

Autumn Edition September 2024 to November 2024

Farlam Parish Village News



Image credit Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery (CALMG:1081.135) ©Trustees of Winifred Nicholson.

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Farlam Parish Village News. Our cover artwork is an oil on canvas painting by Winifred Nicholson entitled 'Hallbankgate'. It was painted in 1930 and bequeathed by the artist to Tullie House in 1981.

Winifred Nicholson appears to have led an interesting life and lived for a time at Banks just outside of Brampton. An oil and coloured pencil artwork of St Ives' Harbour owned by the late David Bowie sold at auction in 2016 for £200,000. Brief details of her life can be found on Wikipedia.

Inside this edition you will find details of many of the prize winners at the Hallbankgate Flower Show held in August and a list of 100+ Club prize winners.

Also included are details of Church services, Roger Dobson's reflections on being our local councillor, news from our primary school, Hallbankgate WI news and brief details of Parish Council activity. Recent local political changes are also included as are details of a forthcoming event organised by the Local History Group on **12th September** on the history of local collieries.

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*



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All change at the top

Dr. Neil Hudson who served as our MP prior to the general election was unsuccessful in being selected as the Conservative candidate to contest the new constituency of Penrith and Solway. He was however elected as the Conservative MP for Epping Forest.

The new MP for Carlisle which now incorporates Farlam Parish is **Ms. Julie Minns** who is perhaps better known for leading the campaign to save the Turkish Baths in Carlisle.



Ms. Minns has her roots in Carlisle having grown up in Denton Holme and attended Trinity School.

Before entering Parliament she worked as a freelance communications consultant. Previously she was employed by UK Power Networks as Head of Customer Engagement; as a parliamentary advisor by the child protection charity NSPCC; and she also worked for the disability charity SCOPE.

Ms. Minns has been out and about in the constituency and recently attended Hallbankgate school fete and church services at Farlam and nearby Talkin.

If you live in the constituency and wish to contact her you can do so via email: office@julieminns.org.uk

Dave Allen was elected as Cumbria's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on 2nd May this year. He is a former Cumbrian Police Officer who worked for the National Crime Agency before retirement in 2016. He subsequently worked with the NHS locally and was involved with managing the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out across North Cumbria.

He lists his priorities as tackling anti-social behaviour, reducing rural crime, reducing domestic abuse and sexual violence and properly funding the Fire and Rescue Service.

Contact details are: commissioner@cumbria-pcc.gov.uk or 01768-217734



Farlam Parish Council activity

The Parish Council last met on **10th July 2024**. The agenda papers indicate that the Clerk to the Parish Council had resigned on 30th June and that a recruitment process was underway to find a suitable replacement.

The Agenda papers listed 3 planning applications for consideration along with items of routine expenditure including wages and the grass contractor's invoice. Of particular note were items relating to the expenditure of £11,863.60 for the purchase of the play area land and associated professional fees; submission to HMRC for a refund of £984.54 VAT; and submission of a grant application to Cumberland Council to help meet the costs of a second SID (speed indicator device) to be located near Hallbankgate School.

The next scheduled meeting will take place in Hallbankgate Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday **11th September 2024**. However an Extraordinary Meeting was recently organised for **14th August 2024** with the main agenda item being a revised planning application which if approved would give permission to turn the Belted Will public house in Hallbankgate into two 3 bedroomed houses.

A previous planning application to this effect was officially withdrawn on 18th April 2024. The difference between the two applications is additional information from the owner's estate agent confirming that no offers were made to buy the Belted Will following 3 months of recent 'for sale' advertising.

The Parish Council had previously objected to the proposal arguing that the village pub was an asset for the community that should be retained.



Reflections by Cumberland Councillor Roger Dobson

This month I celebrate my third anniversary as your Councillor. Originally elected to Cumbria County Council in August 2021 I then became your Cumberland Councillor in May 2023. Being new to the role of Councillor has proved to be an interesting and rewarding experience.

