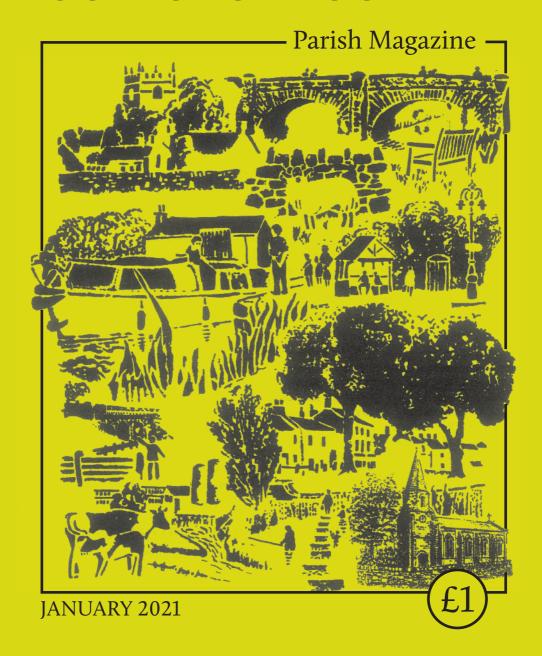
# GARGRAVE & CONISTON COLD



#### Inside this month

Yew trees, messengers from the distant past
Ewes lambing later
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Youth club boys causing trouble, sixties-style
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#### Organisations Please let us know if you'd like to amend or add an entry

Some of these activities are on hold or online at the time of writing.

Caterpillar Club (0+) - St Andrew's Church, Wed 10am, Kirsty Smith 07525 619950

Gymnastics (5- & 5+) – Mon, Wed & Thurs 9.15am, Wed 4pm info@ambitionsgymnastics.com

**Rainbows** (5+) – Debbie Gomersall 01729 830589

Brownies (7+) - Rose Turner 01729 825886

Young Farmers Club - Coniston Cold, Tues 7.30pm, Janet Bolland 01729 830505

Bowling - outdoor Gargrave Bowling Club, Michael Cox, 748285

Bowls - indoor, Village Hall, Winter Tues & Thurs 2-4pm, Joan Griffin, 749277

Cricket - Gargrave Cricket Club, Mark Jones, 07498 288654

Croquet - Craven Lawn Tennis Club, Gargrave, Tues 2-6pm, Roy Berry 748065

Cycling – Gargrave Tuesday Club, Dalesman, Tues and Thurs Trevor Pickles 01282 844788

Golf – Mason's Arms Golf Society, www.masonsarmsgolfsociety.com, 749304

Hunt - Pendle Forest & Craven Hunt, Elizabeth Adams 749772

Pilates - Contemporary, V Hall, Tue 10 & 11.30am, Fri 9am & 10.30am Bee 0777 898 0994

Pilates - Classical, V Hall, Tue 2pm, 6pm, 7.05pm, Thu 3pm, 6pm Cate Davies 079 5533 8775

Tennis - Craven Lawn Tennis Club, Beth Whitley 749664, www.craventennis.org.uk

Tai Chi & Qigong - Village Hall, Thursdays 7.30pm, Ian Cresswell 748540

Tai Chi Qigong - Green by War Memorial, Mon 9.30am & 10.30am, 0777 8980994

Walking for Health – 1st Thursday of the month, 10am, Jean Maxwell 748851

Yoga – Village Hall Annex, Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am, Sally Thomas 01756 461616

Modern sequence dance – Village Hall, Mon 7.45-10pm, John Rainey 749867 or 07840 806698.

Art - Gargrave Art Group - Village Hall, Mon 1.00-3.00pm, Bev Parker 749910

Bell Ringing - St Andrew's, Mon 7.30pm, Sun 10.00am, Ali Lucas 07921 970961

Bingo – Gargrave Community Centre, Neville Crescent – Mondays 1.30-4pm

Fuchsia & Geranium Club – V Hall, 1st Wed of month 7.30pm, Paula Jackson 752175

Gargrave Community Choir – rehearsals Fri 7pm, St Andrew's Church, 749802

Gargrave Heritage Group – Tues 10am, St Andrew's Church, Martin Thomson 748309

Craft and Chat - St Andrew's, Tues 2pm, Sylvia Humphreys 748779

Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall side room, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

Snooker Club – Village Hall Snooker Annex, every day, Stewart Smith 749340

WI - Village Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of month 7pm, Glenys Riley 07715 878709

French club – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of month, 8pm, Allison Wiffen 749913

Masons Arms - Quiz Sundays 8.30pm; Acoustic live music 1st Friday of the month

Rev Andrew Steer

#### Going back a different way

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS you may be thinking of taking down the Christmas tree, recycling the cards and you might even have heard enough carols for a lifetime! As we think of putting Christmas away for another year, it's worth remembering that the three wise men ('Magi' not kings) were not actually at the birth of Jesus but arrived later – sometime in January. The feast of Epiphany celebrates this event and reminds us that Jesus was born not just for the Jews but also for non-Jews (these wise men were Gentiles). We know the story well, and after they had presented their gifts, they returned back home a different way to avoid the evil schemes of King Herod.

This 'going back a different way' suggests a return to a different way of living for the Magi. These men represent a long lineage of people waiting, watching and hoping for God to intervene in the world, and now, with the birth of Christ, their lives were forever changed. As the carol says, 'the hopes and dreams of all the years are met in thee tonight'. How could they simply go back to their old lives as though nothing had changed!

For us, hoping to emerge from a global pandemic in 2021, there is a similar question to be asked – do we just go back to life as it was before, or do we 'go back a different way' to a different way of life? Many good things emerged in our response to the pandemic, with communities growing closer together, people stepping up in their response to help one another and a greater sense of thankfulness and appreciation for those who serve. One man told me that he finally got to know his next-door neighbour after years of busy commuting. For a while, pollution levels dropped, and it seemed that creation had some respite from our constant abuse and neglect.

One paradox of the pandemic is that surprisingly, in many countries the total death rate has not increased, leading scientists to ask why. It seems that as a biproduct of lockdown and stricter hygiene measures, people were living less stressful and healthier lives, sleeping more, exercising more and practicing good hygiene measures which dramatically reduced cross-infection of many other diseases. No doubt more negative health effects of the pandemic will emerge over time as we reflect upon the long-term sequel.

The point is that our lives have been changed forever in both good and bad ways, and it will be interesting to see what new habits and lifestyles remain with us.

