

Winter Edition December 2023 to February 2024

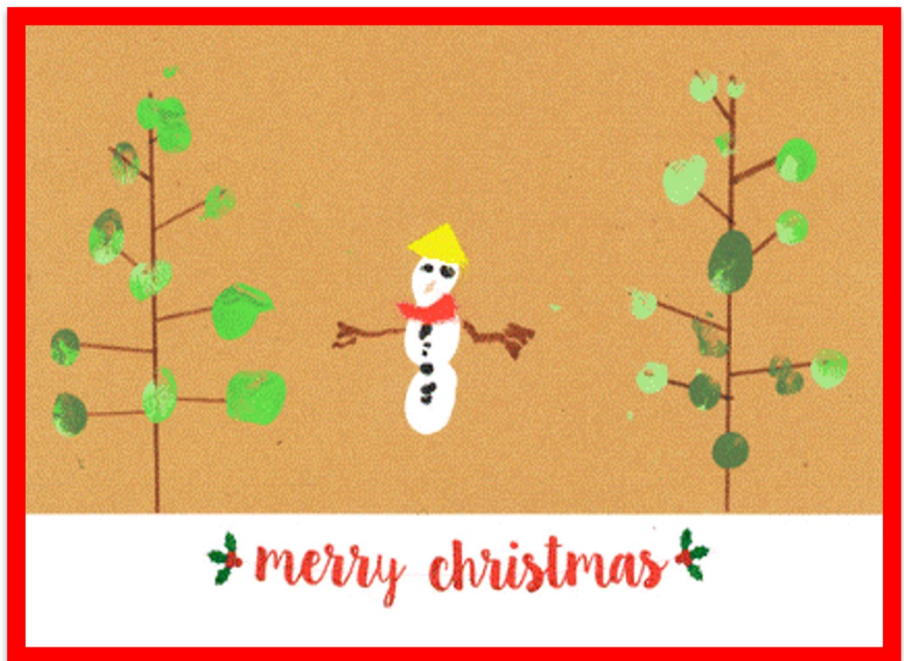
Farlam Parish Village News

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Farlam Parish Village News.

Our Christmas card to you was designed by Zoe Robinson, the youngest pupil at Hallbankgate Primary School. Thank you Zoe.

May I wish everyone, our readers, advertisers, supporters, volunteer distributors, and contributors, a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Editor



Inside this edition you will find a list of recent 100+ Club prize winners, news about what's going on down at the Hub and an update on recent Parish Council activity. Also included are details of Church services and a letter from Canon Tricia Rodgers in which she considers the spirit of giving. The Editor has written an article on speed limits in our villages which our Cumberland Councillor Roger Dobson has picked up on in his discussion of road safety. Elsewhere there is exciting news from our primary school, Hallbankgate WI events and a fascinating insight on migrating birds from Chris Hind. There is also a report on the successful Farlam Craft Fair that was held recently.

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*



Rebecca Dickens and Ian Bell owners of Hallbankgate Farm and tenants at the RSPB's Tarnhouse Farm were overall winners of the Farmland Curlew Award at this year's Great Yorkshire Show.

The judges praised them for the abundance of Curlews on their land and the way that they had successfully integrated their conservation work with commercial farming.

They are pictured receiving their award from Simon Theakston, President of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society.



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Farlam 100+ Club Prize-winners

	September	October	November	December
1st Prize £25.00	David Watson	Eileen Bowman	Vivian Smith	Nicola Potts
2nd Prize £15.00	Joan Barnes	David Lawson	David Park	Paul Smith
3rd Prize £10.00	Anna Bell	Stella Howat	Richard Stamp	Audrey Barron

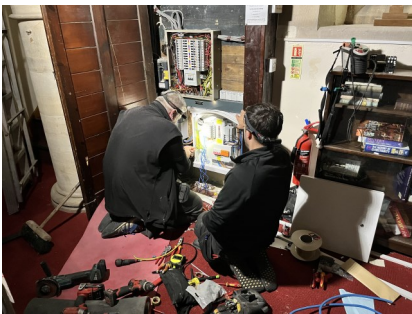


Christmas Prize Draw



1st Prize £50.00 Linda Murphy
2nd Prize £15.00 Jeremy Robinson and Ann Cread
3rd Prize £10.00 Andy Appleby, Tom Park, Hazel Johnston and Aiden Potts

A warm welcome awaits at Farlam Church



In September Bob Lancaster and Son began installing a new electric heating system in the church and removed the old storage heaters which were long past their sell-by date. The new system is operated by remote control and brings immediate and affordable warmth.

The work has now been completed and the carpet fitters are booked in to return and tidy up the areas where the old storage heaters were positioned. A new heater was also installed in the kitchen.



The work was made possible by the generous legacy of Louise Fordy.

