

# Farlam Parish Village News

**Summer Edition June to August 2025**



Welcome to the Summer edition of the Parish newsletter. Our cover photograph was taken recently by Brian Freer while walking out of Farlam village.

Inside this issue you can find details of Church services, the latest 100 Plus Club prize winners, Hallbankgate WI activity and news from our primary school. There is also a brief report of the Parish Council meeting held in March. Of particular interest to many will be the arrangements and categories for the annual flower show to be held on Saturday 16th August.

To mark the 80th anniversaries of the cessation of hostilities in Europe and the Far East Cumberland Councillor Roger Dobson has written an article to remind us of the sacrifices made by the wartime generation and the need to value the freedom they protected.

Our MP Julie Minns convincingly sets out the case for breakfast clubs and illustrates the positive effect that this is having in our primary school which is one of only 8 schools in Carlisle and North Cumbria taking part in the national pilot scheme.

There is more old news from the archives including baptisms, marriages and burials for the first 6 months of 1882 which may include your ancestors. The high infant and child mortality rate is given added poignancy by the number of private baptisms which were sadly followed days later by death. There is also some interesting information about Hallbankgate's Reading Room and a heated discussion about the need for funeral reform!

Brampton Medical Practice has provided important updates you need to know about which have been designed to improve access to services and patient care.

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## Farlam 100 Plus Club Prize Winners

The 100 Plus Club exist to raise funds to help maintain Farlam Church and the graveyard. Over 100 members take part in the monthly draw. Additional members are always welcome to join and by doing so help offset the ever increasing costs of maintaining the church for current and future generations.

More members increases the amount available to maintain the church and its grounds, sustains the monthly prize payout and also increases the prize money for the bumper Christmas draw.

After postage costs are deducted, half the remaining income from contributions goes to support Farlam Church and the other half is paid out in prize money.

Membership only costs £12 a year, and the odds of winning a prize are better than premium bonds or the national lottery! Not only that, the money raised is put to good use.

The 100 Plus Club year starts on the 1st of September and new members need to be signed up before the 30th of September to qualify for the extra Christmas draw.

For further information contact Ann Freer on 016977 46933 or email [bgfreer@mac.com](mailto:bgfreer@mac.com) . Alternatively download the membership form at [farlamparishchurch.co.uk](http://farlamparishchurch.co.uk) and send it to Ann Freer by email. Good luck and a big thank you to existing members for their continued support.

	April	May	June
1st prize £25.00	<b>Robert Bell</b>	<b>Jenny Watson</b>	<b>Brian Murphy</b>
2nd prize £15.00	<b>Pam Robinson</b>	<b>Tricia Park</b>	<b>Bill Armstrong</b>
3rd prize £10.00	<b>Kathleen Smith</b>	<b>Claire Skeates</b>	<b>Richard Stamp</b>

# BURROW



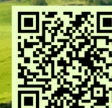
## Septic Tank Owner?

**Fully funded upgrades are now available in Cumbria**  
**Register your interest online today!**

Due to the nutrient pollution of river catchments in Cumbria, we are replacing septic tanks with modern treatment plants that cut down on phosphates. This ongoing upgrade project is being funded by local planning authorities, so you can have a positive impact on the environment, free of charge.



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## Editor's Note

This offer is for properties on septic tanks within the River Eden catchment area.

In our newsletter distribution area this appears to include Farlam and Kirkhouse and some other rural properties nearby.

If you are interested contact the company to see if your property is eligible.



## Church Matters Eden, Gelt & Irthing Team Ministry

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

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

### Team Vicar: Rev'd Canon Edward Johnsen

(T) 01228 670248



The Team Vicar has pastoral responsibility for the parishes of Farlam, Talkin, Hayton, Castle Carrock, Cumrew and Cumwhitton. Please contact Edward for enquiries about weddings and christenings.

**Church Wardens** of St. Thomas à Becket Church (Farlam Church in Kirkhouse) are Gerry Bolton and Christine Mineham.

### Forthcoming Services

Services at **Farlam Church** usually take place at 11:00am on the first and third Sundays of the month. All are welcome to join us. When there is no service at Farlam we encourage people to worship instead at Talkin Church where services are usually held on each Sunday at 9:15am.

For more information please see our website [farlamparishchurch.co.uk](http://farlamparishchurch.co.uk) or check out events at Farlam and Talkin church on the [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) website.

