

The Thornton-in Lonsdale Parish Newsletter

Summer

Edition

'The way to ensure summer in England is to have it framed and glazed in a comfortable room.'

Horace Walpole 1774

A Farmer's Wife

Nearly 52 years ago I married a farmer's son. A girl from a non-farming background working in the former Midland Bank, I little knew my training with figures would come in useful doing the farm accounts.

I had always, since a small child, had a love of animals so it came as a great shock to me when an animal died or had to be sold. I shed many a tear.

Farmers' wives when first married didn't usually go out to work but helped their husband on the farm. I learnt to milk with the machine (not by hand,) fed the calves and nurtured the poorly ones. Some you succeeded, with others you lost.

Lambing is a very busy time in the farming calendar, with early mornings and late nights. We lambed all the sheep outside in the fields and many a night I remember walking round the lambing sheep in the pouring rain and howling wind with a tilly lamp which some nights took a long time to light! But you never cease to be thrilled at the birth of a new lamb as it struggles to its feet in a few minutes and feeds from its mum.

All our cows had names and we knew them individually. We had three children who had to spend a lot of time outside with us whilst we were working – when small sitting in the pram in the shippoon while we milked. One year when I was nearly due to have our third child, Alison, the feed representative called and I told him we had just had a set of triplets (quite unusual in cows.) He said 'You don't look as though you have!'

Farming is a good life but also quite stressful at times – like the days when you get continuous rain when you want it dry to bring in the winter feed. However, you never fail to get it, even if it's not the best quality. There is not much time for leisure (milking is twice a day 365 days a year) but we always tried to take one week's holiday a year, usually in a caravan. I always say a holiday cost us twice as much because we had to employ a relief milker.

There is so much more I could write, but I love my life on the farm and wouldn't change it if I had my time over again.....

Nancy

The Village Hall

The committee is putting together a season of

events for the Farmer's Programme.

We hope to hold Ceilidh, plan to introduce monthly coffee mornings to run 'year round' with either a plant swap, bring and buy or table top sale. There will also be the usual evenings of dominos with pie and pea supper, talks and slide shows.

A summer fair/fete is to be held, date yet to be confirmed. Look out for posters. Is there anything else you would like in the summer months?

Chris Bonsal of the Ingleton Folk weekend committee has been approached offering the hall as a venue with a view to running a workshop or similar. It may be too late to add it in this year so if there is anyone wanting to 'put' something 'on'- let us know.

Do you have any suggestions or ideas for additional events you would like to see at the Village Hall? Are you available to help out at events, to give an interesting talk or a slide/film show? Perhaps you would like to join the committee? All input is greatly appreciated. We are all busy people with busy lives and are rather a scattered community; sometimes it's hard to make an effort to venture out on a winter's night but it is our sincerest hope you will join us, support events and put the heart back into the community.

Contact: **Judith Hay** 41193 or **Jennifer Martin** 41128

For Hall hire, Booking Secretary is **Doreen Dryden** 41448

The Young Farmers' Club

...is an organization for young people from 10-26 years. Members do not have to come from farming families – anyone can join. We meet weekly and have a good varied programme: last week was Thai Chi, this week it is the District Rally. If you are not interested in stock judging, for example, you can flower arrange, cook, judge handbags or even do the obstacle course!

There is something for Everyone.

If interested, contact **Rachael Easterby** on 07817918234

**NB:- This is your final newsletter of the year!
If you would like to continue to receive it in
September, please ring 41336.**

Ingleborough Archaeology Group.

Our major digging project begins on May 22nd at Kingsdale Head when we are continuing with the excavation of a Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) which has been dated to about 6700 BC. To put this date in perspective this was just after the time that the British Isles became separated from the Continent.

Although there will not be an official Open Day this year for visitors you can be assured of a warm welcome if you wish to visit the site between May 22nd and June 4th (but not Saturday 29th May - we are having a day off!)

There is a possibility that there could be evidence of a more permanent occupation of this site all those years ago. Our "geophysics" results have produced some very odd features to be explored. At that time the people were hunter-gatherers and usually continually on the move. Evidence of a more permanent site would make Kingsdale Head of national importance. Well, we can dream!