There is a rich variety of challenges many of which are intellectually stimulating, often requiring research and the acquisition of new knowledge: from potholes, road safety, flooding, planning applications, and fly tipping to neighbour disputes and road closures.

In addition to responding to individual issues much of my time is taken up by Council Committees where arguably the real work is done. I Chair the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Local Community Panel, am Vice Chair of Planning, and serve on the Harbour Committee, Joint Oversight and Scrutiny Committee and Staff Committee (where I Chair two Staff Sub-Committees which hear employee appeals against dismissal). Whilst committees take up much time, preparation for them is important; occasionally papers for the Planning Committee may be 500 pages of reading and we often spend a day or two on site visits. The Joint Oversight Committee reviews progress on disaggregating services formerly provided by Cumbria and now being divided by the new Cumberland and Westmorland authorities. This is one of the wasteful consequences of local government reorganisation. Valuable time and resources are being devoted to breaking up entities that will likely be less effective and I predict will at some stage be brought back together. Already there is talk of further devolution with the creation of a Mayor for Cumbria!

An advantage of being a member of a political party as opposed to being independent is that I am part of a small team who support each other. LibDems are conscientious in demonstrating that we work for our communities all year round not just in the run up to an election. Outside the winter months we visit parts of our wards as a team and knock on doors finding out what issues people are concerned about. Last week we were in Tindall Fell and Hallbankgate before lunching at the Hallbankgate Hub. Whilst resurfacing of the A689 was welcome traffic disruption was not. Interest in reducing speed limits at Hallbankgate and Coal Fell continues. There may be an opportunity for progress on this along with introducing limits at Farlam and Kirkhouse when Cumberland processes a batch of Traffic Regulation Orders in the next Financial Year.

Residents complain that the loss of the bridge on the Lord Carlisle railway denies them the ability to walk on that popular route. Unfortunately, the bridge is the responsibility of the landowner. I am lobbying the Council to develop the old railway into a long-distance walking, cycling and horse-riding route. It would be wonderful if one day there was a safe route from Alston to Brampton

Hallbankgate WI

It's been a busy few months. In May Keith Tattersall from Castle Chocolates put on a fabulous Chocolate Demonstration. In June we visited, along with our friends from Slaggyford WI, a lovely garden in Crosby on Eden and the following week we had our Summer meal at The Sally which was excellent. In July we had a successful stall at the School Fete selling cakes and plants. And a few days later we held an Open Meeting at the Village Hall where the Local History Group gave two talks on 'Hallbankgate' and 'The Rocket'. It was wonderful to see the Hall full with over 80 people. And of course, the refreshments were provided by the WI. Our thanks to Richard and Nic who provided the talks.

We continue to enjoy our regular Coffee Mornings at Farlam Hall. Our programme for the next few months with further visits still being planned:

September: 68th Birthday Party – Circle Dancing

October: 'Homeopathy for Health – Julie Horrocks

November: 'Cyber Protect' – Jon Hill

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



Farlam Parish Trust

The Parish Trust continues to support local organisations in the Parish. This year we have given grants to the following:

- Friends of Hallbankgate School to support the provision of entertainment at the fete;
- Farlam PCC to support the production of the Farlam Parish Village News and their annual craft fair;
- Farlam Parish Council to support the purchase of the land upon which the playschool is located.

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 (<https://www.farlampc.gov.uk/the-parish/farlam-parish-trust/grant-application-form.pdf>) and send it to the Administrator (1 week before a meeting if possible).

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

All enquiries to charles.raine@youngsrps.com

Registered Charity No. 114300 Established in 2012 to administer monies very kindly donated by the operators of Silver Top Quarry (Thompsons of Prudhoe) in recognition of the increased noise and disturbance the extra traffic causes.

Farlam 100+ Club Prize-winners

The Farlam 100+ Club exists to raise funds to help maintain Farlam Church and the graveyard. Over 100 members take part in the monthly prize 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.