### Services at Farlam Church - June to August 2025

Sunday            1st June at 11:00am Holy Communion  
Sunday            15th June at 11:00am Morning Prayer  
Sunday            6th July at 11:00am Morning Prayer  
Sunday            7th July at 9:00am Prayer Book Communion using Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer to celebrate St. Thomas à Becket's Day  
Sunday            20th July at 11:00am Holy Communion  
Sunday            3rd August at 11:00am Holy Communion  
Sunday.          17th August at 11:00am Morning Prayer  
Farlam Church usually has a simple 20 minute service of Morning prayer (using the book of Common Prayer) at 9:00am each Monday.

**Service for the Admission of Churchwardens** will be held on Monday 7th July at 7:00pm at Scotby Church with Archdeacon Ruth Newton. All are welcome. Come and show your support for your churchwardens!

**Three Rivers United Service** at 10am Sunday 29th June at Lanercost Priory. All welcome.

**Farlam Church PCC** organised a very successful plant sale on Sunday 18th May. A steady stream of plant enthusiasts and cake aficionados came through the door throughout the afternoon. The sum of £820.50 was raised to support and maintain the church. A further £100.00 was donated by Tim Arndt from Tindale who had separately sold a number of plant pots and plants from his garden.

The PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who provided plants and cakes and freely donated their time to make the event a success.



As the Member of Parliament for Carlisle and North Cumbria, I have the privilege of visiting many local schools, and few things make me prouder than being able to share what I already know: that our children and communities are quietly doing extraordinary things.

Take Hallbankgate Village School. It is just one of just eight schools in Carlisle and North Cumbria chosen to take part in the government's new national breakfast club pilot. This means that primary school children from across the civil parish of Farlam are not only enjoying a free, healthy breakfast each morning, they are leading the way for children and schools across England.

Although my daughter is now a paediatric nurse in her 20s, I can still remember the morning rush and the stress of trying to get her up, dressed and out the door on time, all while juggling the day ahead. It wasn't always easy but we were lucky because her school had a breakfast club, and it made all the difference. That's why I'm such a passionate advocate for these clubs and know that they're about so much more than food. They're about fairness, opportunity, and giving every child the best possible start to their day.

Breakfast clubs offer working parents something we all need more of – peace of mind. They give families the breathing space to get to work or other commitments on time, knowing their child is safe, cared for, and has started the day on the right foot. That's a huge relief, and perhaps even more so in rural communities like yours, where travelling between home, school, and work can make mornings particularly demanding.

Perhaps most importantly, breakfast clubs help level the playing field. Research, and what teachers tell us, shows that when children arrive at school hungry, they struggle to concentrate, engage, and keep up with their peers. This has certainly been the experience at Hallbankgate, where Headteacher Clare Hutton has said she's already seen improvements in behaviour and attendance, with children more eager to come to school. And when every child starts the day fed and ready to learn, the whole class benefits, from fewer disruptions to happier, more focused lessons. So, these clubs aren't just an investment in breakfast; they're an investment in children's learning, confidence, and long-term success.



It is for all of these reasons that I would like to give a personal thank you to Clare Hutton, and to all the teachers, staff, and volunteers at Hallbankgate Village School. Your school is already a shining example of what education should be: nurturing, ambitious, and deeply rooted in community. Guided by the ethos of 'Learning From Each Other,' you create an environment where children not only gain knowledge but grow in confidence, empathy, and curiosity. You foster a genuine love of learning through a broad and thoughtful curriculum that equips your pupils with the skills and attitudes they need to thrive in this ever-changing world.

Now, with your participation in the national breakfast club pilot, that foundation has grown even stronger. Your breakfast club doesn't just provide a nutritious start to the day, it embodies your values of care, calm, and readiness to learn. It reinforces everything your school stands for: that every child deserves to feel valued, supported, and prepared to embrace the day with confidence.

As your MP, I will continue to work hard to ensure that every child in Carlisle and North Cumbria has access to opportunities like these. Because I believe that where you grow up should never determine how far you can go – and thanks to the quiet determination of schools like Hallbankgate, we're showing the rest of the country exactly what's possible.

If you have any connection to Hallbankgate Village School, whether you're a parent, grandparent, neighbour, member of staff, or perhaps a little bit of all those things, take a moment to feel proud. Hallbankgate isn't just home to a wonderful village school. It's home to pioneers.



## Hallbankgate Village School News

016977 46237 [www.hallbankgate.org.uk](http://www.hallbankgate.org.uk)

[mandy.davidson@hallbankgate.org.uk](mailto:mandy.davidson@hallbankgate.org.uk)

We can't quite believe that there is only one more half term left of this academic year, but, in the meantime, we have lots of wonderful learning to tell you about!

