

VILLAGE NEWS

Looking ahead:

Farlam Festive Craft Fair

Thursday 17th November - Sunday 20th November
opening times 10am - 4pm

To be held at the Lacey Thomson Hall
Hallbankgate,

Tea, Coffee, Lunches & Refreshment Available
Times same as above - 10 - 4pm

All welcome - admission 50p adults - children free

Covering Farlam Parish: Hallbankgate; Farlam; Kirkhouse;
Milton; Tindale; Midgeholme; Coal Fell; Forest Head.

October 2016 (Interim Edition)

GOOD BYE TO IAN AND STELLA HOWATT!

It's with great sadness we have to say farewell to Ian (the editor of the Village News for the last 23 years) and Stella who, by the time you read this, will have moved over the border to Scotland to be nearer family. We wish them well and are hugely grateful to them for all they've give to the community in Farlam parish in so many different ways. The church is losing a churchwarden and a PCC secretary, but they shall be missed not just for what they've done, but for who they've been for us. It's of some comfort that they're not going very far, however, and we know we'll see them again here from time to time.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EDITORS!

The good news is that we have two keen and able volunteers who are to become joint editors of the Village News – Chris Lloyd and Kate Apperley are raring to go but it will take a little time to manage the handover. This is why, just for October, we can only manage this single sheet to keep things ticking over.

All the usual copy for the November 2016 edition should now be submitted to Chris and Kate at the email address below:

hallbankgatevillagenews@yahoo.com

MY ADDICTION

We were shopping in Carlisle for clothes. To say I do not like clothes shopping is an understatement. On top of that I'd been losing sleep from toothache, so I was tired and sulky and my poor family were suffering for it. Until, that is, we stopped for a strong coffee. I was transformed! Now I was a man on a mission, forging ahead, proactive, focussed! And all thanks to caffeine!

It was scary to realise how much this drug (or its lack) now affects how I feel. I

suppose it's been a slippery slope, and those who are addicted to anything know how over time one needs an ever greater 'hit' to maintain the same effect.

The characteristics of addiction are universal. The ultimate end of addiction is to find oneself in a place where the substance or habit or behaviour one is addicted to quietly but increasingly controls us. It's never a good thing.

I suppose if I'd been writing this letter 20 years ago I'd have gone on about the destructiveness of addictions to alcohol, to nicotine, to narcotics. But what we see today is a novel and growing addiction to the screens of phones and

computers. Of course it's not the screens themselves to which we can be

addicted, but the images and messages that fill our minds. Obsessed by social

media, watching pornography, playing violent computer games, these are habits which are potentially addictive and which can begin to control us and lead us to

places which will damage us and damage others as we seek ever more intense

experiences to achieve that 'hit'.

I believe addiction is a spiritual issue as well as a psychological and behavioural one. As anyone who has found Alcoholics Anonymous meetings helpful will

understand, the admission of our own powerlessness and an openness to the help

of a 'higher power' can be transformative. Communities which neither judge nor collude with addiction are also vital. We all have a role to play in making our

churches and our communities such places – places where truth and love meet.

Some Dates for October

Church services:

Friday 30th September: 7pm Harvest Thanksgiving at St Thomas a Becket's

Church, Kirkhouse – with children from Hallbankgate School and an Auction of Produce (Jackie Bell) after the service. Refreshments too. (Revd Edward

Johnsen)

Sunday 9th October: 11am Morning Service at Talkin Church (Revd Edward

Johnsen) with Sunday School (Mrs Fiona Stobart) for children up to 12

years old.

Sunday 16th October: 11am Holy Communion at St Thomas a Becket's

Church, Kirkhouse – in the vestry (Revd Janice Murray)

Sunday 23rd October: 11am Holy Communion at St Thomas a Becket's

Church, Kirkhouse – in the vestry (Revd Janice Murray)

Sunday 30th October: 9.15am Village Service at Talkin Church (Lay led)

Fairtrade Coffee Morning. Moot Hall Brampton. 8th October 09.30 – 12.00

Fairtrade Buffet Supper Wed 19th October at Brampton Community Centre.

7.00pm followed by a brief AGM. All welcome.

Walkers are Welcome. Circular walk along Hadrian's Wall

“ The Land Behind the Wall”. Sunday 9th October.

Meet at Brampton Moot Hall 10.00.