Meanwhile Storm Babet brought down two trees at the top of the graveyard. Fortunately there was little or no damage and Mike Lowther quickly responded to our SOS call and made the area safe. The stacked timber will be removed and the area tidied up in the near future.

All the fire extinguishers were serviced in October too.



A Warm welcome awaits you

HALLBANKGATE HUB

COMMUNITY

SHOP & CAFÉ

<p>All welcome including walkers, cyclists and dogs</p> <p>Open: Mon-Sat 9-4pm Sunday 9-12 noon</p> <p>W: hallbankgatehub.org</p>	<p>Cakes, scones, soup, sandwiches available</p> <p>Call in advance if with a group</p> <p>Gallery, Library Link, PO</p> <p>T: 016977 46060 </p>
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There is a lot going on at the Hub!

We are really pleased to have launched 'Blossoms' café which provides a calm and relaxed space for people living with dementia and their carers. Blossoms has been named in memory of Bill McLaughlan who lived in Kirkhouse. Bill's son Tom, who is a regular customer at the Hub, cared for his father, and found coming to the Hub valuable for both, providing a break from routine and a chance to get out of the house and socialise.

Bill suffered from dementia and called everybody Blossom to hide his inability to remember names. The idea has been developed in partnership with the charity Dementia Carers Count who have involved volunteers at the Hub by providing awareness sessions. The aim is for the Hub to be a dementia-friendly place, as well as the venue for Blossoms, which will be held monthly.

Any enquiries about Blossoms, please contact either the Hub enquiries@hallbankgatehub.org or Tom daruma3@gmail.com Or call Tom on 07952246208. The next Blossoms café will be held on Monday 27th November at 1pm.

Our art courses are becoming very popular, and our regular tutor Sandie Craig is turning terrified beginners into competent artists who are thoroughly enjoying learning new skills. The courses are run on Thursday afternoons between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and if you are interested in joining, please call the Hub.

Our first Repair Café was held on the 11th November between 2:00 and 4:00pm with people on hand to look at broken goods and hopefully get them back into working order. From irons, clocks and hair-dryers to garden tools, kitchen equipment and sewing repairs and even computer issues, the aim is to keep things going a bit longer and prevent them ending up in landfill. This will become a monthly event on the second Saturday of every month. The next one will be on the 9th December and is free to attend with just the cost of any materials used, needing to be covered.

Our next gallery exhibition in December is an exciting conglomeration of seven artists. Seven different possibilities for unique Christmas presents. Exhibits range from hooky rugs, leatherwork, paintings, and hand-crafted amulets from Ukraine. There is a chance to meet the artists on Sunday the 3rd December between 2:00 and 4:00pm with mince pies and mulled wine. All are welcome. The exhibition runs from the 3rd December to the 31st.

The shop is well stocked now with festive food items, soft toys and a wide variety of natural soaps, that would all make lovely individual presents. What a great way to do your Christmas shopping and enjoy some tea and cake at the same time!

The Hub is becoming very busy and proving itself to be an important part of the community of Farlam. We need more volunteers for a variety of tasks and if you are at all interested, please call the Hub and we can arrange to meet you and answer any questions that you might have. Tel 016977 46060 Enquiries@hallbankgatehub.org

Church Matters Eden, Gelt & Irthing Ministry



Team Rector: Rev'd Canon Tricia Rogers

016977 41304

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 or check out events at Farlam and Talkin churches on the www.achurchnearyou.com website.

Services at Farlam Church - December to February

Sunday 2nd December at 11:00am Holy Communion and Sunday 17th December 4:00pm Carol Service

Sunday 24th December 6:00pm Christmas Eve Communion

Sunday 7th January 11:00am Holy Communion and Sunday 21st January Holy Communion

Sunday 4th February 11:00am Holy Communion and Sunday 18th February Holy Communion

Note on Thursday 21st December at 6:00pm carol singing with musicians in The Belted Will

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

Job Opportunity in the Brampton Deanery

Part-time salaried Team Administrator/Bookkeeper

An opportunity has arisen for an energetic and enthusiastic person to join the Ministry Team and help us grow the Kingdom of God here in this Deanery.

The successful applicant will carry out the administration work and financial book-keeping necessary to enable the Deanery to function efficiently. This will involve being an active member of the Ministry Team, supporting and working closely with the Team Rector, and other Team members including volunteers in our local churches.

Interviews will be held in January and application forms need to be received no later than 14th January 2024.

An information pack and an application form are available from the Team Rector: Canon Tricia Rodgers, St. Martin's Vicarage, Brampton CA8 1SH

email: revtriciar@aol.com tel: 016977 41304

You are welcome to contact Tricia for an informal conversation about the work before applying.