As well as all of the usual exciting learning that happens in our school, we have had lots of curriculum enhancements and extra-curricular activities this term, including games club, singing club, poetry club and craft club at lunchtimes and multi-skills, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and football clubs after school! We've also taken part in a football tournament (where we showed our excellent teamwork and determination) and in a cross-country event. You might have also seen or heard that we are one of the very few schools in our area to be taking part in the new Breakfast Club Early Adopter Scheme, meaning that all of our pupils can now join breakfast club, completely free of charge! Our older pupils have taken a leading role in designing and planning fun activities and we are all enjoying tucking in to toast, cereal, fruit and yoghurts for our breakfast! Julie Minns MP, even mentioned us in the House of Commons!

In Key Stage 1, we have been continuing to work hard and we recently got to show off all of our wonderful learning at our Learning and Progress meetings with parents - it was amazing to see just how much progress we have all made and just how much we all love learning. We've also been working hard to design and sew cushions in Design and Technology, having mastered the skills of chopping, peeling and preparing fruit to make fruit kebabs and salads earlier in the term. They were delicious and we really enjoyed learning new skills. We have also been learning all about road safety and were lucky enough to be joined by Pyjama Drama who helped us act out and practise how to cross the road safely - it was a lot of fun! Joined by children in Reception, we all enjoyed a brilliant morning at William Howard School too; taking part in multi-sports activities with different schools in our cluster.

In Key Stage 2, we've had a wonderful time taking part in the Railway 200 project with the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership having visited Haltwhistle on the train in the autumn to learn about Thomas Edmondson (the station master at Brampton in the 1800s). We have since worked on writing a song about Edmondson and his ticket innovations over the past few months and, recently, we were delighted to be joined by a professional sound engineer who came to record us singing the song that we wrote. We have a few more rehearsals to go but we are looking forward to a special showcase performance later this year. It was a brilliant experience! We've also finished writing, filming and recording our stories with the Haltwhistle Film Project, having visited the Devil's Porridge museum to learn about the role of women in WW1. We had a brilliant visit there and loved working with an author and poet to enhance our story-telling. Coming up, we're very excited to travel to Haltwhistle by train again - this time dressed up as children from the 1940's to imagine what it might have been like to be an evacuee. We're excited for a day of learning all about World War 2, to further enhance our in-school learning.

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, we celebrated and remembered the events of VE day. Swapping our school uniforms for red, white and blue clothes we enjoyed a street-party style tea outside (complete with 1940s music from Fiona Stobbart and her accordion) before spending the afternoon learning about VE Day. In Early Years and Key Stage 1, we made Union Jack flags and, in Key Stage 2, we listened to clips of people who had experienced VE Day first hand. We used these audio clips to make stop-motion animations, making sure that we represented all views - from the elation and joy to those who spent the time alone, remembering the loved ones that they had lost. We ended the afternoon by learning We'll Meet Again by Vera Lynn in Makaton (a form of sign language).

Looking ahead to the next term, we have our KS2 residential visit to look forward to, as well as more visits and visitors to enhance our learning. We are also excited to spend lots of time outdoors too, making good use of our brand-new all-weather pitch! We'd like to thank Thomsons of Prudhoe for generously donating the sub-base that was needed.

**Finally, we hope that you'll be able to join us for our annual community fete: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 12 noon.**

### **Hallbankgate Village School Nursery Places Available**

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.

**Our Playgroup for under 4s takes place each Friday afternoon, too! Playgroup takes place in our school hall from 1:45pm until 3:15pm. It is free to attend and we have lots of activities on offer. We hope that you can join us!**

### **Arrangements for the Annual Flower Show at Hallbankgate Village Hall**

We are currently in full swing planning the 2025 Flower Show. Every year we ask for your feedback and suggestions for the following year and as a result we have added even more classes!

New for 2025 are: 1 Broccoli - 1 Cauliflower - 1 Lily Stem - 1 Wreath of any flowers/foilage  
4 mixed Scones - 1 craft wreath – any material - Children's Vegetable Model

You do not need to be an expert baker, crafter, or grower. This is a community show and we encourage everyone to take part! You never know, you might get that 1st Prize!

Those who wish to enter should bring their items to to the hall between 10am-11.30am. Doors will then close for judging and will re-open at 2.30pm.

