



# Grimsargh Parish Council Newsletter

December 2013

## Thank You for the Bloomin' Lovely Planters!



The fabulous entry from The Grimsargh Players – many thanks to Kath and Jim Longworth for this splendid display of most particular note as it is their first year in the competition.

This year we had independent judges to select the winners in our Planter competition, rather than using the “Come Dine with me” style self-scoring system we used the previous 2 years. The 3 planters selected were those from Grimsargh Players (above), Grimsargh Gardening club (below right) and Eileen Murray (below left).

We thank all those who look after the planters around the village – full details can be found on our website. There are one or two which do not have adopted carers – fancy a go? If so – contact Sue, our Clerk (see back page for contact details).



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## Lord Horam (of Grimsargh)!

Members of the Parish Council, City Councillors and local resident Eileen Parker were pleased to welcome Lord Horam of Grimsargh for afternoon tea and some reminiscing about Grimsargh at the Village Hall on 29 September.

John Horam had recently been made a Life Peer and had taken the title Lord Horam of Grimsargh as he was a local lad and spent his early years living in the village. His parents owned the local garage and Lord Horam was thrilled with the information and knowledge shared by Eileen Parker and had a lovely chat and a sticky bun or two with representatives from the Parish and City Councils.



The picture shows Lord Horam (centre) making the most of the lovely weather stood outside the village hall together with local councillors, Eileen Parker and the Clerk.

## Best Kept Village Working Group needs YOUR help!

A small band of residents and Parish Councillors have formed a working group to help improve our village so we can enter the Best Kept Village Competition with our heads held high!

We have plenty of work to do and we need your help. Please help us identify areas for improvement in the village. If you are a local business and want to support us by either by joining the group or improving the front of your business with a colourful planter then get in touch.

If you know of an area than needs a little attention and you need help with this then let us know. We have a Lengthsman who works in the village on a part time basis and he can always help with those little finishing touches that could make the difference when we enter the competition.

So if you are interested please contact Sue Whittam, Clerk to the Council on 01772 863477 or email [clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com)

We can't do this without YOUR help.....so please get in touch.

## Latest Planning News

### Hallam

As we go to print, the second Hallam Appeal is being heard (November 19<sup>th</sup>). This Appeal is in connection with their application to build 100 properties on the site referred to as "North of the Hills".

We believe the first application which was reduced from 200 to 143 properties has finally reached the end of the road, after Hallam lost their High Court challenge against Her Majesty's Planning Inspectorate back in October.

So far, the results with Hallam are as follows:

Planning applications	2 submitted, 2 refused
Appeals	2 submitted, 1 dismissed, 1 pending
High Court Claims	1 submitted, 1 lost

Many residents have expressed frustration at Hallam's persistence. The regional planning policies are against this development, Preston City Council Planners and Councillors are against this development, local residents and Grimsargh Parish Council are very clearly strongly against this development and yet it continues.

However, we will not be bowed! And you showed that with the fantastic response to the second planning application – 252 objections made, compared to 72 against the first planning application. That is a spectacular response and against what might be expected with residents getting weary of the process.

## Wain Homes

We were very surprised to receive news of Wain Homes' application for 70 properties off Ribblesdale Drive back in August. Many of you came to the public meeting at the Village Hall and a great many of you made your views on this development known to Preston City Council also – 169 objections received. The proposals clearly fell foul of the "Area of Separation" policy and it was no great surprise to see that the City Planning Officer's recommendation was for refusal. The application was unanimously refused at the City's Planning Committee on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Whitefriars

This development proposal, from Pringle Homes is to demolish "Whitefriars" on Whittingham Lane and build 8 properties – similar to the neighbouring Silver Birches development. At the time of going to print, it is believed this application may be on the agenda for Preston City Council's Planning Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

## Fancy a Beer?

OK – so that's got your attention:

We will be providing beer (and other soft drinks and snacks) to anyone prepared to just give us a couple of hours helping with a spring tidy up in the Nellie Carbis Millenium Garden.

The beer will be *after* the work is complete....

**Saturday 5 April 2014**

**10.00 am until 1.00pm**

All equipment will be provided.

**If you can help please contact our Clerk, Sue Whittam on 01772 863477 or email [clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com).**



## Visit to JWS



The former Valpak recycling facility site on the Rough Hey estate was acquired by JWS earlier this year. Some of you may have noted that the large steel structure to the front of the site was removed – this was a condition of the acquisition.

There had been reports earlier this year of litter blowing over from the site onto The Hills estate. Our Clerk, Sue, contacted JWS to report the issue and we were pleasantly surprised by the response. They were most concerned to hear that there had been problems, explained that they had just taken over the site and invited the Parish Council to visit and find out more about what they do. A group of went there on the 12<sup>th</sup> August, were kitted out with statutory protective clothing and given a comprehensive tour. It was surprisingly informative – seeing how the various waste materials are handled, classified and sorted. They have

installed vapour curtains to endeavour to retain odours within the site. Now – you know those milk cartons we perhaps don't always rinse thoroughly before putting in the recycling bins? We got to understand the impact of that.....