Letter from the Team Rector: Canon Trícia Rodgers

I am fascinated by advertisements and the messages retailers are trying to get over to us. Even more so than ever the Christmas ads seem to have a common theme of encouraging people to be extravagant, and spend, spend, spend. They are full of lights, magical journeys, presents and lots of food. One of the adverts even features a young boy circling all the things he wants as presents in a Christmas catalogue.

We are told that Christmas is meant to be a time of giving. For a huge chunk of our society that has been translated into having to spend as much as you can, on presents for everyone; even if you can't really afford it. Ignoring the fact that the recipient might well have much of it already, In the midst of all this spending and excitement the reason for the gift seems to have been forgotten.

The strapline of all those adverts I mentioned earlier seems to be 'this is what makes Christmas special'. Yet the one thing missing from them all, is what Christmas is about, Jesus's birth.

Whilst the adverts focus on presents and spending money to ensure everyone has a happy Christmas, Jesus showed us that we don't need a lot of money to make a difference to others. In fact we don't really need to spend money at all: that is not what giving is about.

We can give time, support, help and anything else that will, in the giving, help those who receive. It is amazing just how much a few words of comfort can affect the recipient of them; or a simple gesture of helping someone in and out of the house with shopping bags.

Jesus of course gave the greatest gift of all, with no finance attached to it. A chance to live with him in his Father's house. To give us this, he gave his life. This gift is worth more than anything money can buy.

I am not suggesting that you ignore friends and family at Christmas, in fact quite the opposite: be generous, but that doesn't need to be in the price and number of gifts. Just remember to be even more generous to those who are in need. We live in a society that is built on wealth, but it should be built on kindness and love, both of which we can give in abundance without cost.

Have a wonderful and giving filled Christmas.

Best wishes

Trícia

Thanks are due to Jill Stobart for conducting the Harvest Auction at the Church on 29th September raising £113.40. It was wonderful to see the church full for Harvest Festival with families, children and staff from Hallbankgate School along with parishioners.

Thank you to the PFA for delicious refreshments, to the children for their songs, prayers and storytelling, and to all for the produce collected for the food bank and the many appreciative comments about the new heating system in the church. Edward Johnsen

Parish Council Round-up

The Parish Council met on 10th May. Councillor Chris. Marsh was elected Chairman and Councillor James Brown was elected Vice-Chairman. The Clerk to the PC is Allison Riddell who can be contacted at farlampc@hotmail.co.uk

A Mr. S. Dalton was co-opted onto the PC. No members of the public were present. Much of the meeting focussed on agreeing mechanisms to allow the PC to function e.g. standing orders, financial regulations, representation on outside bodies, renewal of the PC's insurance policy, subscriptions to organisations, agreeing dates for future meetings and approving routine expenditure: mainly to pay the Clerk and the grass cutting contractor. A Mrs. J. Batey was appointed as Internal Auditor for the year and various documents relating to the annual accounts for the financial year ending 31/3/2023 were approved for publication. It was noted that the PC's bank balance on 14th April 2023 was £17,968.94.

Cumberland Councillor R. Dobson informed the PC that Community Panels with delegated powers were being set up; that 90% of planning applications would be delegated to officers; about improvements to the way in which pot holes were repaired; and that Highways were looking at relocating the pole in the grass verge at Kirkhouse.

The PC agreed to obtain quotes to deal with the rotting timber posts supporting the swings in the play area at Hallbankgate and to select the most cost effective option from either total replacement or piece-meal repairs. A notice would go up informing parents that the swings were to be removed for safety reasons. It was also decided that the PC should purchase a Coronation Seat from Solway Recycling and that local schoolchildren would be asked to choose the colour.

Other items discussed included the unauthorised removal of the notice board in Farlam, the likely arrival of a SID (speed indicator device) for Hallbankgate in June, the lack of consultation by Voneus Broadband over road works in the area, the need for boundary wall repairs to the play area and a leaning tree on the adjacent verge. The Clerk was tasked with writing to the resident concerned with removal of the noticeboard and also to Voneus to express the PC's concerns. The collapsed wall and leaning tree were deferred to the next meeting as a further quote for wall repairs was awaited and Highways had not responded about the leaning tree.

The PC next met on 12th July. Councillor S. Burd chaired the meeting in the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. No members of the public were present. The bank balance as at 14th June was noted as £24,804.47 and expenditure covering the Clerk's salary and the grass cutting invoice were approved.

Cumberland Councillor R Dobson had submitted a report stating that the Community Panel had met in June and that repairs to Cairn Bridge would begin in late July. His report expressed concerns about the knock-on effect of the new Carlisle Southern Link Road on traffic flows on the A69 and that it was his intention to seek Cumberland Council's backing to de-trunk the A69 to reduce risks to both children and residents.

Two planning applications were examined and no comments were felt necessary. The PC noted that the SID had been installed at the eastern entrance to Hallbankgate and appeared to be slowing traffic. It was agreed that representations would be made to have another installed at the western approach near to the primary school. The PC would meet the costs of purchase, installation, and maintenance.