Class entries are 30p each (children's classes are free). Admission to view is £2.50 per adult / 50p for children and this includes tea/coffee/juice and cake!

The show is open for all to enter/attend and the Village Hall Committee will hold a raffle on the day with funds raised to support the Hall's future. If weather permits, the outdoor toys will be on the patio for children to play with. Please do keep an eye on Facebook for updates and suggestions for some of the classes!

The full class schedule is on page 8 of the newsletter, on the hall's Facebook page and on notice boards.

If there are any questions, please contact Lea-Anne (Caretaker). We hope to see you there on Saturday 16th August! As always, if you would like to book the hall for your event, please call or email us on: [hbgvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:hbgvillagehall@outlook.com) or 07412158502.





# HALLBANKGATE FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE 2025



Section 1 - Vegetables		Section 2 - Flowers		Section 3 - Baking & Preserves		Section 4 - Industrial & Crafts	
1	3 Long Potatoes	23	3 Sunflowers - cut	43	Jar of Jam Strawberry	67	Cross stitch Item
2	3 Round Potatoes	24	3 Phlox	44	Jar of Jam Raspberry	68	Patchwork Item
3	Collection of 3 different veg	25	6 Sweet Peas	45	Jar of Jam - Mixed Berries	69	Quilting Item
4	1 Cabbage	26	4 Nasturtium	46	Jar of Jam - Blackcurrant	70	Applique Item
5	2 Onions from seed	27	1 Single Rose	47	Jar of Lemon Curd	71	Crochet Item
6	2 Onions from sets	28	1 Lily Stem	48	Jar of Seville/Marmalade	72	Tapestry/needlepoint Item
7	4 Shallots	29	3 Dahlias	49	Jar of Chutney	73	Knitted Item
8	1 Turnip or Swede	30	1 Gladioli	50	Dish of Rum Butter	74	Home Sewn Item
9	1 Marrow or Squash	31	4 Marigolds	51	Savory Flan	75	Handmade Soft Toy
10	3 Beetroots	32	Vase of mixed flowers	52	4 Decorated Cupcakes	76	Hand-crafted wooden item
11	6 Pea pods	33	Foliage plant	53	4 Fruit Scones	77	Painting*
12	4 Runner beans	34	Flowering plant	54	4 Cheese Scones	78	Drawing*
13	1 Cucumber	35	Fuchsia	55	4 Mixed Scones - Any flavour/variety	79	Photograph*
14	3 Carrots	36	3 stems - any variety	56	Lemon Meringue Pie	80	Greetings Card
15	3 Bulbs of garlic	37	Flower arrangement - no bigger than 6inches square	57	4 Squares of Gingerbread	81	Upcycled/repurposed Item*
16	4 Tomatoes	38	Wreath of any flowers/foliage	58	4 Shortbread Biscuits	82	Handmade tool
17	3 Rhubarb sticks	39	Buttonhole/Corsage/Spray	59	4 Pieces Tray Bake - Any Variety	83	Handmade ornament
18	3 Courgettes	40	Cactus	60	Victoria Sponge with Jam Filling	84	Lego Model*
19	Broccoli	41	Succulent	61	Cake of your Choice	85	Garden on a tin lid*
20	1 Cauliflower	42	Chilli plant	62	1lb Loaf - White or Brown)	86	Wreath made from any materials
21	1 Wonky veg			63	Tea Bread Loaf	* For children, use children's entry section	
22	Collection of 4 or more herbs			64	Homemade Beverage -Alcoholic		
				65	Homemade Beverage -Non-Alcoholic		
				66	Collection of 3 eggs		

Section 5 - Children's Classes			
Ages 0-5		ALL AGES	
87	Piece of writing	93	Lego Model
88	Drawing or Painting	94	Garden on a tin lid
Ages 6-10		95	Small flower arrangement
89	Piece of writing	96	4 Homemade biscuits
90	Drawing or Painting	97	Photograph
Ages 11+		98	Any Homemade item
92	Drawing or Painting	100	Vegetable Model

School Entry Section			
Nursery & Reception		Year 3 & 4	
101	An illustrated piece of work	103	An illustrated piece of work
Year 1 & 2		Year 5 & 6	
102	An illustrated piece of work	104	An illustrated piece of work

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2025

HALLBANKGATE VILLAGE HALL

ENTRIES TO BE SUBMITTED 10AM-11.30AM

ENTRIES 30P EACH - CHILDRENS CLASSES FREE

SHOW OPENS FOR VIEWING 2.30PM

ADMISSION £2.50 ADULT/50P CHILDREN

INCLUDES TEA & CAKE

## Remembering VE Day and VJ Day     Cumberland Councillor Roger Dobson



Mosquito night fighter at RAF Swannington adjacent to St Peter's Church, Haveringland.