The Magi, the shepherds and anyone else who came face to face with the events of that pivotal night returned not to their old lives, but to new lives, which were forever changed by God's intervention into the world. They must have looked at life with new perspectives, new meanings and a hope-filled outlook.

Coming face to face with Jesus is a transformative, life-changing experience from which there is no going back the same way. Once you realise that you are loved with an infinite love which doesn't depend upon your own

merits, there is no going back the same way. Once you realise that this love continues with full knowledge of all your failings, deepest secrets and dark corners of your soul, there is no going back. Once you realise that this love is unbreakable, unstoppable and is forever, there really is no going back.

Having peered into the stable this Christmas, and having come face to face with love itself, will you go back the same way to the same old life, or, like the Magi, will you go back a different way to a new life full of hope, joy, inner peace and unconditional love?

If you'd like to know more about the Christian faith, why not join us for our on-line Alpha course beginning on Tuesday the 5th of January at 7pm. See website for link.



#### **EVENTS**

#### Church services for January

Andrew Steer

These are our current plans for meeting together; all subject to any changes in rules about meeting others.

#### St Andrews, Gargrave

Sunday 3 Jan 8am Prayer Book Communion, 10.45am Communion

Sunday 10 Jan 10.45am Communion

Sunday 17 Jan 8am Prayer Book Communion, 10.45am Service of the

Word

Sunday 24 Jan 10.45am Communion Sunday 31 Jan To be confirmed

#### St Peter's Coniston Cold

Sunday 3 Jan 4pm Compline Evensong

Sunday 10 Jan 9.30am Prayer Book Communion

Sunday 17 Jan 4pm Compline Evensong

Sunday 24 Jan 9.30am Prayer Book Communion

Sunday 31 Jan No service

Alpha Andrew Steer



Starting on January 5<sup>th</sup> the churches of Gargrave, Coniston Cold and Kirkby Malham will be running an on-line Alpha course. We'll meet each week on Zoom, watch a short film and then enjoy lively conversation about Christianity and the meaning of life.

Join us at 7pm each Tuesday as we explore faith together. This will be a safe place to ask any question, to share our struggles and enjoy some precious time together.

Everyone is welcome, whether you don't really have a faith or you've been going to church for years.

To join, or just enquire, call Reverend Andrew on 01756 749275 or email andrew.steer@leeds.anglican.org

#### **NEWS**

21 for 21 Andrew Steer

Canon Ian Greenhalgh has decided to run 21 miles on New Year's Day to help the Churches he has been supporting during the past 3 years. He plans to run locally – depending on the rules – 21 miles from a to b or maybe 4 laps of around 5 miles.

The Diocese of Leeds raises much of its money to pay for clergy and other vital work by share, and due to Coronavirus, many churches have had difficulty raising the full amount. In order to help with our payments any money raised will go towards our parish share.

You are invited to sponsor his efforts, please put the name of your church on the form too. Search for Ian Greenhalgh on justgiving.com.

Alternatively, forms are available in St Andrew's and St Peter's Churches.

#### Parish magazine subscriptions

Ron Humphreys

Please note that subscriptions are not due until February. You will probably receive a payment envelope with your February magazine; the majority of deliverers use this approach. Further information will be provided in the February issue.

I thank everyone who has helped to deliver the magazines during the past year, particularly those people who kindly volunteered to temporarily replace the deliverers in isolation during the lockdowns.

#### Gargrave Church of England (VC) Primary School

Sarah Spensley

Christmas Nativity: Whoops-a-Daisy Angel





Despite the current restrictions, our youngest children in Apple and Ash classes brought sparkle and shine to the school in the fabulous Christmas production of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel. This year's performance was very different as it was performed in the hall with audience. school no However, it was all hands on deck to bring some Christmas cheer to our school, parents and carers. The hall, beautifully decorated with lots of stars, provided the backdrop to the little town of Bethlehem. The angels and snowflakes brought the first sprinkle of Christmas to the stage before Mary and Joseph arrived at the

stable, led by our donkey. The star twinkled her way to shine proudly over the

stable in Bethlehem before Whoops-a-Daisy Angel bumbled and stumbled her way to bring the shepherds and three kings to meet baby Jesus. Our year 2 children narrated the story beautifully and did themselves proud. As usual, the children sang brilliantly and really brought the story to life. The staff were very proud of all the children who did a superb performance. As the rest of the school, parents and carers get to watch the recorded performance, we know that Apple and Ash classes have definitely brought sparkle and Christmas cheer at a magical time of year.

#### Christmas Sale of Work

Sylvia Humphreys

I am delighted to report that the Christmas sale of work on December 12th raised £426.10 for church funds. Regrettably there are too many people to thank individually for this excellent result. I thank the members of the Craft and Chat Group who made so many beautiful items for sale. Even though the Group has been unable to meet for many months, the remarkable skills and talents of its members have not diminished in any way. Also, I thank all our helpers for working so hard to make the event a success. Last, but certainly not least, I thank everyone who braved the unpleasant weather to attend the event and spend so generously.

#### Parish magazine advertising reminder

lane Dallas

Here is a reminder to all our valued advertisers. We will soon be reviewing our advertising insert for 2021-22 and will be asking you about your requirements for next year during January and February.

#### Family service review, 6 December 2020

Peter Gardner

Fascinating. - I never realised that Zacheus, the tax collector who climbed a tree to see Jesus, wore a red flat-cap. It's amazing what you find out at a St. Andrew's Family Service. But perhaps that was just a whim of our dedicated thespian performer, one of three who helped to illustrate the talk that day. Each of the characters they portrayed met Jesus and their lives were changed forever by that encounter. Come to think of it, that's true of those who encounter Jesus today.

As is traditional at St. Andrew's on this Sunday in advent, two candles were lit, this year by Thea, the youngest member of our congregation - closely supervised by dad! Throughout the service, we were focussing on three kings – who, as we were reminded - were really three wise men, probably astrologers. They saw a star in the east and embarked on a long and arduous journey to find the baby, whom it had been predicted, would become the new king. Unfortunately, when they reached their destination, they met the old king, one, Herod by name, who pretended he wanted to come to worship this new baby. His real motive, of course, was to find him, murder him and thus safeguard his own position. However, as we know, the wise men didn't go back to Herod after they found baby Jesus in a stable, and Jesus survived.