For further information contact Ann Freer on 016977 46933 or email bgfreer@mac.com. Alternatively download the membership form at farlamparishchurch.co.uk and send it to Ann Freer by email. Good luck and a big thanks to existing members for their continued support!

July

August

1st Prize £25.00

Barbara Mclaughlan

Charles Raine

2nd Prize £15.00

John Jackson

Brian Murphy

3rd Prize £10.00

Michael Barnes

Kathleen Beesley

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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 lives in the Parish and is very involved in the ministry here. **Churchwardens** of St. Thomas a 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 very welcome to join us. When there is no service at Farlam we encourage people to 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 - September to November

- Sunday 1st September at 11:00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 15th September at 11:00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 6th October at 11:00am Harvest
- Sunday 20th October at 11:00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 3rd November at 11:00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 10th November at 10:50am Act of Remembrance

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

Baptism

We welcome into the family of the Church **Ryan James Neve who was baptised at Farlam on 28th July 2024.**

Church News

A huge thank you to **Tim Arndt** for his faithful, patient and conscientious service as our churchwarden at Farlam for several years; and thank you to **Geraldine Bolton** and also to **Christine Mineham** for taking on the role of churchwardens going forwards.

Thankfully Tim will still have a role in keeping the Vicar right though, as he remains Secretary to Farlam Parochial Church Council.

Two special services were held over the summer: a Patronal festival with a murder mystery plot and a Lammastide service for a united Three Rivers service. For more Church news and a thought for the week visit the Three Rivers Mission Facebook page.

Hallbankgate Village School News

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



If you would like to find out more about our school, please visit our website where you will find our weekly newsletter which is jam-packed with photographs and information about what your children are learning.

It is difficult to believe that another school year is now over and everyone will be enjoying their well-deserved summer holidays, despite the weather being not so summery! We have a lot of things to celebrate and share with you since the last edition and we hope that it gives you a flavour of all of the wonderful things that happen in our school.

In **Class 1** this term, we have been learning all about Queen Victoria. To support our learning in history and the wider curriculum, we all enjoyed a very special and exciting visit to Carlisle where we visited the statue of this famous monarch, followed by a tour of Carlisle Cathedral and an exploration of Carlisle Castle. What made our visit even more exciting was the fact that we travelled to Carlisle on the train! Not only was this fun but it allowed us to make links to different types of transport which we have also been learning about.

During this term, we have also been learning about plants and what they need to grow. We enjoyed planting sunflower seeds and watching the seedlings grow before planting them out in the school grounds.

In **Class 2**, we have also been learning about plants as part of our science learning and, over the course of the term, we have completed lots of investigations to work out what plants need to thrive and also what seeds need to germinate: our classroom has been full of seeds, seedlings and plants in various and sometimes surprising places!

During most weeks of the summer term, we planned and carried out scientific investigations before drawing conclusions and making generalizations: we investigated the levels of light and water that plants need; whether or not plants need soil to germinate and grow successfully; whether or not it matters which way round a bulb is planted and how water is transported in plants. All of this learning allowed us to talk (at length!), to our Cumbria in Bloom judges about plants and how we have used this learning to grow even more plants in our school grounds, having planted the shallots and peas used in our science investigations into our school vegetable garden.

To enhance our geography learning, we also enjoyed visit the Lake District to complete a fieldwork study. During the visit, we identified human and physical features of the landscape, explored and recorded how land was used and practiced our map-reading skills by using the physical features of the landscape to help us orient it correctly.

In **Class 3**, we have had an exciting term learning all about the Tudors in our history lessons. To enhance and support our understanding of Tudor life, in our Design and Technology lessons we researched, planned, cooked and enjoyed a Tudor banquet! Based on real Tudor recipes, we decided that we would like to cook cheese tarts, beef casserole, vegetable pottage, spiced pears and Tudor jumbles (a combination of flour, eggs, caster sugar and caraway seeds) – the classroom was a hive of activity as we cooked and baked our way through the day! Some recipes were more popular than others but we enjoyed experiencing different ingredients, textures and combinations.