In 2023 the church was dedicated to RAF 100 (Bomber Support) Group by the Bishop of Norwich.

At the recent Cumberland Council meeting I proposed the following motion which I am pleased to report attracted unanimous support.

This Council notes with pride:

1. That 2025 marks the 80th anniversaries of VE Day on 8 May 2025 and VJ Day on 15 August 2025, both of which are significant milestones in our national and international history, commemorating the end of the Second World War in Europe and the Pacific respectively.
2. The remarkable contributions made by the people of Cumberland during the Second World War, whether through service in the armed forces, in war-related industries, agriculture, civil defence, or in everyday life under challenging wartime conditions. The Council also remembers and honours those who made the ultimate sacrifice and the many who were deeply affected by the war.
3. The ongoing commitment of Cumberland Council to honouring service and sacrifice, as demonstrated through our adoption of the Armed Forces Covenant, and the valuable work already being undertaken by both officers and elected Members to support our armed forces community.

This is my speech introducing the motion:

"I propose this motion regarding VE Day on the 8th of May and VJ Day on the 15th of August with a profound sense of humility, pride, and duty. Humility stems from the fact that I am the first generation of my family not to be called to serve the Crown - a tradition upheld by every generation of my family since the time of Queen Victoria. Pride because my father served in the Second World War as a navigator, flying Mosquito fighter bombers with the RAF 192 Squadron. Duty arises from my role, for the past decade, as chair of a veteran's organisation that commemorates the crucial work of RAF 100 (Bomber Support) Group. Many of you may not be familiar with 100 Group, as it existed only in the final two years of the war and operated under the strictest secrecy - a secrecy maintained for over thirty years afterward. RAF 100 Group pioneered electronic warfare. Through electronic intelligence gathering, countermeasures, and deception, they protected our bombers and played a pivotal role on D-Day by disrupting German radar operations, preventing the identification of the invasion force. Remarkably, their legacy endures right here in Cumberland at RAF Spadeadam.

While serving with the RAF, my father wrote to his parents regularly. Last weekend, I discovered a letter he penned to my grandparents on Monday, 7th May 1945, while recovering at RAF Hospital Ely after being injured in a crash landing ten months earlier. He wrote:

"I am sorry to hear Dad is not feeling well. I imagine it's overwork as usual. VE Day should arrive before you receive this, so, with luck, he will be having a well-earned rest."

His words reflect a subdued anticipation of peace, contrasting with the jubilant crowds immortalised in newsreels outside Buckingham Palace. Perhaps there was also a sombre acknowledgment of those who would never return home. Next month, the 100 Group Association will hold commemorative services at five former airfields, reading aloud the names of personnel lost at each station. In total, 549 lives were lost, with ages ranging from 18 to 43. Their records illustrate the international cooperation behind our wartime efforts:

- 45 from Australia
- 45 from Canada
- 19 from New Zealand
- 3 from France
- 2 each from Ireland and the USA

And one each from Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, and Southern Rhodesia.

Surprisingly, two RAF 157 Squadron casualties were naval officers, and two were members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Adjacent to this Council Chamber is the Roll of Honour for Carlisle Corporation employees who sacrificed their lives during the Second World War. Alongside 23 names are their departments and branches of service - except for one civilian. Among them is a member of the Air Transport Auxiliary, an organization comprised of civilians, 10% of whom were women. In 1943, these women became the first in government service to receive equal pay - a milestone that still resonates today.

Eighty years ago, the end of hostilities brought immense relief - first in Europe, then three months later in the Far East. The cost of this victory was staggering: an estimated 70 to 80 million lives lost, with 80% of casualties among Allied nations and a majority being civilians. In the UK alone, 67,100 civilians perished, alongside 383,600 military personnel. The war revealed humanity at both its worst and its best. This motion not only commemorates the sacrifices of the wartime generation but also reaffirms our enduring commitment to supporting our veterans and upholding the cause of freedom.

At the end of the debate, I quoted the Kohima Epitaph which is carved on the Memorial of the 2nd British Division in the cemetery of Kohima: 'When you go home tell them of us and say for your tomorrow we gave our today'.