In another sketch, one of the team used the journey of the wise men as the basis for her talk, reminding us that Jesus is always there with us - and in yet another angle on the story, we were treated to a video presentation of the wise men (knitted versions!) visiting Jesus in the stable. Certainly a service full of wise men!

Anyway, here's the punch line for you to consider. Two thousand years ago wise men came to Jesus – and d'you know what? Wise people still do. Are you one of them?

#### Village Hall news

Caroline Thompson

It was my intention to surprise our Parish Magazine editor Duncan by sending in my Village Hall News for January early pre the given editorial deadline of the 17th December. I, with great virtue commenced the piece on the 9th December (how organised was this) mainly to avoid the last minute rush to do it with all the other Christmas preparations that are thrown our way. The piece was duly written up on the Computer, how pleased was I when it was done and then somehow I missed saving the article on the Computer so the contents were lost never to return, frustrated would be a polite way of expressing how I felt! However as they always say patience is a virtue and on the same day I started the piece all over again. Therefore Duncan will still be surprised when the early offering appears on his desk (if I save it correctly on my computer that is).

We are pleased to say that after the second period of Lockdown we are now re-open once more for our small classes. However the new Tier system has created problems for the teachers. Pupils from Tier three areas are not able to attend classes in Tier two areas which in turn effects attendance numbers. Some of the class teachers have therefore taken the decision to not resume teaching until the Tiers are re-structured as less pupils equates to a change of dynamics in class and it also affects the financial viability of running a class with reduced numbers attending. Government ruling does however allow teachers from Tier Three areas to teach in a Tier Two areas and another exemption also allows the children's Gym classes to continue. The rules are many and complex and take a great deal of reading and digesting and they can also bring a whole new meaning to what is classed as a grey area .

Robert our Caretaker took advantage of the latest lockdown and having an empty Hall. He and local Craftsman David Burton have created a new access for the under stage storage. They work well together and have done an excellent job. We are now trying to source some low trolleys on wheels so we can put the heavy boxes of books on these. They can be pushed under stage when they need to be stored and pulled out easily when required. It will save wear and tear both on our knees and backs.

Unfortunately we have made the decision this year not to put up any decorations at the Hall. Normally Michael would put up a splendid display with a tree surrounded by wrapped presents, more wrapped gifts and greenery would adorn the window sills. However we feel that it would just not be practical to have to try and sanitise these extra surfaces which is a requirement in compliance with Government guidelines. We know that some of these decorations would be a little bit enticing for the tiny fingers of the youngsters

enjoying their gym classes. There will be no tree in the Annexe either, mainly because in this area it would reduce the floor space to allow for social distancing. My goodness, who would have thought we would have to think like this when we were getting in the Festive spirit at this time last year.

Hopefully as you read this Magazine in early January you will have been able to enjoy a Healthy and Happy Christmas. Perhaps as you read this the restrictions may have eased a little too and we can begin to look forward to a bit more normality. On this positive note I send both seasonal good wishes and kind regards from us all at Gargrave Village Hall.

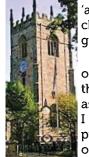
A few snippets from the past – Unruly conduct in the late sixties concerned a Guides party when some boys from the Youth club had been invited to join them (some things never change)!

The Treasurer in December 1968 suggested that a £1,000 be withdrawn from the Building Society which at that point was earning four per cent interest and it be put into Corporation stock whilst the War stock at a market value of approximately £32.00 be left where it was. The proposals were carried and at the following months meeting it was confirmed that £1,000 had been invested in the Cheshire County Council stock which would earn seven and three quarter per cent interest over a period of three years. Those were the days.

The next matter arising made me personally smile – A letter had been received from Horton-in-Ribblesdale Young Farmers club complaining that the Caretaker had turned the lights out. He probably wanted to get rid of my brother and his unruly friends!

### From the belfry

Ali Lucas



According to Wikipedia the definition of a New Year's resolution is 'a tradition in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behaviour, to accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their life'.

The art of change-ringing offers the opportunity to meet all of those different aspects. As a band we certainly resolve to continue the practice of sounding the bells every week in Gargrave as soon as restrictions are lifted. For me personally this is also the year when I plan to keep my back straight, reach up with stretched arms and pull the rope straight thereby changing my 'undesired' trait to do otherwise, which has made tower bell ringing more challenging for me in the past.

When it comes to accomplishing personal goals, ringing offers an unlimited supply to last a lifetime. The first 'goal' as a ringer is to be able to handle the bell sufficiently to be able to sound it in the correct place within a sequence. I hope that once things return to the 'normal' we are all craving, that we may have some new recruits in the tower who will all aim for that very goal. Some people take to it in weeks and others may need a little longer. However, once achieved, being a member of a band of 8 people perfectly striking their bells in

order brings a good deal of satisfaction for the ringer and pleasure to those listening.

Beyond good handling the skills to which a ringer can aspire are only limited by an individual's own ambitions. Within the band everyone can individually decide on how much additional challenge they wish to take on as there is plenty of scope for all levels to work together.

The next stage is to start learning methods (tunes). In a method all of the bells sound once in an ever 'changing' sequence. A typical method using 8 bells 'Plain Bob Triples' is made up of 70 different sequences or 'changes'. In a number of methods the biggest bell, the tenor, remains in the same position throughout the sequence providing a constant rhythm for the other ringers. This gives an opportunity for some members of the band to enjoy the satisfaction of the good striking to participate alongside others who want to stretch further and learn the changing pattern.

Once learnt the methods can be extended to increase the number of changes, so they become longer. The ultimate goal for some ringers is to ring a peal which consists of 5,000 or more changes, and can typically take three hours or more to achieve.

One goal a number of the band will be aiming for this year is to become Qualified Members of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers (YACR). New ringers in the band are appointed as Associate Members when they join, but to become a Qualified Member the ringer must be able to ring 720 changes, or toll the tenor for 1260 changes.

For me as the Tower Captain my 2021 resolution is to lead the Gargrave band to providing the village with the sound of 8 beautifully well-struck bells on a Sunday morning. You may not have any idea of which other targets are being met within that ringing, but I hope it will bring the same level of joy to those listening as those taking part. And if your 2021 resolution included learning something new, why not get in touch and give bell ringing a try?

#### Long walks from Gargrave

Dave Smith

During Lockdown No 1 Jill and I walked 16 different routes out of Gargrave albeit with some overlap. During Lockdown No 2 I have written up the walk descriptions. The walks vary in length from between 7.5 and 12 miles.