The new management there stressed that they are striving to do all they can to minimise any impact on the neighbours and to also turn the site around into being economically viable. If anyone has any issues to raise with them, they can call Kelly Walsh, the Quality Environment Health & Safety Advisor on 01772 791791.

## Welcome to the New Look Website!



**GRIMSARGH PARISH COUNCIL**

Quick Edit Edit This Page Manage Website Help

**Home**  
Latest News  
Our Work  
Our Village  
Contact Us

### Welcome to Grimsargh Parish Council Online

We hope this site will provide a useful link between the Parish Council and the Grimsargh community we serve, as well as a reliable source of information about local groups and events.

Browse through the site using the menu on the left to find key information about your Parish Council, what we do and how you can get involved in your community.

#### Latest News

**Wain Homes Update**  
Wain Homes application goes to Planning Committee 4th November.  
[Read more »](#)

**Lock It Or Lose It!**  
It is an old crime-prevention message, but one that needs shouting loud and clear in Grimsargh....  
[Read more »](#)

**Grimsargh Village Hall is Thirty!**  
And it all started out when the Parish Council called a meeting back in 1971, a full 12 years before the Hall opened.....

Our website is hosted on the “Voice” platform, which is available free to community groups and is *relatively* easy to use by amateurs. It is also used by Grimsargh Village Hall, Toddler Group and a number of other organisations in the region. The only negative is the limitation of the available standard layout “templates” which meant our site was looking similar, if not identical to many others. It is possible to move away from the standard templates, but that requires knowledge above and beyond that of our current web-editor, Councillor Murray!

Hence we talked to Sally Gorton of “Bang the Drum consulting”, who lives in Grimsargh. Sally did a bit of a re-vamp of the look of the site, giving it a more contemporary feel and also laid things out differently, making navigation simpler.

We love the new look – utilising a cameo of the mosaic on the Green and it is also set to span correctly across different screen sizes – desktop, laptop and tablet.

There is a great deal of information available on the website. What you see in the Newsletters only gives a snapshot of what we do throughout the year. If you’re really curious, you can read all the minutes of our meetings on there! Latest News gives updates on things like major planning applications, crime alerts, etc. Don’t forget that we also have a Facebook Page.

## Community Safety – Are you Making it Easy for the Crooks?

There is a real spate of theft in Grimsargh at the moment – and almost **all** of it is from unsecured premises – unlocked sheds, cars and even houses. The police have been carrying out special operations in the village and have been, frankly, shocked to discover so many open doors and to also spot a large number of known criminals in the area. It seems word is spreading that Grimsargh is a soft touch!



We have recently formed a Community Safety Working Group to look into ways of improving safety from crime in the village. They will be looking at CCTV and other measures. However – the easiest way to put a stop to the current crime spree is for us all to just be more sensible about locking our doors.

The police are planning to hold a "Grimsargh Day of Action" on Saturday 14th December, 10am - 2pm on the Village Hall car Park. There will be various crime-prevention items being given out and also the Dog Warden is coming along to chip dogs - all for FREE!

## Redrow Residents Association Update By Terri Whitehouse

Redrow Residents Association is a small group of local residents who meet occasionally to see how they can make the estate a better place to live. We don't claim to make a huge difference and we don't have a massive budget to spend - but we do have some influence. We can shout very loud. For example, we arranged for the creation of the hibernaculum on the 'estate pond' at the end of last year.

This year we have secured a rubbish bin for the estate which will be installed in the same area – and we thank Grimsargh Parish Council for their support. It may not sound like much but believe it or not these bins cost £500.00 each to install and maintain, and we had to 'jump through hoops' to get one. We think it will help keep the estate a little tidier and an even nicer place to live.

If you want to lend a hand we would be delighted to welcome you. If you have ambitious plans for changing the estate we suggest you head for the parish council or the city council instead. But - if you are little more grounded and think that perhaps the grass verges could do with cutting back more frequently – or if you have some ideas for what to do with the open space at the rear of the Village Hall, then come along we would love to meet you.

The next meeting is in January 2014. Contact: [tmwhitehouse@hotmail.com](mailto:tmwhitehouse@hotmail.com) for the date, time and venue.

## Missing Gate - Carbis Avenue / Blackleach Avenue

The long standing saga of the missing gate at the end of the public footpath leading from Carbis Avenue to Blackleach Avenue has now been resolved. Lancashire County Council has erected two wooden bollards which should now prevent vehicles from using the linked footway as a short-cut whilst maintaining access for people with disabilities, push chairs, and maintenance purposes.