### **RSPB Geltsdale Wins UK River Prize Project Scale Award**

The team at Geltsdale led by Jen Selvidge have brought a 1.8km stretch of Howgill Beck back to a more natural path by reintroducing bends which had been straightened out over 200 years ago, blocked ditches, and created new wetlands by reconnecting the beck to its natural floodplain. The flow of the beck has slowed and allowed gravel beds to form to support fish and invertebrates on which birds can feed.

When there is a lot of rain, water now spills onto adjoining floodplain meadows reducing flooding downstream and creating pools for wading birds like Lapwings and Redshanks allowing them to forage for food.

The benefits to wildlife have been apparent over the last couple of years with 5 pairs of Redshanks nesting last year and two pairs of Oystercatchers and Common Sandpipers also nesting as the project developed.

Lapwings, Curlews, Snipe and Dippers are regular visitors to the shallow silty waters with Great White Egrets being spotted following completion of the project. Dragonfly and Damselfly species are also being spotted and aquatic vegetation species are also returning.



## Farlam Parish News from 1882

In January at their annual meeting, the Secretary of the Reading Room in H.B.G. had much pleasure in reporting that the Institute was financially stable with cash in hand of £3 19s 11 1/2d. There were 74 members which he thought was “not so large a number as so useful an institution should command”. It was hoped that more will join and that current members “will show by a more regular use of the room their just appreciation of the philanthropy of those who placed such an institution in our midst”.

The room had a regular supply of more than a dozen periodicals and newspapers and a “capital library”. H.B.G. residents subscribed one shilling quarterly and those living outside sixpence.

On Saturday, 21st January, all members of the Girl's Friendly Society living in the parish were invited to Farlam Hall for tea. Around 40 accepted the invitation and through Mrs. Thompson's kindness a very enjoyable evening was spent. Before the girls left for home, Mr Irving, invited to do so by the kind forethought of the hostess, conducted a little service in the drawing-room which consisted of a prayer, an address on “Religion in every day life”, and a hymn: all seemed to enter into it with much heart.

Also in January at a largely attended meeting held in the Reading Room, a paper was read on Funeral Reform. There followed an animated discussion. The chief point of contention in need of reform was the current custom of eating and drinking at funerals.

Three main objections to this practice were raised: the unnecessary expense which hung as a burden upon some families for years, especially if the mainstay of the family had been taken; standing outside for several hours often in cold weather to the injury of health; and the delay incurred by the entertainment of friends and neighbours was the direct cause of unpunctuality in attendance at church for the funeral, resulting in the last solemn, comforting service for the Christian departed being second in importance to the eating and drinking.

Several people suggested that change was needed and that the sensible way forward would be to provide refreshment only for relatives from a distance and not to continue to give notice of the time when eating and drinking is to begin but rather the time when the funeral is to start at the church.

It appears that no decision was made as reform of old established customs is often very slow. Many present held hope that as reform was so badly needed it would happen soon.

Notice was given of a choir festival to be held on Saturday June 24th in the church following a service. Around 140 singers were expected to take part with choirs from Castle Carrock, Cumrew, Cumwhitton, Farlam, Gilsland, Hayton, Midgeholme, Nether Denton and Talkin. The underlying aim of the festival was the improvement of singing in public worship. It was hoped many parishioners would attend the service and festival which would be followed by tea for participants. A plea was made for 2 or 3 tenor and bass voices for the Kirkhouse choir.

At the Easter Vestry meeting Messrs. Isaac Nicholson, The Beck and George Proud, Farlam were re-elected Church Wardens with Sidesmen: Messrs. J. Johnston, Farlam Hall Cottages, J.J. Bell, Low Loaning and Jonathan Wills Sen., Coal Fell. Church expenses for the year ending Easter amounted to £46 5s. 5d. The church was clear of debt with the wardens holding a balance of £1 9s. 5d.

## **Announcements 1882**

### **Baptisms** ( \* private baptisms )

Jan 9 Edward, son of George and Mary Bell, Spelter Works.

Jan 15 John Robson, son of William and Sarah Metcalfe, Spelter Works.

Jan 22 Jane, daughter of John and Margery Stobbart, Cleugh Head.

Jan 23 Hannah, daughter of Thomas and Jane Gibson, High Fell.

Jan 29 Mary, daughter of William and Jane Raine, Curdiffe and Edith Willan, daughter of John and Mary Ann Armstrong, The Beck. Jan 30 John Nicholson, son of William and Margaret Teasdale, Clemont Leases. \*

Feb 1 Mary, daughter of John and Mary Dodd, Coal Fell. \*

March 2 Herbert Pearson Sanderson, Low Bow Bank.