Some of you may be aware that Stan Lawrence of Burton-in-Lonsdale has given most of his archive of material to Lancaster University (where it is held in the Rare Books Collection.) You will need to make an appointment to see this material but it does contain a lot of interesting material relating to Thornton in Lonsdale as well as to Burton in Lonsdale.

Some of you will perhaps know about the amazing story of Richard Thornton - the benefactor of Westhouse School - and his journey from a poor but honest schoolboy to the Victorian equivalent of a millionaire. If not then it is well worth seeing Stan Lawrence's manuscript at Lancaster to get the details of how Richard Thornton made his fortune during the Napoleonic Wars by outwitting warships in the Baltic to corner a market he had foreseen.

We are very grateful to all those farmers and householders in the parish who have given IAG permission to record their traditional farm buildings and we have recorded just over half of them to date. It is fascinating to see the living record of changes in farming in these stones and to appreciate the degree of hard work necessary to keep them functioning in the past

Jeff Price - 41303

St Oswald's Church

St Oswald's Church has been in dire need of a proper kitchen and a disabled toilet facility to make the building suitable for community use. Therefore this summer's 'Church Development Fund' Appeal launches with a Celidh and Buffet Supper on Friday 11 June, at Westhouse Village Hall with local band 'Ground Root' led by Carolyn Francis. Dancing begins at 7.00pm, entry by ticket £7, £3.50 children in advance from Rosemary 42207 or any PCC member. Special

request - bring your own favourite cake or dessert to share. (You may bring your own alcohol.)

Then on Saturday 10 July there will be a July Jumble at Ingleton Community Centre: contact the Rev. Jenny Savage on 61579 or any PCC member, as help and donations are needed. Also in July, on the 24th, Kirkby Brass Band will perform a concert at 7 pm in St Oswald's.

Finally on 21 August a Teddy Bear's Family Picnic will be held in Westhouse Village Hall from 12-2.30 pm. All welcome to enjoy fun and games with our favourite bears!

More events in the autumn, beginning September.

Rosemary Hartley 42207 or any PCC member.

Nature Notes

Spring has been late coming this year, perhaps due to the long severe winter and several weeks of dry weather. Celandines, Primroses and Blackthorn have all been late flowering. As soon as we had proper rain everything started moving and hedgerows became green at last. Bees and butterflies also and so far we have only seen flying Orange Tip, Green-veined White and a few Peacocks out of hibernation. Seen any small tortoiseshells? Let us know about any nature event you witness.

Birds have been varied in their response: our blackbirds have been feeding young, but summer migrant Swallows and Warblers have been late arriving and Swallows low in number. We didn't hear a Chiffchaff until April, usually March. We know that Cuckoos and other migrants are in decline and reasons are still being sought. If you hear a Cuckoo, please let us know. If you normally have nesting Swallows, are the usual numbers returning? We collect records of nesting Swifts, mysterious birds that rarely land, for the British Trust for Ornithology. Please phone us if you see any-very important for the new British Bird Atlas.

We can recommend a new book for those worried about the plight of our favourite 'spring-bringers' - Michael McCarthy's 'Say Goodbye to the Cuckoo' which celebrates this unique heritage and tries to piece together evidence for its decline.

Liz and Roger Neale - 41155

Westhouse Methodist Chapel

Jean and I had a very worthwhile trip to Uganda in Feb. visiting three different places. We showed some pictures and gave a report on 4th May at chapel. Our chapel anniversary was on Saturday and Sunday, 8th and 9th May. The speaker was Mr Trevor Matthews from Ireland.

The joint open-air service is on the 27th June at Westhouse Village Hall, 10-30am. The speaker is

Mrs Jean Pearson from Scorton (the Bishop of Lancaster's wife.) The service will be inside if wet or cold.

Our Sunday school is having their anniversary on Sun. 11th July at 11am & 6-30 pm when there will be a major input from the young people!