There was further discussion about the old parish council noticeboard at Farlam being removed without permission. The resident concerned had now apologised and no further action was felt necessary. (Editor's note: the noticeboard was removed by the resident, with the knowledge of other residents, repaired and replaced by him).

The Clerk reported that Greenside Estates' agent had informed the PC that the play area boundary wall in disrepair was their responsibility and not that of the PC which had been willing to meet repair costs. It was decided to press the agent to try and get the wall repaired. Greenside Estates also informed the PC that a decision to extend the lease of the play area beyond 31/8/2027 had not yet been considered. The PC also agreed to instruct the grass cutting contractor to remove broken flags from the play area.

Finally the PC accepted a quote from Kompan for £9,140.85 (excluding VAT) for a new galvanised steel swing set and associated safety surfacing. It agreed that the reserves earmarked for a second SID would be used to purchase the equipment and that it would seek grant aid from both Cumberland Council's Community Panel and Farlam Trust to meet the cost of the new SID.

Parish Council Round-up Continued

The PC meeting on 13th September was chaired by Cllr. Marsh. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ashton and Burd. Cumberland Cllr. R. Dobson also attended. No members of the public were present.

Cllr. Dobson reported that Cumberland Council was in discussion with National Highways to de-trunk the A69. If approved this would mean trunking the A689 from Brampton roundabout making this the primary route for HGV traffic to the M6 and reducing traffic through Corby Hill and Warwick Bridge. Cllr. Dobson also invited the PC to submit a request for grant of £1500.00 towards the cost of a second SID for the western approach to Hallbankgate Primary School.

The PC noted its bank balance and financial records tallied and stood at £23,807.69 on 14th August 2023. In addition to routine payments two further items of expenditure were approved: £430.80 to Solway Direct for the commemorative seat and £3,694.42 to Komplan as 50% pre-payment for new play equipment. Other budget decisions involved acknowledging that the play area budget would need to be increased to allow further equipment like the stepping trail to be replaced in due course and that maintenance and planting of flower tubs would be included in the grass cutting contract.

It was agreed to further press Greenside's agents on the need for wall repairs next to the play area.

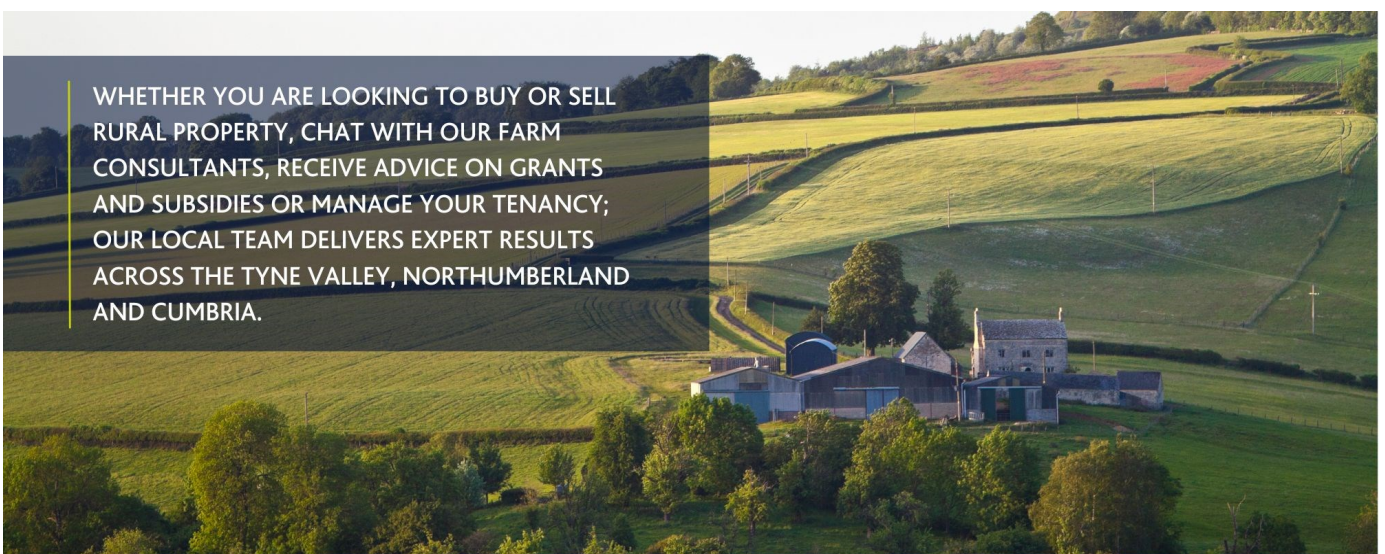
The PC considered a request for guidance from the Chairman of the Village Hall on giving priority parking to hall users by putting up signs reserving car parking for users when the hall was in use. The PC while sympathetic decided that signs should not be erected as this was likely to have a knock-on effect on parking elsewhere in the village.