March 7 Peter and also John, sons of Peter and Margaret Judge, Bow Bank. \*

May 10 Thomas Henry, son of Thomas and Alice Innes Proud, Howgill \* and John, son of Henry and Annie Thompson, Milton. \*

May 21 Mary Jane, daughter of John and Frances Teasdale, Houghton.

May 28 James, son of Peter and Margaret Judge, Bow Bank.

June 4 Margaret Ann Foster, Spelter Works.

### **Marriages**

Jan 2 James Wright, Earlstoun to Anie Dodd, The Clesketts.

Feb 15 John Atkinson Kennedy, Maryport to Margaret Johnson, Farlam Hall Cottages

### **Burials**

Jan 13 William Ruddick, Brampton, aged 7 months; Margaret Jane Wright, Forest Head, aged 11 weeks.

Jan 14 George Ruddick, Hall Bank Gate, aged 28 years. Jan 30 John Hetherington, aged 75 years Cleugh Head.

Feb 1 Agnes Forest, Talkin, aged 8 months. Feb 11 Robert Armstrong, H.B.G., aged 11 years.

Feb 18 Henry Hook, Midgeholme, aged 9 months.

Mar 7 William Hughes, Spelter Works, aged 67 years.

Mar 8 Peter Judge, Bow Bank, aged 12 years.

Mar 11 Sybil Forster, Hall Bank Gate aged 84 years; Ellen Hepple, Howard View aged 4 years and also John Judge, Bow Bank aged 9 years.

Mar 26 Dinah Hepple, Howard View, aged 6 years.

Mar 30 Robert Hepple, Howard View, aged 2 years.

May 5 Mary Dobson, Halton-le-Gate, aged 22 years.

May 11 Margaret Armstrong, Spelter Works, aged 65 years.

May 13 Herbert Pearson Sanderson, Bow Bank, aged 18 weeks and Solomon Jackson, Milton, aged 76 years.

May 24 Edith William Armstrong, The Beck, aged 17 weeks.

May 30th Mary Dodd, Coal Fell, aged 22 weeks. June 7 Dorothy Ruddick, Hall Bank Gate, aged 63 years.

June 29 Sarah Dixon, Folly Cottage, aged 34 years.

## **Important Updates from Brampton Medical Practice**

### **Registered Patient Numbers**

According to NHS England data at the end of April the practice had **16,701** registered patients. The practice must register new patients who move within the practice boundary: it cannot refuse to register new in-boundary patients. The practice continues to monitor registered patient numbers and has closed its list to new patients who live outside the boundary. It also requests those who move away to register with a new GP practice.

### **Appointments**

Brampton Medical Practice has performed above both national and local averages for face to face appointments and increased face to face appointments from last year to this year by 9%.

NHS England data shows that for the 4 week period 31st March to 27th April 2025, which included two Bank Holiday closures, the practice delivered 7,617 appointments. This excludes work on FIT notes, medical reports, review of test results, arranging referrals and other clinical related administration.

Of these 5,120 appointments representing 67% of all appointments were delivered face to face. This excludes telephone, video or home visit consultations which are reported separately. By comparison for the same time period in 2024 58% of practice appointments were face to face. The 67% compares favourably with the national average for face to face appointments of 66% and 58% for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board average.

### **Time from booking to appointment**

3,338 appointments were provided on the same day as the appointment request with 1,479 appointments provided within 1 week of the request. 1,123 appointments provided within 2 weeks of the request with 620 appointments provided within 4 weeks of the request. 64 appointments provided over 4 weeks of the request.

We looked at our data sets to see if the new Total Triage system had reduced our longer wait times and found that in January 2025 some 223 patients waited more than 28 days for an appointment. By contrast in the last 4 week period for which data is available (31st March to 27th April) this had fallen to 64 patients waiting over 28 days. For the same period in 2024 666 patients waited more than 28 days for an appointment.

These figures clearly demonstrate that new triage system is reducing the number of people waiting over 28 days for an appointment.

It should be noted that data is for all appointment types including some which are pre-booked review appointments which require a delay, in addition to patient choice to delay appointments to see a specific GP or holidays.

### **Did Not Attend (DNA) Data**

Sadly we had 220 DNA's which occur when an appointment has been made and the patient does not turn up and also fails to cancel the appointment which could have been reallocated to another patient. Although recent data shows the DNA rate has fallen from 421 in January it is important that patients help staff and other patients by cancelling appointments if they decide that they no longer need them.