In our geography learning, we had a brilliant visit to the Lake District where we walked the course of the river from Threlkeld to Keswick so that we could apply our knowledge about the features of a river and see these features at first-hand. We also completed our 10-week block of swimming, focusing on developing our swimming skills and learning how to be safe in water, and headed to Middleton-in-Teesdale for our weekend residential visit.

We took part in stand-up-paddle-boarding, orienteering, rock-climbing and zip lining. It was exhilarating! We also really enjoyed camping and tucking in to toasted marshmallows by the camp fire!

Having looked closely at these living things, we then created artistic representations of them in a range of mediums, from printing to painting and everything in-between! There will be an exhibition of our artwork in Hallbankgate Hub and RSPB Geltsdale over the next few months - make sure you check it out!

As well as all of that exciting learning, we held our annual Sports Day and a musical concert for all of our musicians to perform their favourite pieces - both of which were well-attended by parents and family members. We also held a special celebration event to say farewell to the wonderful Year 6 children who will be heading to secondary school in September and held our Community Summer Fete.

We are pleased to let you know that we raised around £1000 for our school! This fundraising event will ensure that we can continue to have lots of educational visits next year to support our learning in school. A **huge** thank you to everyone that donated a raffle prize or attended this event, as well as the Hallbankgate Village School Parent and Friends Association, Church, WI, Farlam Parish Trust and other local businesses and organisations for all of their support. It was a fantastic day!



RSPB Geltsdale Reserve Art Gallery is hosting the Community Bioblitz Exhibition during October and November featuring projects that celebrate both biodiversity and community created by pupils from Hallbankgate and William Howard schools and community groups. Each child developed observational drawing skills helped by artist Kathy Kemp and then drew something from the natural world which had caught their interest. During September wildlife photographer Paul Murray is also exhibiting his work.

The Gallery is located at Stagsike Cottage visitor centre which is open 7 days a week from 9am to 5:00pm. Tel. No. 016977 740036

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.



Special Events & Celebrations

Whether you are looking to celebrate a special family occasion or are planning a birthday or anniversary, Farlam Hall, with its picturesque surroundings and Michelin star restaurant, is the perfect venue to celebrate any family occasion with your loved ones.

Luxuriate in the welcoming and relaxing ambience of the restaurant, bathed in natural light from the ceiling height windows, offering views of the impressive cedar tree, gardens and lake. The Michelin starred Cedar Tree by Hrishikesh Desai is open Wednesday - Saturday evenings and the more informal Bistro Enkel is open Sunday - Tuesday evenings. Pre-booking is necessary, see our website for sample menus.

Indulge in a beautifully presented Afternoon Tea, available every Thursday from 1pm-3pm in the Cedar Tree restaurant or, weather permitting, on our peaceful terrace listening to the birdsong. Our Sunday Lunch is a popular and relaxed affair, served between 12noon - 2.15pm each week.

Or why not join us for one of our unique and interactive Special Events, offering good food, great wines and incredible hospitality to ensure a truly memorable experience.

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Coanwood Featherstone & Lambley History Group

We talked to an open meeting in July organised by Hallbankgate WI at which over 80 people turned up! I spoke about the "History of Hallbankgate Village" followed by Nic Broomhead's on "Stephenson's Rocket" and its use on the Brampton Junction to Midgeholme line. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the event and I enjoyed the chat afterwards in the Belted Will.

We have just had a walk and talk at Ayle Colliery, Kirhaugh with 37 attendees. Ayle is the last working colliery in England and it is on our doorstep. Clive Seal and Jez Cooper led this and did a great job. Thanks also to the owner Kevin Shepherd for allowing us to hold this and coming along on the day. It was a very enlightening and informative visit.

As I write this, on Sunday 18th August we are having a walk and talk at Tindale Speltworks and Bishophill Lime Kilns led by Graham Brooks.