The local Police and residents have had concerns about this missing gate since it was removed for repair and was never put back. Redrow Residents Association and Grimsargh Parish Council have pursued these concerns and finally it has been resolved.



## Our New Parish Councillor – Daniel Dewhurst



Daniel Dewhurst, a student from the University of Central Lancashire, was co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September, becoming one of the UK's youngest Councillors. Dan is currently studying Politics & History with the ambition of one day working in Defence.

Dan was inspired to join after Preston City Councillor Tom Davies approached him to stand following the County Elections last May. He said: "when I heard about the vacancy I put my name forward without hesitation, I wanted to give something back to the community and this is the best way."

At 19, Councillor Dewhurst is the most certainly the youngest Councillor for Grimsargh, but it is unknown who is the UK's youngest Councillor. Until June 2011 residents in the UK had to be 21 years old to become a town Councillor, but the age was lowered to 18 following the General Election.

Dan said: "I am not sure I am the youngest, but certainly one of the youngest Councillors in the county. I was glad to see there was no concern about my age. In fact, present Councillors seemed more excited than myself to have a young individual on the Parish Council. Although I am the youngest, my age will not affect my performance. It is beneficial to have equal representation, to ensure everyone in society is listened to, including young voters."

## Friends of Grimsargh Green Annual Report By Joyce Chessell, Chair of FoGG

Looking back over the last year, FOGG has seen the fulfilment of the plans developed at the last AGM.

To commemorate the QE11 playing field award registration No 1411QE the FOGG committee, in collaboration with the Parish Council, held a sports day in May on the village green. Sadly due to the inclement weather attendance was poor. However for those children and adults who braved the rain it was a spectacular, fun filled afternoon. QE11 gold, silver, and bronze medals were presented to the successful competitors in all races (none more competitive than the adults I hasten to add). A time capsule containing all the names of the children in Alston Lane R/C and St Michaels C/E schools was buried behind the mosaic on the village green. An oak sapling was also planted on the corner of the green. We are still awaiting the plaque commemorating the QE11 status award. A vote of thanks was paid to all those people involved in organising, helping and participating in the event, especially Liz Hindley.

The car park has had further drains installed and resurfacing has taken place. An ornate barrier has been positioned so as to prevent access by large vehicles. We hope you agree it is not only a lovely feature on the village green. Many of you will recall the previous state of the car and now that it has been resurfaced, hopefully the barrier will act to protect it for some time to come. It is a public car park and as such we can only do our best to limit its use by unsuitable vehicles.



Drainage of the football pitch was discussed at a meeting with the parks department at Preston City Council and the funding needed to cover the cost is £26,000 plus VAT. Unfortunately very little progress has been made since the initial meeting but the FOGG committee have this on their agenda to actively pursue this in the coming months.

On a more positive note the village green receives an outstanding level 5 award in the Britain in Bloom neighbourhood competition. Some of this is due to Tony Cookson, his wife, Diane and other friends and lots of bulbs in the small wooded area adjacent to Whittingham Road. We are at the time of writing this report waiting for the results of this year's competition. However during this year's judging we did receive some comments about litter and doggy poo and FOGG would urge users of the green to please take it home with you or use the bins provided.

Three new seats have been installed around the perimeter of the green thanks to grants from Green Partnership awards and the local members grant.

The dedication of the committee has once again been evidenced by their achievements over the past year and I would like to thank them for all their hard work. The committee were invited to a strawberry tea by the Parish Council in recognition of their achievements.

Fundraising continues with grants from LCC and Green partnership awards. The Parish Council have also made a grant of £1,000 towards the drainage of the football field. A fundraising night was organised by FOGG towards the Sports Day event with an interesting presentation on the Dick Kerrs Ladies football team, arousing nostalgic memories and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Future Plans under consideration include the drainage of the football pitch, and general maintenance of the green. Volunteers are always welcome to help with such things as clearing the pond, weaving and cutting the willow, picking litter and organising fund raising activities or any other particular skill or idea you may have.

Should you be interested in volunteering for one off activities or joining the committee please contact one of the following people

Tony Cookson	Tel: 651303	Email: <a href="mailto:cookson.tony.58@hotmail.co.uk">cookson.tony.58@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Peter Croft	Tel: 652037	Email: <a href="mailto:peter@croft216orangehome.co.uk">peter@croft216orangehome.co.uk</a>
Joyce Chessell	Tel: 653751	Email: <a href="mailto:chessell931@btinternet.com">chessell931@btinternet.com</a>

It just remains for me to say a big thank you to all those people who have helped and supported us during the past year.



## Spotlight On: Grimsargh Toddlers by Sally Gorton

Grimsargh Toddlers Playgroup has fulfilled an important community role, running twice-weekly stay-and-play sessions for local families in Grimsargh Village Hall, since 1983.