They are not intended to be a full description of every twist and turn but should give an indication of the route which, with the aid of a map (ExplorerOL2), should be easy to follow.

If you are interested in a copy of the walks please email me on d.smith100@outlook.com

For those of you interested in shorter walks the Library has a couple of leaflets describing several walks around Gargrave of between 2 and 8 miles. The cost of a leaflet is 50p which goes to Library funds.

#### Thank you from Poppyfields

Marie Chapman

On behalf of all the poor children in Eastern Europe who received a Christmas shoe-box from Gargrave, through the charity www.teams4u.com. 500 Thankyous. Happy new year!

Marie at Poppyfields Florists

#### BeeActive Pilates and Qigong

Bee Faulkner

Happy New Year to you all, complete with realising those resolutions of looking after yourself in a proactive way. Fresh air and a variety of exercise are such a tonic to body and soul. Tai Chi Qigong sessions on the banks of the Aire in Gargrave are resuming weekly at 9am on Thursday mornings on 7th January, with the weekly Zoom alternative starting on Monday 4th January. Or if Pilates is, or is about to become, your thing, then join us by Zoom on Tuesdays at 10am, or Fridays at 9am, from 5th and 8th January. Please let me know if you fancy becoming involved in one of these village based groups: newcomers welcome. Contact me on 07778 980994 or visit:

www.BeeActiveBeeRelaxed.com.

Best wishes, Bee.

#### Gargrave and Malhamdale Community Library

Dave Smith

This article has a similar tone to last month as there is still a level of uncertainty about the services the Library will be able to offer in the new year.

Hopefully, we will be able to remain open as we have in December with the following hours:

Mondays 3-4pm Fridays 2-4pm

Saturdays 10am—12 noon

The services that will continue to be available are:

The **Home Library Service** will still be offering free delivery of books to your door.

The Select and Collect Service will still be available.

Access to the PC and Photocopying will still be available through an appointment.

You could be eligible for the free Home Delivery Service if you cannot visit the Library or carry books because of ill health or disability. Also, we deliver to people who live in residential and nursing homes.

For further information or to book an appointment on any of the above services please contact the Library on 01609 536547 or <a href="mailto:admin@gargravelibrary.co.uk">admin@gargravelibrary.co.uk</a>

Finally, we look forward to getting back to some sort of normality in 2021 and the committee wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

#### Gargrave Needs a Toilet

Allison Wiffen (GNAT treasurer)

It is a year since, following the decision by the Parish Council to stop funding the public toilets in Gargrave, Bee Faulkner invited people who wanted to see the toilets kept open to a public meeting held at Simon Myer's house. Much to Bee and Simon's surprise (and delight) over 30 people turned up at that meeting and GNAT – Gargrave Needs a Toilet – was born.

In the village the scheme was met with all kinds of reactions from enthusiasm through to something bordering on hostility, with quite a lot of people being indifferent or bemused – why did we need a toilet when we all lived near enough home to get back and use our own facilities? But of course Gargrave does get a lot of visitors: particularly walkers and cyclists who appreciate having this facility. We came perilously close to having a boarded up building in the middle of our village, which would then have probably been graffitied and become a dumping ground for litter.

But no, thanks to the sterling efforts of so many people who have raised money, donated, cleaned, made signage, decorated, organised repairs, did repairs, planted flowers and goodness knows what else, we have lovely public toilets still in our village. The only toilets on the A65 between Harrogate and the Lakes! We have bucked the trend, so many other villages having closed their toilets. Gargrave is an exceptionally friendly and welcoming place and the toilets are part of that friendly welcome.

So let's give a cheer and a big thank you for all of the people who have given their time and/or their funds to keep the toilets open – you have done a truly wonderful thing.

We have had an excellent year raising funds to improve the toilets but there is an ongoing need for monies to keep the toilets going, and the best way to do this is for people to give a small monthly donation via a standing order. The standing order can be for as little as one or two pounds a month, or more if you feel you can afford it. This way we would have a guaranteed income coming in each month which would enable us to be more confident and plan for the future.

So if you can afford it, and wish to support GNAT then please set up your standing order to:

**GNAT** 

Account Number: 53123018

Sort code: 01 07 93

Many thanks for your generosity, and a very Happy New Year to you all.



Gargrave Parish Council

A reminder that information on the monthly Parish Council meetings is posted on the website; <a href="http://gargravepc.org.uk/meetings-2020">http://gargravepc.org.uk/meetings-2020</a>. When meetings do not take place, a monthly report is produced. The December report (minus the detailed financial information and list of correspondence) is copied below for the interest of readers.

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL Report dated 14.12.20 Prepared by the Clerk in place of our usual monthly meeting minutes.

Flooding: The Clerk has been in correspondence with the Environment Agency over many months now setting out a long list of requests for advice or approval to carry out work on our stretch of the River Aire. CDC arranged for 150 sandbags to be delivered near the bottom stepping stones to create a temporary banking to help with flood prevention. The gullies have been cleared on Mill Lane and we have requested our contractor to clear the gate at the corner of Low Green of leaves and grass cuttings. A further letter has also been written to the Canal and River Trust following the canal over topping once again in November when we were assured they had plans in place to prevent this happening again. Several properties up Marton Road also experienced flooding due to drains being blocked in that area. The Clerk has reported the matter to Area 5 who have confirmed they have a works order in place for a high pressure Jetvac wagon to attend site to clear gullies and the main drains. At the same time they will be surveying the drains with CCTV to check for any damage or blockages in the drains. We have not been given a date for this work but assured it will happen as soon as possible.

**AJ1 Project Update**: The Clerk has followed the required paper trail to move the project forward and has arranged for the necessary tree work to be carried out prior to the installation of the new light up by the Railway Station.

**Playground ROSPA Report**: The list of repairs is quite lengthy and therefore this matter will be taken to the Budget Meeting in the New Year.

Tree Planting: All the saplings which have been grown on over many months have now finally been planted on the Woodland Walk. This was undertaken safely following Covid 19 guidelines. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to plant these young trees.

Christmas Lights: These are now shining brightly and look well. Prior to the switch on of the lights, the Parish Council did receive a request from a local parishioner offering to clean the lamps on the River Bridge and following the usual Public Liability Insurance check, permission was given for this work to go ahead. I am sure everyone will agree that these look much better and thanks have been sent to the lady, as this was a job well done.

