



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Attendance at this year's Remembrance Sunday ceremony was remarkable.

The Parish Council was honoured to have our wreath laid by Grimsargh resident Albert Hardman, who celebrates his 90th birthday this year. Albert served in the Navy during WW2 and is a veteran of the Russian Convoys - notoriously dangerous missions. Albert, shown with his wife Vivien, has just received the Arctic Star - shown in the box - to add to his other medals. We'd love to know more about Albert's war time experiences and are hoping to publish an interview with him on our website in the near future.



Also if anyone has any local family stories/history of Grimsargh resident's involvement in WW1 and WW2 or any of the conflicts please let the Clerk have the details and we will try and include them in our website or future newsletters.



GEOFF SWARBRICK

“Geoff was a true gentleman and a loyal friend”



Many of you will be aware of the death in August of Geoff Swarbrick. Geoff was a true gentleman who cared passionately about Grimsargh and its people.

He served on the Parish Council for over 35 years and was a former Mayor of Preston and an Honorary Alderman. As a tribute to Geoff and his memory we have put together this selection of memories about Geoff who is sadly missed.

“Since Geoff and Jean came to live in Grimsargh I can’t remember a time when he was not committed to the community in some way or another.

I first came into contact with them when I joined Grimsargh Players in the late 1950s. The ever-practical Geoff with his usual “hands-on” approach to life was the stage manager and organised scenery planning, building, painting, etc.

Geoff was also very much engaged in fund-raising for the building of the Village Hall and helping to run Field Day. Who, of the long-time residents of the Village will ever forget the “Grimsargh Flyer” (pictured). This was a model steam train he built on an old mini chassis and engine. He led the fancy dress procession through the Village for many years and then gave rides around the field to the children.

Apart from being on the Parish Council for many years he also represented the Village on Preston City Council from 1986, upon the death of my father, Tony. He ultimately became Mayor and an Alderman of the town. Geoff was patiently tenacious in pressing Village matters with the Council, even if it took twenty years or more to get the right result.

Geoff was also a Sidesman at Grimsargh St Michaels for a long time, until well into his 80s. He was a very regular church attender right up until the time he reluctantly had to leave his home in the Village in his later years.” – By Eileen Parker

“I first came across Geoff when he was on he was on the panel that interviewed me for the Clerk of the Parish Council in 1979. He struck me then as a very kind and considerate person and my friendship with him over the years that followed proved me to be totally correct.

He was a very tenacious person who followed up all of his projects to completion no matter how long they took. One such example was the footpath from the Church car park to School. He raised the idea in 1982 after the railway footpath reclamation scheme had been completed. He continually pushed this project and he would’ve been so proud to see it completed - sadly he died a few weeks before it was opened.

He was totally dedicated to Grimsargh village and also to St Michaels Parish Church and nothing was too much trouble for him to get work done in the community.

Not everything was a complete success for him however and he often struggled to come terms with technology, particularly his computer. I spent hours with him trying to explain how to do many tasks and how to resolve his computer problems - many of them were of his own making. My phone would often ring on a Sunday afternoon and Geoff would announce himself by saying “Peter - I`ve got a bit of a problem”.

He was a very good friend to me and he will be missed by many but will not be forgotten.” – By Peter Croft.

“Geoff was a true gentleman and a loyal friend.

A wise, astute member of Grimsargh St Michael Parish Church family, who was always there when work needed to be done. He worked very hard on the project to build the footpath from the church carpark to school, but sadly never saw it completed. He will be sadly missed.”
– by Nellie Cowell

“Personal memories of Geoff are numerous, but the things he did that spring to mind are the train on field day, fundraising as a member of the GVCA committee, which saw the erection of the village hall, cleaning the parquet flooring blocks, which were later laid in the village hall, delivering conservative pamphlets, opposing the central Lancashire new town plans and working tirelessly for the residents of Grimsargh to name a few . He worked in his own garage as a car mechanic, as well as caring for his wife, Jean. Together they made a wonderful and well deserved Millennium mayor and mayoress . FOGG was highly honoured when Geoff agreed to unveil the mosaic created by the schoolchildren from Alston Lane School and Grimsargh St Michael’s commemorating the Preston Guild, Geoff worked tirelessly for Grimsargh residents and the village is a poorer place without him. Few could fill his shoes!”
– By Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell



CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

Each year there is a short service of carols and readings around the crib near the Post Office. This year it will be on Friday 12 December at 6.00pm. It is followed by tea and mince pies in the Club - everyone is welcome to attend.