## **Total Triage Introduced in March – Help us reduce the 8am rush**

In common with many other GP surgeries Brampton Medical Practice has introduced a system known as Total Triage. This means all requests for a GP appointment are assessed first, before any appointments are booked. This approach helps us ensure that each patient is seen by the right person at the right time, and that urgent issues are prioritised appropriately. In line with patient feedback, decisions about an appointment with a GP are made by the GP team and not by our reception team. However, our reception team have been asked by the GP practice partners to gather information about the reasons for the appointment request to allow for effective triage and allocation of appointments.

**To make a GP appointment** (excluding home visit requests which should be phoned through to the practice before 10am)

- ✓ access the appointment request system via the NHS App which will log you in then re-direct you to our online platform. You will no longer see GP Appointments as direct bookable slots via the app. Patients only have the ability to request a GP appointment via triage.
- ✓ visit the homepage of our website ([bramptonmedicalpractice.com](http://bramptonmedicalpractice.com)) and click “contact us online”.
- ✓ phone (01697 72551) or visit our reception team who will complete the request for you.

However you place the request it will join the same queue and be assessed by the same duty clinical team. Our online system is closed when the practice is closed or if we have reached capacity for the day.

## **Direct Booking for Nurse and HCA Appointments**

Direct booking of certain appointments with our nursing team and healthcare assistants will be re-introduced in the near future. More details will be made available shortly. Not all of these appointments will be open to online booking due to the fact that many appointments are only suitable once a diagnosis has been made and regular treatment is underway such as B12 injections or INR appointments. It is important that appointments are protected and not booked inappropriately. However following patient feedback, the system will be brought back and closely monitored. GP appointments are different and will not be directly bookable as these need prior assessment.

## **Changes to Repeat Prescription Ordering – Coming in July**

In July, the way repeat prescriptions are ordered will change to ensure ordering is efficient and safe. Full details will be publicised in the coming weeks. These changes are designed to improve safety and efficiency when managing medication requests.

## **Using NHS Online Services**

We encourage any patients who are able to make use of online services via the NHS App or NHS Login. Through these services, you can access test results, request repeat prescriptions, and manage appointments – all without needing to call the practice. This helps to reduce waiting times on our phone lines for those who cannot access online services. For more information or to register for an account please visit: [www.nhs.uk/nhs-app](http://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app). Please note you must be aged 13 Years or older to register for an account.

## **Branch sites**

Corby Hill and Wetheral do not have reception teams only dispensers who are unable to make appointments. Appointments can be made at branch sites with GPs and our nursing team using iPads located at each site with direct access to request an appointment. Alternatively you can access our appointment request system via the main homepage of our website or phone or visit our Brampton surgery. New doors are being fitted to the rear of the main Brampton site to improve patient access and self check-in screens are being installed at White Lion, Corby Hill and Wetheral but not the main site.

## Hallbankgate WI



Members continue to be busy with our recent trip to The Devil's Porridge museum, a fun evening of Bingo and a talk from a Blue Badge Tourist Guide about her role and the Life of Beatrix Potter. Plus we held our Annual Meeting and Quiz evening.

The programme for the next few months:

June 26th: Meal Out at The Queens, Warwick on Eden (Members Only)

July 24th: Martin Evans will be talking about 'Becoming an Accidental Artist'

August 28th: Our speaker, Helen, will talk about 'Women's Health and Wellbeing'

The Committee is busy organising more trips including to Kirklington Hall for lunch and our monthly Coffee Mornings to Farlam Hall.

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 the WI Committee at [hallbankgatewi@gmail.com](mailto:hallbankgatewi@gmail.com)

## Farlam Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 12th March 2025. In attendance were Cllrs. Burd, Broomhead, Dalton, Lingard and Scott. Cumberland Cllr. Dobson also attended.

The bank balance as at 14th February was £12,752.95 and expenditure covering the Clerk's wages, PAYE and reimbursed expenditure relating to the website, bank charges, the hedge cutting contractor's invoice and a Cumberland inspection fee, all totalling £1308.49 were approved.

The SID device for the school has been ordered and Highways are to erect a supporting pole for it. Work on speed watch continues and will be discussed again when the PC next meets on 21st May 2025. Other items for the next meeting include a wall with a tree growing in it and the quarry: grass verges and road mess. The play area site was also discussed: wild flower planting and cost implications.

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