already received a dementia diagnosis. Or perhaps you're somebody's home carer. It wouldn't be a surprise given the prevalence of the condition. In fact, more than half of people asked knew someone with a diagnosis and just under half said that it was the health condition they feared most.

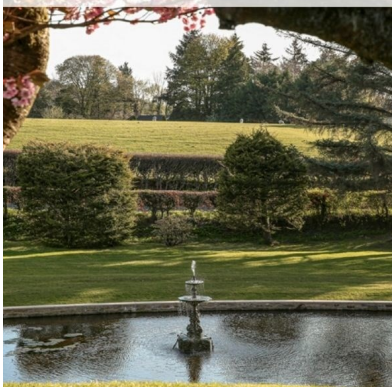
One in every two people in the UK will be affected by dementia in our lifetime, either because we care for someone or we develop it ourselves, or both. The Alzheimer's Society estimates that almost a million people live with dementia in the UK and the number is on the rise. One in 11 are over the age of 65 and, gender wise, 65% are women. In our region of the North East and North Cumbria there are more people living with a *diagnosis* of dementia than anywhere else in England – 27,500 compared with a national average of just under 11,000. We're still in the top spot when you look at the numbers of people estimated to be living with dementia, with or without a diagnosis – 40,200 here compared to 17,000 nationally.

Sadly, it's a condition that people often don't discuss and as a result those with dementia and those who care for them can easily feel isolated. That's a shame because there's no need for silence. Last year my Dad, Bill McLaughlan, died with Alzheimer's (the most common form of dementia) . In the weeks and months before his passing we'd go up to Hallbankgate Hub where he got his pot of green tea and was treated like royalty by the wonderful volunteers. He called everybody Blossom to hide that he forgot names.

So, in his memory, we created 'Blossoms' in partnership with Dementia Carers Count who've also done awareness sessions for the volunteer team so that people will always find the Hub to be a safe and understanding space. We hope it will allow people to chat with folk who understand and to share experiences or maybe just enjoy a pot of tea or a cup of coffee and a piece of cake in different surroundings.

Blossoms belongs to the people who use it and it will grow and develop in the way they wish. Over time it will develop in the way users desire and may also become more frequent. For now it's on the last Sunday of the month from 2pm to 4pm at the Hub. If it sounds of interest, why not give it a go? Just drop me a message ([daruma3@gmail.com](mailto:daruma3@gmail.com) / **07952 246208**) or let the Hub know so we can plan for numbers.

**Tom McLaughlan**



We are thrilled to announce that the Cedar Tree by Hrishikesh Desai has been awarded a much coveted Michelin star within our first year at Farlam Hall!

We cannot express how proud we are of the whole team who have worked extremely hard, and a huge thanks must also go to our guests and our supply partners who have given us their unwavering support.

This prestigious award follows three rosettes at the AA Hospitality Awards, our addition to the Michelin Guide and, more recently, receiving an 'Exceptional' rating at The Good Food Guide Awards.

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## **Viewpoint by Cumberland Councillor Roger Dobson**

### **Winter Maintenance**

Whilst we have been fortunate to escape extreme winter weather so far this winter, there have been three cold spells with associated icy conditions. Many of us have been surprised that roads that have been gritted for ever, were missed this year. The new Cumberland Council tell us that they are only implementing changes agreed by Cumbria County Council. Despite protests from myself, other Councillors for rural wards and Parish Councils we have not received a full explanation for the change and importantly why the changes were not consulted or communicated. I hope that we can discuss this at the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel on 27<sup>th</sup> March and agree a united front to press for a reversal of policy.

The Hallbankgate Hub have asked for a grit bin near the Hub which disappointingly has been assessed by Cumberland Council and rejected. I have asked for a copy of the assessment. I believe the Council should be supporting community facilities like the Hub and will do my best to change the decision.

### **20 mph Speed Limits**

The good news is that the Cumberland Highways and Transport Strategy Board has adopted a new policy on introducing 20mph limits. The bad news is that nothing is going to change soon.