We are a very active Parish Council and everyone is always welcome at our meetings. We usually meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There is always an opportunity for people to raise issues or concerns with the Parish Council or you can just come along and find out what we do. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor then why not come along to some of our meetings? Our meeting dates are displayed on our notice boards throughout the village and our agenda and minutes are available on our website at www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org

BROADBAND ON THE HILLS ESTATE

We have been approached by some residents about the lack of superfast broadband on the Hills Estate, so we contacted the head of Superfast Lancashire. Unfortunately the response we received is similar to that of the residents, in that they are aware that the Hills has not got superfast broadband, and that there are no immediate plans to install it. However to quote ‘you may be aware that Lancashire County Council have been given additional funding to address areas such as yours and they are currently working on a plan to extend the rollout’.

Unfortunately it appears that there will be no quick fix to the problem

LATEST ON PLANNING

The news that Wainhomes won their appeal for their development off Ribblesdale Drive came just too late for the last Newsletter. This was, of course, a great disappointment for us all. The primary reasoning behind the appeal being allowed was the issue of the shortfall in housing supply in the Preston area, which was deemed to outweigh the acknowledged fact that the Core Strategy policies would otherwise be against development on this site.

However, on a slightly positive note, the decision notice for the Appeal did contain the following paragraph:

“My attention was drawn to previous appeal decisions ref. APP/N2345/A/12/ 2182325 and APP/N2345/A/12/2201821. These concerned nearby developments at land north of The Hills, both of which were dismissed. However, these related to the narrowest part of the gap (around 120m) of the possible AoS between Grimsargh and Preston whereas this appeal site is situated at a wide area of gap (around 875m to the buildings in the industrial estate and around half that distance to the most northerly dwelling on the ribbon of development coming out of Preston on the B6243). They were therefore concerned with the most sensitive part of the possible AoS and for this reason I do not consider them to be comparable to this proposal.”

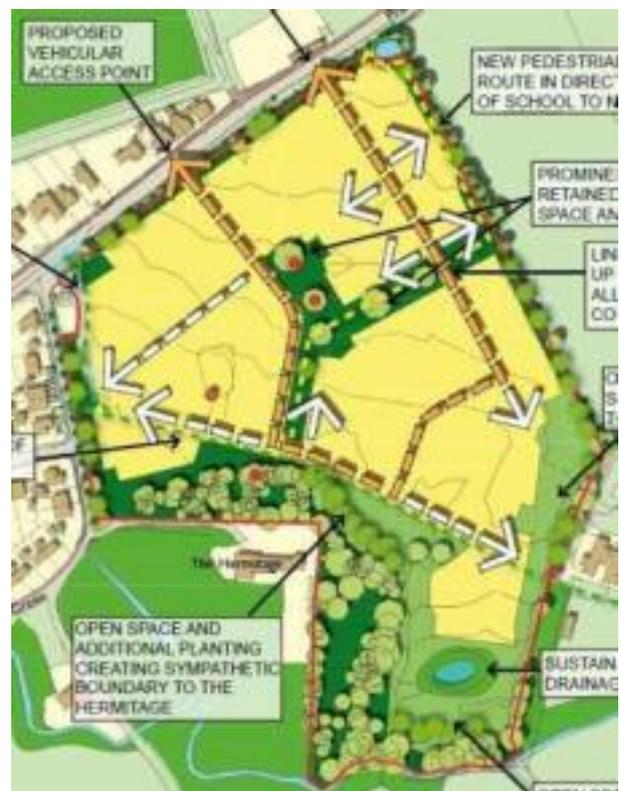
We take this to be a good indication that this appeal decision should not give “comfort” to anyone over the Pennines considering a sixth round in their attempts to build just to the North of the Hills.....!

A great deal of Councillors’ time has been spent over the past four years influencing planning policy, getting fully up to speed on the overall working of planning law and putting together cases against these development proposals. Residents too have put in significant effort in building clear evidence of the opposition to these new major developments in the village.

So it was a very unwelcome piece of news to hear that Gladman Developments are proposing a new housing estate for up to 150 properties on the north-east edge of the village – the third major development proposal in the village in just three years.

The Parish Council would greatly welcome any offers of direct help from residents for the work required to oppose this latest development. All of us are volunteers, many with full-time careers or study commitments and other voluntary activities to boot – and there is only so much we can do! If you do feel able to help, then please contact our Clerk, Sue – details on the back of the Newsletter.