In response to a request from a resident, the PC agreed to write to Highways and the Community Panel to request an investigation into a road speed reduction from 60mph to 40mph for traffic through the hamlets of Coalfell, Follysyke and Roachburn.

The PC noted a number of items submitted by Cumbria Association of Local Councils and also considered a consultation paper from the Community Panel setting out possible future priorities. It agreed to support the draft priorities sent out for consultation: namely community facilities and support; environment and highways.

Finally the PC discussed and accepted a quote from Eyelid Productions for a new website with a .gov domain name and linked email addresses for councillors. The cost for set up and 12 months support was £959.99 with modest ongoing support costs thereafter.

Editor's note: the PC Roundup attempts to summarise and communicate the main decisions taken by the PC. The full minutes are available on farlamparishcouncil.com



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Traffic Speed Concerns within the Parish: an Editorial Viewpoint

There is action being taken to try to reduce vehicle speeds through Hallbankgate following the installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) on the eastern approach road. The Parish Council is also keen to have one installed on the western approach near the primary school and is seeking funding from Cumberland Council's Community Panel and Farlam Parish Trust.

The Parish Council has recently responded to a request for a 40mph speed limit through Coalfell, Follysike and Roachburn and asked Cumberland Council's Highways Unit to investigate lowering the 60mph speed limit through these hamlets. Previously the Parish Council supported requests by residents in Farlam village for the introduction of a 30mph limit. Cumbria County Council was unsupportive. Their Highways staff gave numerous reasons relating to costs, signpost clutter and other spurious difficulties for not proceeding. This went against the wishes of residents who were supported by Cllr. Roger Dobson. Nonetheless in an email to a resident in September 2022, it was stated that Farlam could be considered in a future year, which is now!

Rather annoyingly, Cumbria County Council published on 7th February 2023 a notice detailing the consolidation and provision of speed limits in Carlisle District. This set out 106 streets with 20mph limits in Carlisle, 129 stretches with 30 mph limits mainly in rural areas including Talkin, Milton, Hallbankgate, Heads Nook, Hayton, Castle Carrock, Burnrigg and Lanercost to name but a few; elsewhere 40mph limits were confirmed on 38 roads in both urban and rural areas, and 50mph speed limits on 8 roads joining the A7. Why was Farlam village excluded from this exercise when requests had been made months before?

It is noticeable that many villages in the locality have 30mph limits and in nearby Northumberland 20mph limits are commonplace in villages. In recent months 20mph speed limits have been introduced in many parts of the country. The Scottish Borders Council introduced 20mph limits on 16th January 2023 following a 2 year trial which demonstrated that more people felt it was safe to walk and cycle as a result of lower speeds and changes in driver behaviour. The Borders Council also introduced more 30mph limits and also 40mph limits in longer stretches with few or no houses near the road. Edinburgh has also followed suit and Transport Scotland is pursuing a policy to introduce 20mph limits in all built up areas across Scotland by 2025.

Wales also introduced a 20mph speed limit on residential roads on 17th September 2023. Research for the Welsh Government suggests that this will save the NHS around £92m per annum with fewer road accident casualties to treat. Spain introduced a 30 kmph speed limit in towns and villages (18.64 mph) in 2019 which has resulted in 34% fewer cyclists and 24% fewer pedestrians being killed by vehicles. The evidence for introducing lower speed limits is clear and irrefutable. The AA's own research suggests that a pedestrian hit by a vehicle travelling at 30mph has a 20% chance of being killed compared to a 2.5% chance of death if hit at 20mph.

ROSPA's¹ analysis makes it clear that 85% of pedestrian road deaths resulted from collisions with impact speeds below 40mph; 45% died when hit by cars travelling below 30mph and only 5% died when hit at speeds of 20mph or less. This is illustrated by comparing the two cars, one travelling at 20mph and one at 30mph which are both required to stop suddenly. When the 20mph car has stopped the 30mph car will still be travelling at 24mph.

Much closer to home, Westmorland and Furness Council recently decided to introduce 20mph speed limits in residential areas in towns and villages. It is one of the new Council's key priorities to make roads safer, reduce vehicle pollution and enhance the environment for walking and cycling. All new residential roads will be designed and designated as 20mph roads.

The Carlisle Highways and Transport Working Group of the former Cumbria County Council considered the introduction of 20mph limits in April 2022. It concluded that any future proposals for 20mph should be considered by the Traffic Management Team Leader in discussion with the Divisional Elected Member and the now defunct Casualty Reduction & Safer Highways (CRASH) group. Interestingly, Wetherall was selected for a 20mph pilot scheme in 2023 but this appears not to have happened.