Thomas Fawcett – 41222

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**In the Garden**

I have never known a worse spring following the worst winter! (Nice and dry for the lambs - the only good thing.) Frosts every night and such dryness have given us very late growth. I hope you have delayed your planting out as protection could still be needed until the end of May. Frosted apple blossom could mean a poor crop.

However, the spring bulbs have been very good and flowers such as Primulas, though late, have been unaffected.

In the greenhouse, remove side shoots from tomatoes. If we have a good summer, try some pots outside as there's nothing like outdoor grown for flavour. It's worth trying! Peas and beans can also be grown in large pots, with 'wigwams.' We are a month behind so you could start now.

The main job in summer will be weed control-hoeing, and feeding. Top dress perennials and shrubs with a strengthening fertilizer. Lupins and delphiniums, if they have suffered, will respond with a good show of colour.

**Alan Collier** 41868

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Thornton-in-Lonsdale WI

Have you noticed that Thornton-in Lonsdale has an active Women's Institute group? Have you considered joining but haven't quite done something about it? Well, think no more, pick up the telephone and give us a call.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, (apart from August – holiday month) at 7.30pm in Westhouse Village Hall. We have a varied programme but most of all it is social contact and friendship.

Since March we have had Warden Stephen Hastie telling us about the new-look Dales National Park; lunch out; many examples of the beautiful textiles and embroideries of Gojarat; the campaign meeting on labelling of British meat products and a surprise birthday party.

June 1 has the tale 'My Son Married a Mexican' and lunch out; and in July the annual outing.

Do come along for a visit. We look forward to seeing you.

Anne Hunter 41120

The Parish Council

Your first tier of Government

- and cheap at the price! (No councillor is paid for their services and no precept requested.)

Chairman councillor Lund, councillors Wiper, Thompson and Ramwell would like to thank Nicholas Townley for his very useful services as councillor since 2005. May's council election was uncontested and as Nick decided not to run due to too many other commitments, the council will very soon be considering applications for that vacancy.

'Mamma Mia,' council's first Film Night offering, was enjoyed by a sizeable audience. Although the hall is too small to make the venture very profitable, the event will be continued for the fun of it! What would you like to see? Suggestions for the autumn title are welcome and will all be considered.

The Annual Parish (i.e residents'/parishioners' own) Assembly Meeting will have taken place – a 'Groups' get-together for sharing enthusiasms and finding out about others'. Next May, the topic will be up to you!

The PC's AGM and the Ordinary Meeting will also have been held by the end of May.

The steps at the Memorial may take longer than expected as we need a 'Faculty' from the church before proceeding. Other projects are now completed.

The next 'Ordinary' Meeting of the Council will take place at 7.00pm on the 26 July. All welcome.

Chris Jenkinson, clerk 41336

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**North Craven Heritage Trust**

Earlier this year it was nice to welcome members of the NCHT to one of their Sunday afternoon walks in Masongill, with lovely views over the countryside -; Bowland, the Lakes and northwards towards Dentdale. Over towards Westhouse we pointed out buildings and sites of historical and architectural interest. In March we had a good talk in Austwick on the Roman Conquest of the NW and in May at Eldroth one on the 'Pilgrimage of Grace,' northern reaction to Henry VIII's Reformation. Both attracted capacity audiences.

There will be a summer break before recommencing in September.

Details on our website

[www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk) or from me,

**Heather Jemson** 41480

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The Poultry Club

Winners of the last meeting, next meeting date, bird advice.....Please contact **Yvonne Metcalfe** 63114

Around and about. Where are these? You're bound to know.



Steps back in time, but where is it?

Maybe outside the perimeter, but still 'ours'.

Could do with some steps here.



Sort them out and find some more in your albums. Have you any 'Guess the person?'



Our Website has disappeared from the net and we can by now assume that TheLocalChannel is no more. However, Thornton-in-Lonsdale is still here and needs one. Is there anyone in the parish who can create a site for us and show us how to run it for when the money runs out? Please phone me on 41336 if you can, or know a man (girl, youth, OAP) who can?

Here's Hoping!

*After a hard winter and a freezing spring,
may we all have a wonderful
Summer!*