



# Grimsargh Parish Council Newsletter

MAY  
2012

## Grimsargh Celebrates Preston Guild 2012 Programme Enclosed!



There is a fantastic schedule of activities planned for us in Grimsargh over the coming few weeks, to celebrate Preston Guild 2012. There's a live Swing Band, GPS treasure hunt, history talks and presentations, tea parties, concerts and theatre, guided walks, open gardens and much more. There is also the traditional annual Grimsargh St Michaels Garden Party and, of course Field Day – so a fun-packed time it should be for all.

We hope you all like our logo, which was the result of a competition at St Michaels School. It incorporates the winning entry by Amelia Small, who is to be congratulated on her wonderful piece of artwork!

We would like to thank the team of people from across the community, who have arranged the various events. Particular thanks go to Patricia Tucker who, despite stepping down from the Parish Council last year, continued in the role of Co-ordinator for the Working Group and has done an excellent job of pulling together the marvellous range of activities.

There is a full 4-page pull-out guide contained within this Newsletter and further details can be found on our website.

We hope you enjoy all this in Grimsargh and then there are the Preston-based activities later in the year to look forward to, details of which can be found at: [www.prestonguild2012.com](http://www.prestonguild2012.com).



### Hallam Development Update

By the time you are reading this, we will know the results of the Planning Committee decision regarding this application, due for determination on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. A few weeks before, HLM had reduced the size of the development from 200 to 143 dwellings. GPC submitted a short update to our original objection. Go to our website for the latest details.

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### "Sites for Preston" – Results Imminent

"Following the "Sites for Preston" consultation in late 2010/early 2011, the City Council has now agreed its "Preferred Options" Site Allocations Plan.

This sets out in some detail where the Council considers that new housing and other development should take place over the next 15 years. It also sets out policies to protect the countryside and other environmental assets.

The Preferred Options is not the finished plan - it represents another opportunity for people to have their say. Consultation will start on the 21 May 2012 and Council officers will be holding a series of drop in events, including one at Grimsargh Village Hall on **Thursday 7 June from 2.30 pm until 7.00pm**".

Any information we receive ahead of this date, will be published on our website.

## Chairman's Annual Report

The following is an edited summary of the report – the full text of which can be viewed on the website under the minutes for the April Parish Meeting.

“This year has been another one of significant change on the Council with the very welcome arrival of three new Councillors in the persons of Peter Burton, David Nicholson and Lynda Cryer. They were co-opted early in the year and are bringing valuable new views and input to Parish Council operations.

The Parish Council has been dealing with a large number of issues during the 12 month period – some highlights:

- Hallam Land Management's development proposal
- Consideration of a new “Parish Plan” or “Neighbourhood Plan” – to potentially give us an increased level of influence on local planning matters.
- Improving communications with residents: surgeries before the monthly meetings, suggestion box in the Post Office and Internet Drop-in Sessions at the Village Hall
- The programme for “Grimsargh Celebrates Preston Guild 2012”
- “Best Kept Village Competition” – our second place was marvellous – building further on last year's improvement. Perhaps with a small amount more effort we could win in 2012?
- Conservation Area Status – an initial assessment of the possibilities of this for areas of the Village
- The Nellie Carbis Millennium woodland now with the new bench in memory of former Parish Councillor Sam Sellers.
- Support to the new Redrow Residents Association – we wish the group continued success.
- “Adopt a Planter” Scheme – many thanks to the groups and individuals who have provided the colourful displays this year.
- Thanks also go to FoGG for their hedge laying activity and other works that have brought about delightful changes to the western side of the green.

Some of you may have noticed that the precept (the amount in your Council Tax for the Village) has been raised. In percentage terms it looks like a big increase, but in cash terms it amounts to an average of just £6 per household over the year. The reasons behind the increase are 4-fold: contingency for the Guild activities, provision for the work on a new Parish Plan, the cancellation of the income from Lancashire County Council for the Lengthsman and a response to professional advice to increase our reserves. We are shortly going to publish a full breakdown of the expenditure for 10-11, together with the budget for 11-12 on the website.

There have been a myriad of other matters the Parish Council have given time to, considered and dealt with over the past year – far too numerous to mention and I give my sincere thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors and our Clerk for their hard work and diligence in the application of their duties with Grimsargh Parish Council through 2011-12.”

## Grants Received by the Parish Council – Thanks to Mike Otter and Pam Duncanson

We would like to say “Thank You” to County Councillor Mike Otter, the Champion for Parishes for a grant of £200 to help with the costs of producing our Guild Programme.

In addition we are very grateful to Pam Duncanson – Manager of the Preston Crematorium. Pam approached us for a collaborative project on the Grimsargh Heritage Walk and submitted a successful grant application to the Lottery Fund which are covering the production costs of the beautiful brochures which will be available to accompany the walk that is part of our “Grimsargh Celebrates Preston Guild” programme.