Current Government policy and guidance is set out in Department of Transport Circular 01/2013. This allows councils to set their own speed limits in certain areas e.g. 20mph in a built up area near a school and gives further flexibility to introduce 40mph limits. It provides a speed limit appraisal tool which uses cost benefit analysis and local evidence e.g. accident rates and vehicle speeds as a basis for decisions. It also makes provision to take into account the effect on quality of life. The Transport Circular notes that by 2013, 20mph zones were widespread across England and records that in 2011 66% of road deaths occurred on rural roads and 51% on rural single carriageway roads which were subject to 60mph limit. It states that it is Government policy to have 30mph speed limits as the norm in villages and that it may be appropriate to have 20mph limits on built up streets in villages.


The current Prime Minister has criticized Wales's 20mph introduction as "absolutely not right" and said that "it doesn't reflect peoples' priorities". This view appears to contradict research₂ commissioned by the Department of Transport in 2018 which found that 20mph limits are supported by the majority of residents and drivers in those areas where they have been introduced.

All of this raises a number of issues for residents within the Parish as it appears that many of us are at greater risk of injury and death from vehicles travelling on our country lanes at speeds up to 60mph. Some villages don't have 30mph limits let alone a 20mph limit. Why should some Farlam Parish residents be put at greater risk of death and injury than their close neighbours and counterparts in much of urban Carlisle and other rural villages in the district, large chunks of Scotland, all of Wales and many parts of England including Northumberland, Westmorland and Furness?

Cumberland Council needs to catch up and act now to reduce the risk to villagers across the Parish. The Parish Council which remains supportive of residents wanting lower speed limits on the A689 also needs to lend its weight to help make lives safer in other parts of the Parish and push hard for 30 mph limits as a maximum within villages in the Parish with a 20mph limit outside our school.

The Editor

1. Road Safety Factsheet published by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in April 2021.
2. 20mph Research Study—Process and Impact Evaluation: Headline Report commissioned by the Department of Transport from Atkins., AECOM, and Professor Mike Maher (UCL): published 22nd November 2018.



Give the gift of a unique and memorable experience this Christmas with a Farlam Hall Gift Voucher. See our website for further details.

Our 3 AA Rosette Cedar Tree Restaurant by Hrishikesh Desai is the perfect venue to celebrate a special occasion or to spend time with your loved ones, offering good food, great wines, incredible hospitality and personal service, all creating a unique and memorable experience.

Dinner is served Wednesday - Sunday from 6pm - 8.15pm and you can choose either a 3 course A la Carte menu or our exquisite 7 course Tasting Menu. An extensive range of fine wines are specially selected to accompany every mouth watering course.

Our Afternoon Teas are a beautifully balanced mix of sweet and savoury delights, crafted by our specialist pastry chef, served every Thursday and Saturday 1pm - 3pm.

Sunday Lunch, served in the Cedar Tree Restaurant, is a popular and relaxed experience, served between 12 - 2.30pm every week.

Festive Lunches and Afternoon Teas will be served throughout December, see our website for further details.

Farlam Hall Hotel & Restaurant, Hallbankgate, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 2NG
T: 01697 746234 E: farlam@farlamhall.com W: farlamhall.com



Viewpoint by Cumberland Councillor Roger Dobson

As I started to write this article, your Editor kindly shared his remarks about traffic speed and road safety. Rest assured that I am doing all I can to make progress on all the important matters highlighted by the Editor.

The new Speed Indicator Device at Hallbankgate provides an excellent reminder to motorists to slow down. We obviously need a second SID at the Brampton side of the village. This is doubly important given proximity to the school. I would also like Cumberland Council to adopt 20mph speed limits in all our villages. In Corby and Hayton Ward there are very few pavements - pedestrians have to share the Highway with cars, agricultural machinery and very large commercial vehicles. This is particularly worrying for villages that have primary schools like Hallbankgate.

Given the high speeds that some cars and motor bikes travel along the A689 there is a compelling case for introducing 40mph limits to protect residents of Coalfell, Follysike and Roachburn. Similarly, it is quite ridiculous that the speed limit through Farlam village is the national single carriageway limit of 60mph.

I find it very frustrating when we are slow to introduce safety measures that will obviously reduce the risk of serious injury or worse. The arguments against change are usually: cost (a traffic order may cost about £6,000); we need a traffic survey to prove that enough vehicles are speeding and there have not been enough accidents. I find this irritatingly bureaucratic.

Speed surveys may be misleading when motorists become aware of them and slow down. It is a strange mentality that seeks human sacrifice before introducing a measure to save lives. How many road traffic accidents have happened in locations where there has not been a previous accident? Fortunately, the cost argument has been weakened because of a very sensible decision by the Highways and Transport Strategy Board. In future the Council will aggregate several traffic orders, so the unit cost will be dramatically reduced.