At 7pm on Thursday 12th September Clive Seal will be at **Lambley Village Hall** to give us a talk on the history of the local Collieries around our History Group area, mainly Coanwood, Featherstone, Lambley and Midgeholme. Please contact me for booking please as spaces are limited.

7:00pm start with free refreshments afterwards. Entry for History Group members £3.00. Non-members £6.00 or £10.00 to join our group.



Our History Group now has 266 members with 18 joining at the Ayle Colliery visit. Watch out for further events before the end of the year. A visit to Carlisle Archives is being planned for later this year. If you are interested in going, let me know. Richard Macdonald, Chairman and Treasurer, CFL History Group. Tel.no. 074848 00632 macasrich9@gmail.com

Hallbankgate Flower Show

The Flower Show took place on Saturday 17th August and attracted a wide range of entries across the six categories of Vegetables, Flowers, Baking and Preserves, Industrial and Crafts, Childrens' Classes and also from the Primary School year groups.

The Judges were Hrishikesh Desai from Farlam Hall, Nancy Priest, Susan Turpin and Anne Queen.

In the Vegetable category the judges had their work cut out to select winners and runners-up. Across the range of 19 categories the quality of exhibits was exemplary. Unsurprisingly the usual suspects scooped many of the top honours: Roger and Sandra Forster certainly know their onions!



Roger came first in a range of vegetable categories: 1st and 2nd for 4 shallots on a plate; 1st and 2nd for a collections of 3 long and round potatoes.

Sandra took the honours for 2 onions from sets while Thomas Halliday's onions from seed and rhubarb both won 1st places.



Roger won again with 3 carrots, pipping Sandra into 2nd with Thomas highly commended. Nancy Priest's 3 bulbs of garlic won that category while Julia James floored the opposition with her 4 tomatoes. Thomas again took 1st place for his 3 beetroots and his turnip.



Julia James took 1st for her 3 courgettes while Thomas Halliday's 6 pea pods on a plate also came 1st. Bernie Christie took 1st place in the cucumber category.



The flowers on display were stunning.

Ezra Bober took 1st and 2nd place for 3 cut sunflowers, Thomas Halliday 1st and 2nd place for a single rose, with Julie Mangan 1st and 2nd for her corsage/sprays.

Roger Forster took 1st and 2nd place for his sweet peas with Lynn Menzies's entry highly commended. Roger's chilli plant was also judged to be best.



Hugh Beesley's any colour arrangement won that category with Julie Mangam second and Vera Bober's arrangement highly commended. Julie Mangham also come 1st in both 3 stems and for her vase of mixed flowers.



Carole Christie's succulants topped that category and Roger Forster won 1st and 2nd with his Marigolds. Beth Potter's floral arrangement also won a 1st prize.



After judging the baking and preserves section Hrishikesh remarked that the Victoria sponge and the tea bread were the epitome of English baking: high praise indeed!



Anne Ireland's fruit scones hit the spot and Both Sandra Forster and Pauline Shaw took the honours in the jam and marmalade categories. Sandra Forster won the savoury flan, lemon meringue, 4 squares of gingerbread and tea loaf categories. Julia James won with her Victoria sponge while Pauline Shaw won the cake of choice category with her Bakewell tart. Beth and Emily Potter took 1st and 2nd with their decorated 4 biscuit entries.



The Industrial and Crafts category had lots of entries of high quality on display showing the wide range of artistic and practical skills of residents including quilting, cross-stitch, sewing, embroidery, sketching, painting photography and woodwork. There were lots of entries from children using lego bricks with Beth Potter and Louisa Craig coming 1st and 2nd respectively.



Julie Mangan won top spot for her paintings with Helen Graham's tapestry cushions and sewing taking prizes along with Sharon Robson's quilting and Isla Bober's sewn dress. Roger Forster won again with his wooden bowl and handmade tool.



The Primary School age groups had submitted lots of illustrations and short stories, including Iron Man and lots of owls.





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