Requests for 20mph restrictions will be collated for future review. Speed limits are next due to be assessed during the 2026/27 financial year. The policy specifies criteria for considering 20 mph:

- have existing mean speeds throughout that provide a realistic opportunity for compliance (where existing mean speeds are at or below 24 mph) or have clear justification that measures are required to lower vehicle speeds to such a level.
- be outside a school or where vulnerable road users mix with vehicles in a frequent manner, such as a town with pedestrians crossing regularly, or village with no footway provision.
- be a location that explains and justifies a lower speed limit to the driver.

The key statistics and factors that will be evaluated when assessing for a 20 mph limit include:

- Existing traffic speeds
- Collision History
- Road geometry and engineering
- Road function
- Makeup of road users (vulnerable etc.)
- Road environment

At the Highways meeting I said that the Council was being timid. I first raised this in 2021. Six years to introduce an obvious safety measure that could save lives at minimal cost is far too long.

## Farlam Parish Trust

The Trust meets in the Village Hall at 6:45pm on the second Wednesday in March and September, prior to the Parish Council meetings. If you are pulling together 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.

Our current website is changing from <https://www.farlamparishcouncil.com/grantsparishtrust> to <https://www.farlampc.gov.uk> and while operational it is still being fine tuned.

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

Email enquiries to [charles.raine@youngsrps.com](mailto:charles.raine@youngsrps.com)

## Hallbankgate WI



Over the last few months WI members have enjoyed a Christmas Meal at The Greenhead Hotel, Greenhead; a wonderful Afternoon Tea with Slaggyford WI and have continued to enjoy our regular Coffee Mornings at Farlam Hall.

Our programme for the next few months:

March: Games and Quiz Night

April: Annual General Meeting plus meal and quizzes

May: 'Chocolates for Everyone' with Keith Tattersall (Castle Chocolates)

June: Meal Out

We are also planning a visit to Carlisle Archives.

Hallbankgate WI welcomes guests and new Members. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Small Hall at 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](mailto:hallbankgatewi@gmail.com)

## Farlam 100+ Club Prize-winners

	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>
<b>1st Prize £25.00</b>	<b>Tim Arndt</b>	<b>Bill Armstrong</b>	<b>Peter Arndt</b>
<b>2nd Prize £15.00</b>	<b>Angus Murray</b>	<b>Nicola Armstrong</b>	<b>Karen Lawson</b>
<b>3rd Prize £10.00</b>	<b>Maureen Watson</b>	<b>Paul Nairn</b>	<b>Bill Palmer</b>

# Hallbankgate Village School News

016977 46237 [www.hallbankgate.org.uk](http://www.hallbankgate.org.uk) [mandy.davidson@hallbankgate.org.uk](mailto:mandy.davidson@hallbankgate.org.uk)



In our last entry in the Village News, we were looking forward to performing our Christmas play and enjoying lots of festive fun towards the end of the term. We are pleased to let you know that our Christmas performances were excellent and we all enjoyed singing, dancing and acting! It was brilliant to have two packed-out performances of our play and we were lucky enough to have received so many compliments about each performance. We also held a Christmas Raffle which raised over £300 and we would like to say a huge thank you to all of the local businesses that were able to donate a prize and support us in raising funds for our school. Before we finished for the Christmas holidays, we were rewarded for all of our hard work with a festive Christmas party (complete with a special visitor, all the way from the North Pole!) and a trip to watch a theatre performance of Snow White.

Since returning to school following the Christmas break, we've had lots of exciting learning opportunities. In Class 1, we have been learning all about food and where it comes from and enjoyed a very exciting and interesting visit to the Corn Mill in Warwick Bridge. We have also been looking for signs of spring and have been inspired by artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe to create our own nature-themed pieces. We've also been looking closely at how our village has changed over the years. In Class 2, we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and have enjoyed imagining what life might have been like by cooking a range of sweet and savoury Anglo-Saxon inspired dishes! We all thought that they were delicious! We have also been learning about how we can keep our bodies healthy and why it is important to eat a balanced diet and we welcomed Reverend Johnsen into school to support our learning in our Religious Education lessons, too. In Class 3, we have enjoyed learning all about the Vikings this term and have been working hard to design and sew our own embroidered pair of Viking-inspired mittens! We have also been enjoying using wire to create sculptural pieces in art, as well as Viking-themed pendants out of clay.