Our neighbours in Scotland are ahead of us in road safety matters. 20 mph is now the norm in their villages and built-up areas. Closer to home, Westmorland and Furness are adopting 20 mph where communities want it. Vehicles parked on pavements are another safety issue where Scotland leads. Edinburgh has just introduced a complete ban. I am less sure of this 'blanket' approach given the difficulty this could cause for some streets, particularly in parts of Carlisle. In the first instance, I would like us to campaign for greater awareness. Many motorists believe they are being considerate by minimizing obstruction of the highway but do not realise that they may be blocking access for wheelchairs and parents with buggies and children. I have received many complaints about irresponsible parking around schools. Ironically, the offenders are usually parents taking their own children to school.

As Christmas and cold, wet or icy weather approaches please travel carefully and safely. Saving a few minutes of journey time is rarely worth the additional fuel cost and definitely not worth risking an accident. Remember speed limits are maximum limits not the expected speed. When I drive through Hallbankgate my speed is 20 mph which means the speed of the following traffic is 20 mph.

Editor's footnote

Just before going to print I noticed that the speed limit on the road into Kirkhouse opposite Farlam Hall and down past Farlam church appears to be the national single carriageway limit of 60mph judging by the lack of 30mph signs indicating that this is not the case.

The sounds of our winter visiting birds

Large numbers of birds come to us in the winter months from more northerly latitudes in order to escape the severely cold weather conditions there and to enable them to feed through the winter. When we think of the sounds birds make we often imagine their songs that enrich our lives through the springtime and summer months. Some of our winter visitors are also very vocal and the calls that they make can be very noticeable; these calls are very evocative of the wild places the birds come from and of the stark austerity of winter.

Fieldfare

These birds give a loud '*chack-chack*' call as they fly overhead or burst out of a berry-laden tree where they have been feeding. They breed over a vast swathe of land from central France across to eastern Siberia.

The entire population migrates and does so in a 'leapfrog' manner – this means that southern breeders move only a short distance whereas the northern breeders migrate to places much further south. The birds visiting our parish come mainly from Norway.



They usually arrive in the middle of September and flocks can involve several thousand birds. Over the course of the winter they move around in response to the availability of food. As with other members of the Thrush family, Fieldfares will feed on a wide range of invertebrates that they find by scratching around on the ground or even fly high into the air to take flying insects; they will feed voraciously on fruit such as apples lying on the ground or berries still on trees. They remain with us well into the spring as they wait for the weather to warm up on their breeding grounds; flocks can still be seen well into the month of May.

Pink-footed Goose

These geese give a very distinctive high pitched '*wink-wink*' call. This call is very often the first indication of their presence, and it can take a little time searching the skies to locate the '*V*' shaped skein as it passes high overhead.

Britain hosts the vast majority of the world population of this goose over the winter months.



They breed in Iceland and Greenland and large skeins move south across a wide front towards their favoured feeding grounds in Lancashire and East Anglia. In this parish we see and hear them only as they pass through between their breeding and wintering grounds but despite their transient presence they are a very audible and visible feature in our skies during these times of passage. As the flocks work their way northwards in the spring we experience them through April and the last birds pass through in May as they head towards their remote breeding grounds.

Hallbankgate Village School News

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



Here at Hallbankgate Village School, we've had an excellent start to our new school year and we have lots of news that we'd like to share with you. We are also looking ahead to a magical festive season and all the excitement that this will bring.

In Class 1, we welcomed our new starters into Reception and they all looked very smart and grown-up in their school uniforms! This term, we have been learning about the United Kingdom, the human body, the gunpowder plot and how to play the glockenspiel! We have also been working incredibly hard to learn lots of new letters and sounds to help us learn to read. In literacy, we have been learning the story of The Little Red Hen and The Gruffalo and have been creating our own stories inspired by these books, even visiting Miltonrigg Woods to retell the story of The Gruffalo. It was very exciting!

In Class 2, we have been learning all about the Roman Empire, light and how everyday materials are used, rivers in Europe and how to play a West African drum: the djembe! Just like in Class 1, we have been working hard to develop our reading and writing skills and we have enjoyed sharing our writing with our friends by wearing our brand-new story-teller's cape while sitting on the story-teller's stool. We love sharing our stories! We have also been learning about how we can keep ourselves safe and what we can do if we are ever worried.

In Class 3, we have had an exciting term learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. In our Design and Technology lessons, we've worked hard to design, plan and build 3D models of canopic chests used originally in ancient Egypt for storage during mummification. We have each created our own box, having worked carefully to measure, saw and sand each piece of wood. We then added clay heads onto the top of our boxes to have the dual purpose of acting as a handle and to represent one of the sons of Horus, the ancient Egyptian deity! They are very impressive! We've also been stretching our skills as musicians and have been learning to play the keyboards this half term, too. In our literacy learning, we have been reading a new book called October, October: a story about a young girl who lives in the woods with her father and we have loved being immersed in the wilds of the woods. It's a future classic and we'd definitely recommend it to grown-ups too!