We are a community-run not-for-profit organisation - operated by a small team of parents and carers from within the village. We aim to provide a welcoming, safe, sociable and stimulating play environment for babies and children up to school-age. Just as importantly, we offer local parents, grandparents and other carers of young children the chance to meet people in the same situation as themselves in an informal and supportive setting.

Our group is funded almost entirely through the regular contributions of attending families, fundraising events and generous donations from private individuals and organisations such as Grimsargh Parish Council. Families are asked to pay £2 per family for each session they attend, as a contribution to overheads such as rent and snacks.

Earlier this year, Grimsargh Toddlers was hugely grateful to receive a donation of £424 towards our operating costs from Grimsargh Village Shop and Post Office - after they kindly hosted a successful Cheese and wine tasting event on our behalf. We were also pleased to celebrate our (and the Village Hall's) 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the October half-term break by hosting a fabulous Birthday Party with a special cake, bouncy castle and face painting.

Grimsargh Toddlers meets twice every week during term time – Tuesdays 1pm-3pm and Fridays 9:30am-11:30am - and each Friday during school holidays.

Each session involves of 2 hours play, with a juice and snack break and tea/coffee for adults. We have plenty of toys and equipment available for children of all ages, including a safe baby den, little world toys, dressing up, active/ride-on toys and crafts. About 15-minutes before the end of each session, we encourage everyone – including the children – to pitch in for 'tidy-up time' before we enjoy a sing-along and farewell together.

We're always looking to welcome new families to our sessions and volunteers to our team. Please feel free to drop-in to any one of our meetings or contact us at Email: [grimsarghtoddlers@googlemail.com](mailto:grimsarghtoddlers@googlemail.com). We also regularly post news and updates on forthcoming events on our website ([www.grimsarghtoddlers.org.uk](http://www.grimsarghtoddlers.org.uk)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/grimsarghtoddlers](http://www.facebook.com/grimsarghtoddlers)).



Grimsargh Toddlers



## Dog Mess – It's Not Funny

All those out of you out there who are responsible dog owners will no doubt hate just as much as everyone else when another dog owner cannot be bothered to look after their animal (and what they leave behind) properly. It is a shame that we have had a number of quite severe incidents recently of dogs being allowed to roam freely, leaving their mess behind them, without any apparent care from the owner.

We have had an excellent response from our local policing team, who view such matters very seriously. All dog owners should also

be aware that dog waste can be put in **any** public bin in our area – not only the small black dog waste bins.

Dog waste is not only an extremely unpleasant and unwelcome commodity it is also the perfect breeding ground for bacteria (Campylobacter and Salmonella) and other forms of infection.

The most damaging of these is caused by the roundworm *Toxocara canis*. The eggs of this parasite are present in much dog waste and although initially not infectious, once the eggs hatch they pose serious health risks to any individual unlucky enough to ingest infected soil.

The effects of Toxocariasis range from mild flu like symptoms that often go undiagnosed to a more worrying form that affects the eye and can lead to permanent blindness.

So those are the risks for the "victims" of dog fouling. The risk for the guilty party is a £50 fixed penalty notice, with the possibility of a court case and up to £1,000 fine.

**The message is simple – it's your (dog's) mess – clear it up!!**

## In Brief

### Carols Around the Crib

Each year there is a short service of carols and readings held at the Crib, by the Post Office. This year it will be on Friday 13th December, 6.30pm. It is followed by tea and mince pies in the Club – everyone is welcome to attend.

### Your Group in the Spotlight?

If you would like your Community Group or project to feature in "Spotlight On" in a future Newsletter, please contact Sue Whittam, our Clerk.

### Christmas Tree Thank You

Many thanks, to Alan Coar for providing and Browns Garage for hosting our Village Christmas Tree again this year. It does provide a lovely central focal point for our festive decorations.



## Your Parish Council Contact Details

Peter Burton - 01772 797565  
peterh.burton@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Joyce Chessell - 01772 653751  
joyce.chessell@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Lynda Cryer (Joint Vice-Chairman)  
01772 794862  
lynda.cryer@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Daniel Dewhurst - 07516 557096  
dan.dewhurst@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Andy Ellis - 01772 653642  
andy.ellis@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

David Hindle - 01772 652090  
david.hindle@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Lynn McCann - 01772 704682  
lynn.mccann@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Eileen Murray (Chairman) - 01772 655812  
eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

David Nicholson (Joint Vice-Chairman)  
01772 798896  
david.nicholson@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

## Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Sue Whittam  
3 Hazelmere Road  
Fulwood  
Preston  
PR2 9UN  
01772 863477  
clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com

**To send an email to all of us – use:**  
all@grimsarghparishcouncil.org