Looking ahead to the next term, we are looking forward to the weather warming up a little bit so that we can begin to prepare the vegetable garden and greenhouse: we all enjoyed eating the fruit and vegetables that we had grown last year and we have grand plans for what we would like to grow this year. We are also looking forward to sowing some more wildflower seeds to increase the bio-diversity of our school grounds and these spaces (as well as our pond and school field) will provide the basis for a very exciting project in the summer term, too! We are also looking forward to taking part in a number of community-based projects over the coming months based on the history of the local area, including Stephenson's Rocket and the Brampton wagonway.

Finally, we would like share the wonderful news that the school playing field has been gifted to our school by the Trustees of the Greenside Estate. We cannot thank the Trustees enough for their generosity (for both the field and the use of the field for the last 30+ years) and it now means that we can be safe in the knowledge that the field will always be part of our school. Just as it does now, it will continue to provide a safe and secure space for many generations of pupils to enjoy and we have made a promise to the Trustees that we will always look after it so we can continue to use it for many years to come. To acknowledge and remember the generosity and kindness, we will be planting a new tree in the field alongside the installation of a new friendship bench that will take pride of place looking down over the field. We are truly, truly grateful.

## Hallbankgate Village School Nursery Places

Our nursery is open from 9.00am until 3.30pm, Monday to Friday, during school term time. Our Nursery is run by a full-time Early Years Teacher, supported by Early Years Teaching Assistants, and we welcome children to our Nursery the term following their third birthday. Please get in touch if you would like to arrange a visit for you and your child to see the many learning opportunities on offer in our school.

## Brampton Medical Practice

### Patient Participation Group Meeting December

The medical practice has a Patient Participation Group which meets quarterly and allows patients to discuss and make suggestions on how the practice operates and also on a variety of related issues.

Patients who are interested in joining the Group should either ask at reception or complete the form available on the practice website. Alternatively patients can opt to receive a quarterly newsletter by email.



## Eden Valley Hospice

At the December 2023 meeting, Suzanne Garborino gave an in-depth presentation on Eden Valley Hospice which receives 20% of its funding from the NHS and relies on donations and fundraising in the community to meet the rest of its operating costs.

The Hospice has 10 adult beds for people who require complex patient care with cancer diagnosis and life limiting conditions. They also carry out symptom management and assessment and can bring patients in to manage for a period of time.

There are 150 volunteers and a high ratio of staff to patients.

Children who need palliative care or have severe complex disabilities are looked after in the Jigsaw Unit. They also offer respite care for 2 night breaks. The Butterfly Suite is an area for children to be cared for after they have passed away. Staff work side by side with funeral directors and families. Private accommodation is available for families to stay if required.

A number of day services are offered to people referred by any professionals to help people deal with their symptoms e.g. anxiety, access to benefits, complimentary therapies e.g. Reiki or massage. A new group to support carers starts in the New Year.

There is also a 16-30 Saturday Club for people with palliative diagnosis, a Jigsaw Baby Group, a new partnership with Age UK and an Elephant Café which offers support from people in similar positions. Previous outreach sessions in Brampton may be repeated covering issues like symptom control, benefits, wills, advice etc.

Eden Valley Hospice Website address: <https://www.edenvalleyhospice.org/>

## CQC Inspection

Last November the Care & Quality Commission carried out a targeted inspection mainly relating to access and appointments as part of a national investigation to understand how practices were dealing with and responding to increased demand. This is one of 5 areas examined by the CQC. The practice retained its CQC rating of **Good** with the CQC acknowledging recent recruitment and training and areas of good practice in the appointments process and also in patient care.

The Practice Manager informed the Group that two additional agency staff are now answering calls between 8am and 12 noon daily, that the Reception team had been understaffed due to illness and that two new receptionists are now in post and completing training.

A new phone system will be operational shortly and additional locum cover will provide more appointments. Work streams are also being altered to reduce admin work completed by GP's and to facilitate booking appointments with the Pharmacy team.

There was some discussion about patients who were unable to go online to book appointments or order repeat medication and who therefore needed to do so by telephone. Patients with online access were urged to use it and free up phone access for those without modern technology.

A number of other items were discussed including new technology to help the Pharmacy improve dispensing; a new respiratory clinic offering 10 minute appointments for breathing issues only, a new physiotherapist recruited and two trainee GP's starting in February.