**New Defibrillator:** Our electrical contractor is awaiting new cabling and parts but has confirmed that the new Defibrillator will be up and running before Christmas which is good news for the village.

Dangerous Walls – Church Street and Mark House Lane: Numerous emails have been sent to both the landowner and NYCC Highways raising concerns relating to the wall, which is in a dangerous condition on Church Street

on the left hand side as you go up the hill towards the Railway Station. Stones are falling from the wall and causing an obstruction onto the footpath. The situation is made worse with the dark nights for passengers coming from the train in the evening. The Clerk contacted Mr Alan Dawson who is the Building Control Surveyor at CDC asking for his help with this ongoing matter. Mr Dawson attended the site on 2 December and has reported his findings to Highways suggesting the risk be mitigated by warning cones/barriers as soon as possible. The ownership of the wall is now being investigated. He also checked the wall on Mark House Lane, the condition of which, he reports is unchanged. He will continue to monitor both situations and press for repairs.

Finance: The Parish Council accounts have passed the annual external audit carried out by PKF Littlejohn LLP and are available to view in the Notice Board and on the website. There are some queries and comments regarding the production of minutes and reviewing some of the Council's procedures which will be actioned in the near future.

#### Welcome to new readers

Duncan Faulkner

"Sold" signs have been popping up all over Gargrave in recent weeks. Welcome to the new residents of the parish. There will be many more moving into the 29 new houses on Park Croft off Hellifield Road in 2021. We hope you find a warm welcome in Gargrave and enjoy being part of the community. If you're reading this magazine then you have made a good start. As the year goes on we hope to be able to reinstate the village events diary which has been rather lacking during most of 2020, and we look forward to being able to introduce you to the many and varied aspects of life in Gargrave,

#### Farewell Hugh and Janet

Duncan Faulkner

A belated farewell to Janet and Hugh Turner who moved from their home on the High Street to Wetherby in December. They have both played central roles in the life of the village and of St Andrew's Church. We are profoundly grateful for their dedicated service. They had a good socially-distanced send-off, being presented with an album full of messages and a picture of St Andrew's Church.

In recent years Hugh and Janet have been bundling up the magazines for distributors each month and we're thankful to Tony and Joan Wimbush who have taken over this task.

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#### The cat

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it.

The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

#### Not comfortable

The vicar was praying for the sick and said: "We must remember Mrs Goodwin in our prayers. She recently had all her teeth taken out and a new gas stove put in."

#### FARMING ON SCALEBER HILL

John Hall

WHEN THE CLOCKS GO BACK the reality is summer is over. With short days dark and wet the cattle are all in and the long grind of winter has begun. I always find December and January two hard months. All the stock to feed, a time for wellies and waterproofs. I really count the days off looking for February 1st, by which time the days are drawing out and we can look for snowdrops and daffodils.

Who can predict what impact Covid 19 and Brexit will have? Like many others of my generation I have found the isolation and lock down very difficult to deal with. In March it was lambing time which keeps one fully occupied. During early summer life was full with all jobs on the farm with sheep shearing, walling, silage making etc. When all shows and sporting events were cancelled and auction marts closed to visitors it came as a great shock to the system. One has to be prepared for the unexpected in farming. No-one could have expected anything as catastrophic as Covid 19 with such devastation to everyone.

On the bright side, farm wise 2020 has been a good year. A dry spring with a good lambing time followed by a good summer, both sheep and cattle thriving well. We owe a big thank you to the local auction marts for all the sterling work they have done to keep open and care for the livestock with all the restrictions placed on them. When one has tended animals all their lives it is not easy to "drop  $\theta$  go" – a restriction the auction marts were compelled to do, in other words you allow the staff to unload, you hand over the paperwork and go home. Buyers have to register to be allowed in the make their purchases. Normally one would tend your own animals until a new owner is found.

Things don't always go to plan as we found out this year. The best ram proved to be infertile, the result being lambing time will now last six weeks instead of three! At the same time, one of the best dairy heifers developed a limp and was unsaleable. As a Yorkshire man, I could say all is not lost as she is now feeding several calves. Things often come in three's, the third being Brian's faithful old sheepdog which had to be put down.

On a bright note, I think Lisa's hens are worthy of a mention. All three of them are free range, I mean free, every building, shed barn, field and even the garden. Wherever you turn there will be a hen having a scratch! An open dog pen is open territory, the bull pen a speciality. The fact that the bull may be in residence is no deterrent. The only law they have to obey is that they are back in the hut at night to avoid a meeting with Reynard! (Note: as we go to press the hens have to be kept indoors due to bird flu regulations).

On a sad note, we have recently said goodbye to our very good friends Graham & Cathy Beck who have moved out of the area to be nearer their family. For the last 50 years Graham has been part of Scaleber. He came as a schoolboy seeking work and spent many a weekend and school holidays on the farm. Later, when he and his brother, Nigel, went into business together their first main task was to build a milking parlour and cubicle building for the cattle. At a later date they built the bungalow. Graham & Cathy will be greatly missed by all at Scaleber and all those they had contact with around the village. We wish them well.

Bathie

#### The Yew Tree (Taxus baccata)

Taxus = Bow baccata = with Berries

ALONG THE NORTHERN EDGE of St Andrew's churchyard in Gargrave, spaced apart but growing close to the wall that runs along Church Lane, I find six English Yew trees. A seventh is growing alone, somewhat closer to the nave. I wonder whether these six trees, planted so close to the boundary wall, were put there to keep out the devil, as a superstition said, he would come from the north...

Theories abound as to why Yew trees are found in churchyards. Their dense canopies may have provided shelter to early Christian missionaries before churches were built. It is also thought that they may have been planted on the graves of plague victims to protect and purify the dead.

The tree was held sacred by Druids in pre-Christian times where it symbolised death and resurrection. It has the ability for low growing branches to root and form new trunks where they touch the ground. Due to their longevity (it can live for well over two thousand years) many Yew trees may pre-date the churches they grow near, the churches being built later on former pagan sacred sites. There are at least 500 churchyards in England which contain yew trees older than the buildings themselves.

In times past, it was necessary to keep the poisonous needles, bark and seeds away from farm animals. During the middle-ages, the hard, tight-grained but elastic wood was invaluable for making longbows and cross-bows. Villages needing a supply of the wood but had to ensure that their animals couldn't browse the trees and be poisoned. However, a contrary theory is that they may have been planted to deter "commoners" from grazing their cattle on church land.