## Play Area – Up & Running and New Drainage Too!



The refurbished Play Area opened shortly before Christmas and judging from the feedback from parents and grandparents it is being greatly appreciated!

It soon became apparent that there were significant problems with flooding. Preston City Council Officers have explained that, when the playground was redeveloped the new drains were linked to a soak away that proved not to have the capacity to cope with the excess water. As remedial measures, the existing field drains have been cleared out and the play area connected

to these. Some new lateral drains have already been installed on the field and it is hoped that these will resolve the problems.

This is the recent work that has left the field somewhat disturbed, but it is hoped that the grass will recover speedily and the rest of the playground be open for use soon.



## Friends of Grimsargh Green Update

The following is an update from FoGG on their projects:

### Village Green Update

At the end of February and early March, Tony Cookson worked on the Village Green and tidied up a lot of the brash that had been left from the hedge laying last October and he created some new wildlife habitat piles. One further pile remains to be created in the corner of the Green by the trees/ Whittingham Lane. A pile of wood under the trees opposite the by cricket pitch has been cleared and tidied and Tony has started to make a small willow hurdle to stop cricket balls from running into the trees. It should work well once it starts to grow properly. All the willow structures on the Green have also been tidied and it is intended to plant some Honeysuckle around the Arbour and the Tunnel to create a fragrant space in summer. More Snowdrops have also been planted and many thanks to Pat Tucker for donating these plants. The area around the Wildflower Garden and along part of the hedge line has also been planted with Primroses which will give some early summer colour to the area.

The boundary running from the Pond towards Grimsargh House has been planted with thorn, hazel and alder to help to make it more secure. Some work is required to clean the Pond and this will be done as soon as time permits. The Bird feeders are a great success with plenty of visitors, including Tits, finches, etc. Very many thanks to Tony for carrying out all of this work.

### The Car Park

The repairs to the Car Park are being managed by Preston City Council and they are arranging for the outstanding repair work to be carried out soon. It is hoped that all the outstanding works will be completed soon.

### Mosaic Project

Our Mosaic Artist, Patricia Lee, visited the 2 local primary schools to discuss the Mosaic Project with the children and is seeking their ideas for the design of the Mosaic on the Village Green. It is intended that this will be in place to be unveiled at some time during the week celebrating Preston Guild in Grimsargh in June. A low stone wall is to be constructed at the corner of the Village Green and the mosaic will be mounted on this wall. The rear of the wall will probably be banked up with topsoil and planted.

### Website

FOGG now has its own website - [friendsofgrimsarghgreen.org](http://friendsofgrimsarghgreen.org). This will be expanded and updated during the year and the various activities of FOGG will be detailed on the site as and when they become available.

As ever, new faces would be more than welcome to join our small committee or attend any of our volunteering days during the year. If interested, please contact any of the following FOGG committee members.

Joyce Chessell - Tel: 653751

Tony Cookson - Tel: 651303

Peter Croft - Tel: 652037

## Community Engagement – Have Your Say!

Our Community Engagement Working Group have put in place a number of measures to enable you to be able to let us have your feedback and find out more about what we do:

- Suggestion box – in place at the Post Office Counter
- Parish Council surgeries – 6.30-7pm before each Parish Council meeting – you can come and discuss matters in an informal setting, with a couple of Parish Councillors
- Free internet drop-in sessions – at the Village Hall on the first Monday of each month, 1-3pm – to enable you to have a browse through websites, including ours, to see what information is available.

We hope that you will make the most of these new facilities to engage with us and have your say on what we do.

## In Brief:

### Dog Fouling – Help Stop It

After a recent complaint from a resident about dog fouling on the pavement in the village and our Clerk reported the incident to Preston City Council. We were delighted with their response:

“Thank you for contacting us. It is important to report any incidents of dog fouling that occur within Preston to the Neighbourhood Services department. Once we log a job with the street cleansing team, they will go out to remove any dog mess, and the job will remain on the system marked as complete. The dog wardens monitor the system for any areas with persistent reports of fouling using the Neighbourhood Services database and checking for the history of jobs logged within that area. The dog wardens will then work on reducing fouling in those areas by implementing more patrols, signage etc.”

To make a complaint regarding a dog fouling problem contact 01772 906907 or [info@preston.gov.uk](mailto:info@preston.gov.uk) .

### Polite Notice – Parking

We have had a request from a resident to ask that those on Ribblesdale Drive and the surrounding roads use their drives for parking instead of the roads as sometimes it is difficult to see oncoming cars due to cars parked on the road.....

We would add that this applies to all the side roads in the Village

Thank you!



### And Finally.....

Just a reminder that the Best Kept Village Judging will take place between 9 June and 22 July. Last year the Judges report said just a little more attention to detail we could well be a winner this year.....so let's all take pride in our village and aim to win!

### Your Parish Councillors

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