At the time of going to press we have just learned that Gladman have booked the Village Hall for a public consultation event – for the 19th November. Just what the purpose and nature of this event will be we are not sure. It is our understanding that the planning application will have been submitted before this date. We will publish news, as we receive it on our website.



PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

Did you know that Grimsargh Parish Council gives small grants to support worthy causes in the Parish? We have recently given £500 to Grimsargh Cricket Club to help with the refurbishment of their toilets/changing rooms. We are always pleased to hear from local groups that benefit the residents of Grimsargh and we will try and help where we can. If you would like to apply for a grant you can either write or e mail the Clerk, Sue Whittam, or alternatively you can download our small grants guidelines and the application form direct from our website at www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org

During the Summer Ella Burton and Lucy Scarborough 2 young leaders from 1st Grimsargh Guides were selected to go on 2 separate international trips. Here are their reports.

A GIRLGUIDES ADVENTURE!

During the summer I was fortunate enough through Girlguiding Northwest, and its International Opportunities programme to visit Armenia, and participate in a development project. Armenia is a former soviet state bordering Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

The main aim of the project was to take part and lead activities in the first ever NUGGS (National Union of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) national camp, which took place in the mountains near to Sisian in the West of the country. The girls all loved the crafts, games, songs and camp skills we taught them and were also keen to teach us some traditional Armenian dancing. NUGGS also benefitted from the tents, sleeping bags and other camp equipment we were able to leave in Armenia for them to use as well as the opportunity for them to practice their English!

Once back in Yerevan (the capital) we undertook our own DIY SOS by renovating a disused library into a suitable meeting room for the younger girl scouts. This meant that in one day we had to clean, replaster and paint the room. Given the state of the library this was no mean feat, however we managed to pull it off meaning that the girls have their first official meeting room.

We did also manage some time for sightseeing, including the monastery at Tatev with its incredible views, and scary cable car (But not as scary as the road), and back in Yerevan taking part in the 'Armenian National Waterfight Day', Vardavar, an ancient festival to celebrate the start of summer, which was as bizarre as it was fun!

I would like to thank 1st Grimsargh Guides, and the residents of Grimsargh who aided me in my fundraising to take part in this once in a lifetime activity.

Ella Burton



MOROCCO 2014

In June 2013 I was selected to travel to Morocco with Girlguiding UK to carry out a community project working with underprivileged women living in the Atlas Mountains. With a team of 13 other girls and 3 leaders we planned the trip and the activities we would run whilst we were there. We each raised £1300 over the course of the year to pay for the trip as well as buy things for the women's centre we worked in. I fundraised this money with my guide unit, school and at village events and would like to thank everyone in the village who supported me throughout my fundraising.

In July 2014 we flew to Marrakech and spent a few days in the city before heading to a small village called Imlil in the Atlas Mountains. Whilst we were there we spent a week working in the women's association teaching the ladies and children to make things they could sell at their local market as well as some basic English. The women had their own kitchen where they baked every day for the local hotels and businesses. We spent a few of the days we were there baking with the ladies and teaching them recipes that they will now be able to make on the hob that we bought for them.

After leaving the women's association we went back to Marrakech and spent three days there learning about the culture of the city and learning to cook traditional Moroccan dishes. The trip was a great experience and I would like to thank everyone who supported me and helped me fundraise for the trip.

Lucy



GRIMSARGH WETLANDS PROJECT



As will all know by now there is a major project underway within the Parish Council to try and secure ownership and control of the site of the former Grimsargh Reservoirs, now known colloquially as Grimsargh Wetlands.

There has been some unease and concern in the village as to the future of the site, ever since United Utilities (UU) dropped the water levels and brought down some sections of the banks, in order to remove them from the Reservoirs Act. Although the site is a designated Biological Heritage Site, that alone would not be a guarantee against future development. We were aware of and to a limited extent involved in discussions with Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT), who were approached by UU to see if they were interested in acquiring the site. This wasn't deemed feasible, due to financial considerations and LWT's commitment to the nearby Brockholes project. Similarly discussions with the RSPB yielded no progress.

The discussions with UU developed into the current proposal whereby the Parish Council gain ownership, control and full responsibility for the site and are given a significant sum of money (still subject to negotiation) to carry out initial capital works and towards the maintenance for a number of years. In order for this to be a suitable prospect for UU, they will sell off a small portion of the site fronting Preston Road, for development.