The slow-growing Yew is one of only three conifers native to Britain, along with Juniper and Scot's Pine. Although most of the tree is poisonous, the fruit is not. It is not a cone like most conifers, but a red succulent berry-like structure called an aril that surrounds a hard seed and is open at the tip. These fruits are a favourite of many birds including; Robins, Blackbirds, Thrushes, Waxwings, Jays and also our winter visitors, Redwings and Fieldfares. The birds not only help to disperse the seeds, but as they pass through the digestive system, the tough seed coat is weakened which aids germination. Whilst I am admiring the trees I hear the distinctive "chat-chat" call of a Fieldfare and then see him and a companion, perched in the upper branches of one of the Yews.

Squirrels and dormice will also eat the fruit and the leaves are the food plant of the caterpillar of the Satin Beauty Moth. Surprisingly, deer and rabbits are not affected by the poison. The dense foliage provides shelter and nesting sites for Wrens and where planted as an understorey in broadleaf woodland, for Goldcrests and Firecrests. The Yew can grow well in the shade of taller trees but little can grow beneath them due to the shade they cast.

The Yew is dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers grow on separate trees. In St Andrew's Churchyard I discover both male and female specimens, the majority being female with the attractive red fruits. The flat dark green needles grow opposite each other in two rows around a thin stem. The trees prefer chalk or lime soils and are resistant to pollution. They can grow to 20m tall and have an attractive purplish-red flakey bark. Very old specimens often have large, gnarled and multiple trunks with the heart wood hollowed out, making accurate age assessments difficult.

There are a number of very ancient Yews to be found across Britain, notably the Fortingall Yew in Glen Lyon, Scotland which may be anywhere between two and nine thousand years old. The Anjerwycke Yew at Runnymeade, Surrey is believed to have stood by the Thames in the days when Alfred the Great held council beneath its branches.

Although most of the tree is deeply poisonous to man and cattle, the alkaloid taxol extracted from the needles, has been found to have anti-tumour properties and is used to help combat various cancers.



English Yew on the right and what I believe to be two Irish Yews on the left

There are many other, more compact and smaller Yew trees to be found in the churchyard at St Andrew's. These, I believe, are probably Irish Yews (Taxus baccata fastigia) a "mutant" form of the English Yew which have a very upright stance. The branches grow parallel to the trunk, the needles are arranged in obvious whorls and all the trees are female.

In 1767 two seedlings were found growing wild by a farmer on the slopes of the Cuilcagh mountain in County Fermanagh. Only one of the seedlings survived beyond 1865 and this one had been planted in the garden at nearby Florence Court. All Irish Yews are produced by taking cuttings, as when raised

from seed, it will revert back to its English Yew appearance, losing its distinctive upright habit.

By 1820, due to the popularity of its attractive and compact shape, the Irish Yew was reproduced commercially. It is now a common sight in churchyards worldwide and it is believed that almost all specimens are descended from the tree at Florence Court.

Leaving the churchyard behind, I realise that I had never appreciated the Yew trees here, not even noticing the sentinels flanking the north wall. With their great longevity, who knows what secrets these mysterious trees could tell...

#### A CORONA OF PSALM POEMS

Malcolm Guite

Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest, rock musician and friend of our own Andrew Steer. We are grateful for his permission to include his poetry in our parish magazine, from his blog: <a href="https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/">https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/</a> in which he is working his way through the book of psalms.

THE WORDS OF PSALM 61 once more speak directly into our crisis, as people suffer from one end of the earth to the other:

From the ends of the earth will I call upon thee: when my heart is in heaviness.

O set me up upon the rock that is higher than I: for thou hast been my hope, and a strong tower for me against the enemy.

And that prayer is as relevant as ever. We can't deal with this in our own strength, our self-made foundations are unstable, but we can be lifted up on to the firm rock of Christ and his love, a rock that has already proved itself to be stronger than death. For me, in my poetic response, that prayer to be lifted up is a prayer for liberation: freedom from the traps of time, a radical new assessment of our worth, that has nothing to do with all the game-plans and achievements that we have made into false measures of human worth.

These poems will all be gathered together and published on January 30th under the title David's Crown. I am just working on the proofs now and there is already an Amazon page for the book if you wish to pre-order it.

#### LXI Exaudi, Deus

Hear us, we cry, and once more, make us glad From every corner of the earth we call. From heavy hearts, from weary souls and sad

Our cry ascends towards your holy hill:
Oh lift us up and set us on the rock,
On something higher than our wavering will,

And free us from the traps of time: the clock That counts us down to nothing, the false hope, The game-plan and trajectory, the lock

That closes out your grace. Help us look up And see the shimmer of the angels' wings And, in between the cherubim, the cup

Of our salvation, and the king of kings Come down to share himself in bread and wine. Draw back the veil until our spirit sings.

#### RELINQUISHMENT

Tony Collins

This is the first of a three-part series by Tony Collins, a literary agent who has written this for the Parish Pump news service. He considers the question of how much STUFF we really need in our lives. A good question for a New Year?

#### Struggling towards relinquishment (part 1)

I CONFESS, I AM A PETROLHEAD.

I don't have the dosh to buy the cars that truly quicken the pulse, but buying and selling at the tragic end of the market as I do, I get a lot of pleasure from cars with toys – rear view cameras, wing mirrors which fold in when you lock your vehicle, decent air conditioning. Because the machines I buy are routinely six years old and the veterans of hard use from sales reps, these toys tend to break off in my hand, causing me unreasonable levels of irritation.

But the craving for the dream motor persists. I've had five in two years. "You change your vehicle more often than your underpants," observed my golf partner.

Thanks to their nifty algorithms, my Facebook feed is full of adverts tailored to my taste in cars. They know an addict when they see one.

Fourteen years ago, however, I married Penelope Wilcock, a lady deeply committed to another rhythm of life, for whom simplicity is not so much an aspiration as a world view. Pen has raised five daughters, served as a Methodist minister, conducted hundreds of marriages and thousands of funerals, and written more than twenty books, so she is no stranger to intense activity.

But she has set her face firmly, over the decades, towards the goal of minimalism, and – through the metamorphosis which occurs as you grow close to someone – I have been caught up in her wake.

Pen has succeeded in getting rid of most of her possessions. I built her a wardrobe, perhaps three feet wide, which contains virtually all she owns. Both of us have Kindles, which accommodates our love of books. Her goal is that when she dies it will take not more than a morning to sort out her estate.