We'd also like to celebrate and share how we got on in our Cumbria in Bloom entry from the summer. We are thrilled to announce that we were awarded **gold** for all of the work that we have done in our gardening club and science lessons!

Finally, we've had lots of community events this year and we are looking forward to welcoming parents into school for Christmas performances and performances from music clubs. In October, we joined Reverend Johnsen in church for the Harvest Festival and have welcomed parents into school to view our amazing home-learning projects. We also held a Torchlight Procession in November to remember the mining history of the village. We'd like to thank everyone for continuing to support our school and hope to see you out and about in the community in the new year.

I hope that you will agree that we've had a brilliant start to our school year and that we offer children something very special in our school and in our approach to learning.

We'd like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please visit www.hallbankgate.org.uk: our weekly newsletter is jam-packed with photographs and information about our learning activities.

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.

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 website is

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

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

Email enquiries to charles.raine@youngsrps.com

Hallbankgate WI

In September members visited Gosling Sike; the site of Cumbria Wildlife Trust's northern office. After a very informative tour by the Site Manager, Adam McGinley Members were treated to refreshments. We have also continued to enjoy our regular Coffee Mornings at Farlam Hall. Our programme for the next few months:

December: Christmas Meal at The Greenhead Hotel

January: 'Faery Stories for Grown-Ups' at The Belted Will

February: 'Oak Tree Animals' Charity'

Hallbankgate WI welcomes guests and new Members. We meet on the 4th 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



Coanwood Featherstone Lambley History Group

Current membership stands at 249. Membership fee for couples cut to £15 per annum; only £5 for under 30's (to encourage younger people to join) and everybody can pay for 2 years and get 3rd year free.



Aluminium history signs erected recently with the aid of member Bob Nixon on bus shelters on the main road at **Halton Lea Gate**: funded by Karbon Homes, managed by Haltwhistle Partnership and arranged by the History Group.

The Group funded some bean bags for a new to UK game called Cornhole starting in **Featherstone Village Hall** in December and got a bit of publicity in return. Northumberland Communities Together funded these boards. Another club has set up in **Knarsdale Village Hall** and meets Wednesdays evenings at 7pm - all welcome.

The History Group's online archives page has been set up by Cumbria Local History Federation in conjunction with Tim Haldon from Alston. We now have our own domain and people will be able to look up photos & documents in the near future once Tim has trained us in its use.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2024

Richard Macdonald – CFL History Group – Chairman and Treasurer



Farlam Festive Craft Fair

This annual event organised by Penny Raine, aided and abetted by a group of volunteers (who ran the kitchen, provided cakes and coffees, manned the door, collected the takings, and sold raffle tickets) took place over a long week-end from 17th –19th November.

Amazingly £1,911.70 was raised for Farlam Parish Church funds.



A number of stallholders were present for the event including the ever popular Dorrie Elwen whose baking prowess is renowned far and wide. Each day her cakes and biscuits flew out the door!

Lesley Mawdsley's stall also proved popular and her bird feeders and hedgehog houses were in high demand.

Truffles of Brampton, the high class chocolatiers, also made a killing but whether some of their gift boxes will make it as far as people's Christmas stockings is highly debatable.



Linda Murphy (on left) receiving the 100+ Club Xmas Draw 1st Prize of £50.00 from Ann Freer



There were many other stalls with Christmas cards, candles, ornaments, jewellery, precision made Christmas decorations by Edward Freer and wonderfully crafted wooded boxes and bowls by David Wright.

Brampton's Knit and Natter stall also proved popular as did June Glasson's stylish and warm cardigans.



Ivy Bober is clearly a future entrepreneur judging by the way she cornered the market in Magic Slime at the week-end.

The event climaxed around 4:00pm on Sunday when people gathered for the raffle organised by Pauline Shaw and drawn by Charlie Raine.



Too many prize-winners to list them all here but the Christmas hamper was won by Julie Mangan; Fergusson's MOT won by Islay Bober; Farlam Hall Afternoon Tea won by Brenda Hemingway; The Belted Will £25.00 meal voucher won by Eileen and Denis Inch; the Hub voucher won by Kathleen Smith; Hair Workshop cut & blow dry won by Abbie Barron and the Halfmoon Chocolates and silk scarf won by Robert and Gerry Bolton. All in all a very successful event giving the community an opportunity to meet and chat over tea and cakes, do some Christmas shopping and support their local church.

Jackie Carnell's willow weaving skills produced a range of items from baskets, and bowls



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