## Coanwood Featherstone Lambley History Group

The Group which extends to Hartleyburn, Tindale, Plenmeller, Knarsdale and Kirkhough now has 254 paid up members including ex-pats in the USA. Anyone with local interest is welcome to join us! Check us out on Facebook to see what's afoot and to post things relating to any history of our area. On Facebook there is a Just Giving/Crowdfunding link to join our group or to simply donate

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/coanwood-featherstone-lambley-history-group>

(Subscriptions: £10 per person or £15 per couple or £5 per person under 30 years old).

**Online Archives** – [CFLHG Archive Catalogue \(cflhistoryarchive.org.uk\)](http://cflhistoryarchive.org.uk) Our Group online archives page is now up and running for people to look up photos/docs etc. Paid up members can also view and print larger photos and documents once they have their private log in details from us. Thanks to Tim Halden (Alston) for sorting it out and Tom Park (Roachburn), Gerry Robson (Talkin), Nic Broomhead (Tindale) for assisting me to input information.

Anyone else who has a bit of spare time would be very welcome to help us to input stuff!! See photo of the Archive front page (the picture changes all the time on the front).



## WI Talks

We did a talk to **Greenhead WI** on 12th February 2024 concentrating on their local area (Blenkinsopp/Greenhead/Gilsland) with many old postcards from 1902 to view and some really fascinating history. Following a talk last year to the **Hallbankgate WI** they have asked us to do a further talk in the Village Hall which will be open to all to attend and enjoy. This should be around July time so watch out for it!!

## Featherstone Flyers Cornhole Club (bean bag throwing)

Our History Group partly funded Featherstone Flyers Cornhole which is now up and running, having had 5 events already in Dec/Jan/Feb. See photo of young farmers session at Featherstone. Our next club session will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm and the following one on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm, both in Featherstone Village Hall. All are welcome to come and have a go. Only £2 or £3 per 2 hour session, depending on numbers. Our boards and bags are mobile so if anyone fancied setting up a trial evening or afternoon at another village hall /school or relatively large space, (12 yards in length and 3 to 6 yards in



width are needed). Please consult with me to see if it's feasible. We recently had 20+ people turn up at Gilsland for an enjoyable taster session in their village hall.

**That's all folks—happy Easter!**

**Richard Macdonald – CFL History Group  
– Chairman and Treasurer**

**Tel 074848 00632 or 01434 321316 ,  
E Mail macasrich9@gmail.com**

**Richard Macdonald – CFL History Group  
– Chairman and Treasurer**

## Hallbankgate Village Hall News

The hall has been very busy over the last couple of months. It is great to see so many people using the hall for a variety of activities: so thanks to those who book regularly, your ongoing support is very much valued.

Thanks also to Farlam Parish Council for donating funds towards the Christmas tree, decorations and other additional items over the festive period and also to Alex at Crosby on Eden Christmas Trees who provided the tree. We got so many lovely comments about the tree and are pleased that you all enjoyed it.

Our Annual Christmas party was a huge success and thanks to Farlam Parish Trust Grant funding, and donations from villagers, we were able to provide the children in the parish a party free of charge, and also give them a gift from Santa.

With the onset of Spring and warmer weather we are hoping to get much more use from our outdoor area. We were lucky to get a grant from the Cumberland Building Society to purchase some outdoor toys which have now been delivered.

The hall is a fantastic space that can be used for a variety of activities. Badminton nets are available for hire for a game although you will need your own rackets. The kitchen and main hall are great for parties, family meals, exercise classes, meetings and seminars. If you would like more information about hiring the hall, please contact Lea-Anne.

The village hall committee keeps the hall running and is looking for a couple of additional volunteers to join us. If you feel you can help, please get in touch.

### Dates for your diary

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Mothers Day Afternoon Tea** (Please contact Janette Smith on 07714823451).

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April – Tindale 225** – Celebrating the opening of the Earl of Carlisle's wooden railway from Brampton to Howgill.

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April – Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning.** Tables for sellers are £10 each . Contact Lea-Anne to book. Free entry for buyers. New and used items.

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> August – Flower Show** (Please be aware that this date has been brought forward due to feedback from those who enter). Poster to follow with class details.



If you would like to book the hall, please contact Lea-Anne Potter, Caretaker on 07412 158502.





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