She takes the same attitude to other matters. Her diary is uncluttered. She is generous with her modest income.

Now Pen has set out her ideas for living more with less in a new book, Relinquishment. Subtitled Making space for what really matters, it develops the premise that you cannot achieve simplicity in any sphere of life without relinquishment. Where your treasure is, there will be your heart, as Jesus observed.

More about relinquishment next month!

Relinquishment by Penelope Wilcock is available from Amazon, in paperback and ebook.



#### Left behind

Shortly after the funeral of a local wealthy man, two friends were discussing the Will. "How much did he leave?" wondered one. His friend thought a moment, and ventured: "Well, I suppose, everything!"



Ryan was delighted with the cloak, but not so sure about the face mask

# **Gargrave Lands Charity**

Are you currently experiencing financial difficulties and needing help?

Do you need financial assistance to pursue higher or further education or vocational training?

If you live in Gargrave, Flasby, Eshton, Winterburn, Coniston Cold or Bank Newton then Gargrave Lands Charity may be able to help!

Financial assistance readily available in approved cases.

Contact one of the trustees listed below to discuss your situation.

Absolute discretion and confidentiality assured.

Phil Ellis Christine Charlton Joyce Garner Ian Reed-Peck Mike Maiden 748685 748817 748447 07527 269915 07876 886313

#### **INFORMATION**

Rotas for St Andrew's Church

Please arrange a deputy if you can't make your duty; to join call Jennifer Rowlands.

	8am				Bible	
	Sidesman	10.45am Sidesmen / welcomers		reader	Intercessor	
	Colin					
3.1.21	Chapman	Family service team				
		Peter	Zena	Mike	Clare	
10.1.21		Gardner	Gardner	Maiden	Maslin	Peter Poulter
			Rocio	Paul	Jane	Ron
17.1.21	Kay Craven	Sue Trout	Fordham	Maslin	Dallas	Humphries
		Jennifer	Helen	Jane	Mike	
24.1.21		Rowlands	Wilson	Dallas	Maiden	Sue Trout
		Jean	Sarah	Judith	Jennifer	
31.1.21		Banks	Curtis	Robinson	Rowlands	Zena Gardner
	Colin					
7.2.21	Chapman	Family service team				
		Yvonne	Pauline	Peter	Peter	
14.2.21		Poulter	Gilfoyle	Poulter	Poulter	Mike Maiden

#### Public Transport leaving Gargrave Compiled by Peter Hardyman 16 December 2020

TAXIS from Gargrave (see advertising directory, page A3):

Gargrave Private Hire - local & distance, airport transfers: 07877 054698, 01756 748112

Face coverings compulsory on all public transport; including masks, reusable cloth coverings + other options; scarves & bandanas - the wearer's nose & mouth must be covered.

#### TRAINS from Gargrave NO TRAINS 24 or 25 DEC some changes on 24, 27 & 1 Jan

To Skipton (arrives approx. 9 mins later) & Leeds (arrives approx 55 mins later)

Mon-Sat (From 14 Dec) 0744 0754 1150 1522 1551 1645 1813

1848SO 1850SX 2019 2134 2216SX 2218SO 22371

Sunday (From 13 Dec) 1121 1210 1421 1448 1656 1855 2107 2123

To Giggles'k (Trains arr. ~ 20 mins later) & Lanc'r (arr. ~ 65 mins later)

Mon-Sat (From 14 Dec) 0525SO 0528SX 0902 1304 1504 1814SO 1815SX 2006

Sunday (From 13 Dec) 0922 1115 1412 1615 1815

To Settle (arr. ~18 min later) & Carlisle (arr. ~2hrs later)

Mon-Fri (from 14/12) 0832 1004 1133 1604 1732 1902 2033<sup>9</sup>

Sat (from 19/12) 0832 1004 1133 1604 1732 1902 20339

1311 1509 Sunday (from 13/12) 0950

NOTES: Location of Pick Up in Gargrave for Rail Replacement Buses is uncertain: may be beside The Summerseat on High Street OR at Station Entrance: CHECK WITH **NORTHERN.** 1. Change at Skipton for Leeds. 9. To Ribblehead ONLY. Generally, only DIRECT journeys are shown. AT THIS TIME, Northern recommend consulting the National Rail 03457 48 49 50 or the Journey Planner:

As of 16 Dec: No planned https://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk/service/planjourney/search engineering works affecting trains from Gargrave during January are identified. That may change. Check with northern railway. For live info on next 2 trains text GARGRAVE to 84950, or go to <u>www.realtimetrains.co.uk/</u>

#### BUSES from Gargrave (from 20 July)

#### \*Except Bank Holidays

To Skipton (arr. ~15 mins later) (Services 210/211, 580) (M is from Malham)

0820 0910 0955 1055 1057M<sup>7</sup> 1155 1255 1355 1357M<sup>7</sup> 1455 1555 1755 M-Fri\*

Saturday 0820 0910 0955 1055 

Sun + B.Hol: [873/884] **NO WINTER SERVICE** 

To Settle (arrives ~ 25 mins later) (Service 580) and (+ or ++) onward

to Kirkby Lonsdale (+Service 581) and thence to Lancaster (++Service 582)

Mon-Fri\* 0905++ 1000 1100++ 1200 1300++ 1400 1500++ 1600++ 1700++ 1900++ Saturday 0905++ 1000 1100++ 1200 1300++ 1400 1500+ 1600++ 1700++ 1900++

Sunday + B.Hol: NO WINTER SERVICE

To Malham (arrives ~ 25mins later) (Services 210/211)

Mon-Fri\* [210/211]  $1000^{7}$  $1310^{7}$ 

Saturday [75] NO WINTER SERVICE Sun + B.Hol: [873/884] NO WINTER SERVICE

NOTES. 7. Tues & Thurs (as service 211) stops at Coniston Cold 4 mins after Gargrave.