Your Parish Council could see there was significant merit in this proposal, although we were concerned for the views of those local residents who would be most affected. Two public consultation events have now been held – the first primarily for those living adjacent to or overlooking the proposed development land and the second one open to all.

We were very much encouraged by the responses at both events. The residents attending the first consultation while expressing reservations about the prospect of new housing, expressed views in favour of the proposals to acquire and protect the Wetlands. This was again reflected in the second event where the

majority view was a positive one towards the proposals. There was a general consensus that the site would not be suitable for affordable housing, as it was felt that the housing should be in keeping with the properties in the vicinity – as are the illustrations in the proposals.

Following on from the feedback of the consultation events, the Parish Council considered the matter and passed a resolution at its October meeting “That the Parish Council supports the proposed development for a maximum of 12 houses to secure the preservation of the wetlands and agrees that the area is not a suitable location for affordable housing.”

That, however, is just the start point of what now will be a considerable amount of work:

- To ensure that the outcome is (or broadly similar to in every significant aspect) what was outlined in the UU proposal – working with Planning Officers and UU, as required
- There is an appropriate organisation established (such as a Charitable body) to effectively manage the site and the funds for posterity – independent of the Parish Council (advantageous for grant funding), but returning to the Parish Council if required. It is anticipated this body would work with local experts to determine the appropriate management plan for the reserve and directly involve local volunteers to get involved in the work and stewardship.

From discussions with local naturalists and also others who run similar nature reserves, the view is that the site should continue to have only limited general open public access. To give general access would significantly harm its value as a nature reserve. It plays host to vast array of birdlife and other flora and fauna, that it is our aim to protect. We do envisage having more access, perhaps through guided organised study groups. However – all these are things for future discussion, consideration and determination.

First – we must focus on acquiring the site!

SUCCESS IN THE LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2014

On 20 October Councillor Lindsay Philipson and Clerk to the Council Sue Whittam were thrilled to receive the Hambleton Shield to be retained by the Village for the next 12 months. The presentation, which took place at The Villa in Wrea Green, was a wonderful celebration of the beauty of a wide range of Lancashire villages from tiny hamlets to larger settlements. Grimsargh was the runner up in the Large Village class this year and our grateful thanks go to all who helped achieve this prestigious award.

They were also pleased to collect Certificates on behalf of Grimsargh St Michael's Church who received a "commended" and Grimsargh Cricket Club who received a "highly commended" These were formally presented at the Parish Council meeting on Thursday 6 November and the pictures show representatives from Grimsargh St Michael's Church and Grimsargh Cricket Club receiving their certificates.



GRIMSARGH HUB REMINDER – GET YOUR EVENTS AND GROUPS ADVERTISED!

In the last newsletter we spoke about "Grimsargh Hub" – the website set up to provide information on community events going on in Grimsargh and to help to minimise clashes. This is a reminder to use it. There is more information starting to appear – but it will only be as successful as you make it!

So – if you're part of one of our array of wonderful community groups and you're planning an event - check out the website to ensure there's no clash: www.grimsargh.com

Then email us at events@grimsargh.com giving as much information as possible – we'll put it onto the calendar and maybe put on a News item to help publicise it for you!

Examples of events we're happy to put on the site are the upcoming Rock and Blues Nights at Grimsargh Club (non-profit-making venue) – February 7th and February 14th 2015, fund-raising events, balls for any of the community groups, appeals or items of interest – so long as they are emailed through in a ready-to-publish format.

Also – community groups (you know who you are)some of you are better than others at getting your information on the Regular Classes and Groups page. If you're struggling – just email groups@grimsargh.com and we'll help!





PLANTER WINNERS 2014

Grimsargh Parish Council held a Strawberry Tea on Sunday 17th August. This was as a thank you for the individuals and groups who plant and maintain a number of planters around the village. It was also to announce the results of the planter judging and award prizes for the top three. The planters were judged by Michelle Unsworth from So Plants, Preston Road, Longridge. Michelle also donated a voucher to the first prize winner.

The event was attended by a number of Parish Councillors as well as representatives from the groups who adopt the planters.

The results were

- 1) Grimsargh Players
- 2) 1st Grimsargh Brownies
- 3) Peter Croft

Prizes and certificates from the Parish Council were given to the prize winners by Michelle. The photographs show Kathleen Longworth from Grimsargh Players and the beautiful winning planter. If you feel inspired by the beautiful planters around our village please contact Councillor Lynda Cryer or the Clerk if you wish to adopt a planter for next year's competition.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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