#### Public Transport back to Gargrave

TRAINS to Gargrave NO TRAINS 24 OR 25 DEC

Last train

From Skipton (arr. Gargrave ~ 6 mins later)

LEEDS to GARGRAVE

Mon-Sat (From 14/12) 0519SO 0522SX 0826 0856 0959 1127

1258 1458 1559 1727 1808SO 1810SX 1856 2000 2027

Sunday (From 13 Dec) 0917 0945 1110 1305 1406 1503 1609 1809 1732

From Lancaster via Giggles'k (Trains arr. Gargrave ~ 65 mins later)

Mon-Sat (From 14/12) 0648 1046 1448 1745

Sunday (From 13/12) 1106 1344 1552 1751 2018

From Carlisle (direct: arr. Gargrave ~ 2 hrs later)

Mon-Fri (From 14/12) 0549 0824<sup>15</sup> 1049<sup>15</sup> 1340 1450 1618 1824 2013<sup>14</sup>

(From 19/12) <u>0754<sup>15</sup></u> <u>0927<sup>15</sup></u> <u>1049<sup>15</sup></u> 1340 1450 1618 1824 2015<sup>14</sup> Sat

Sunday (From

13/12)

0925

1225 1520<sup>15</sup> 1607<sup>15</sup> 1725<sup>15</sup> 1911

NOTES: 14. Change at Settle. 15. Stops at Hellifield & Skipton, but NOT GARGRAVE. Living in BD23 post code, you can buy a DALES RAILCARD: £10.00/year. 1/3 off Anytime and Offpeak rail tickets between Gargrave, Leeds, Bradford, Carlisle, Morecambe, Lancaster. Discount for children with you. (Regrettably, no Winter Offer this year.)

#### **BUSES** to Gargrave

\*Except Bank Holiday. (M service to Malham)

From Skipton (arrives Gargrave ~ 15 mins later) (Services 210/211, 580)

Mon-Fri\* 0850 0945 0950M8 1045 1145 1245 1300M8 1345 1445 1545 1645 1845 Saturday 0850 0945 1045 1145 1245 1345 1445 1545 1645 1845

Sun + B.Hol: [873/884] NO WINTER SERVICE

From Settle (arr. Gargrave ~25 mins later (Service 580)

+ from Kirkby Lonsdale (581) and ++ Lancaster (582)

Mon-Fri\* 0755+ 0845++ 0930++ 1030 1130++ 1230 1330++ 1430 1530++ 1730++

Saturday 0755+ 0845++ 0930++ 1030 1130++ 1230 1330++ 1430 1530++ 1730++

**NO WINTER SERVICE** Sun + B.Hol:

From Malham (arrives Gargrave ~ 25mins later) (Services 210/211)

Mon-Fri\* [210/211] 1035<sup>8</sup> 13358 from opp. Buck Inn, Malham

**NO WINTER SERVICE** Saturday [75]

NO WINTER SERVICE Sun + B.Hol [873/884]

NOTES 8. Tues & Thurs service stops at Coniston Cold 4 mins before Gargrave

Service Operators: northern railway www.northernrailway.co.uk 0800 200 6060 [Travel Assistance 0800 138 5560]; 210/211, NYCC

www.northvorkstravel.info/operators/n/nycc/ 01609 780780; 580/581/582, Kirkby

Lonsdale Coach Hire 01524 733831 www.klch.co.uk; Buses (general) www.dalesbus.org ; Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.info; National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50 www.nationalrail.co.uk; Rail Ombudsman www.railombudsman.org 0330 094 0362

Note: Transport details remain subject to changes, e.g. as Covid-19 response develops. Some train services end earlier on 24, & resume later on 27 Dec & 1 Jan.

#### Gargrave Library

West St, 01609 536547 gargravelibrary.co.uk

Open Mon 3-4pm, Fri 2-4pm, Sat 10am-noon Visit <a href="http://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northyorkshire/">http://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northyorkshire/</a> to reserve or renew books online (first obtain your PIN from library), or renew by calling 01609 532774

#### Emergencies and concerns

ELECTRICITY Emergencies 105, General enquiries 0800 375 675

To check power cuts etc: <a href="http://www.northernpowergrid.com/power-cuts-home">http://www.northernpowergrid.com/power-cuts-home</a>

GAS National Grid Emergency Line 0800 111 999

WATER & SEWERAGE <a href="https://www.yorkshirewater.com/contactus">https://www.yorkshirewater.com/contactus</a> 08451 24 24 24

FLOOD https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/8083

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH https://www.cravendc.gov.uk/environmental-health/

POLICE Non-emergency number 101 for advice or to report crime or damage

NHS: Emergency: 999. Other urgent medical concerns: 111

GARGRAVE BRANCH SURGERY: Currently closed.

#### Gargrave C of E Primary School & Pre-School holiday dates

	First day of holiday	Last day of holiday
Christmas	Mon 21 Dec 2020	Mon 4 Jan 2021
Half term	Mon 15 Feb	Fri 19 Feb
Easter	Mon 29 March	Mon 12 April
Half term	Mon 31 May	Fri 4 June
Summer	Mon 26 July	Fri 3 Sept

#### Magazine contributions, adverts and subscriptions

THIS MAGAZINE IS PRODUCED by St Andrew's Church for the benefit of the whole community of Gargrave & Coniston Cold parishes. We welcome short articles, news, notices of events, anecdotes, announcements, obituaries, letters & photos, free of charge, subject to space & relevance. The monthly contributions deadline is on the back page. Please email contributions, if possible, to editor@gargravemag.co.uk. We can also accept short contributions by phone 01756 749443.

Editorial advertising currently costs £11 per quarter page per month, other sizes pro rata, payable to "St Andrew's Church, Gargrave", bank account no 30693561, sort code 20-78-42, or by cheque/cash. Artwork can be supplied in Word or pdf format; alternatively we can create it for you, from £20 per advert. Contact gargravemagjd1@gmail.com.

An annual subscription is £8 – contact Ron Humphreys on 748779. Or download it for free from www.gargravemag.co.uk.

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Shopping - A0/editorial A1, A3,

A25 Solicitors - A26

Sweeps - A23 Taxi - A9 Tennis - A25 TV services - A7 Units to let - A24 Vets - A13 & 14 Village Halls - A3

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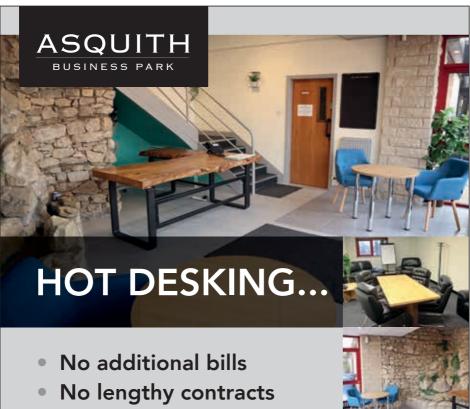
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