



Grimsargh Parish Council Newsletter

June 2013

QEII Status Celebrations - Soggy – but Still Smiling!



The weather wasn't kind, but a number of families turned out for the event on the 12th May to celebrate Grimsargh Green achieving QEII Status – which will give it added protection to be retained as a recreational ground in perpetuity. There was a "Mini-Olympics" organised by "Leaping" Liz Hindley, complete with medals ceremony, planting of an oak sapling from a Royal estate and the burial of a time capsule containing the names of the children from both schools who contributed to the mosaics for Preston Guild 2012. The event was organised jointly by Grimsargh Parish Council and the Friends of Grimsargh Green and received a grant of £100 from the John Farrington Trust towards the costs.

Pictured above: Elena Hartley, Holly Hindley, George Baylis, Harry Burton, Max Baylis, Kirsty McCann.

Hallam – and so it goes on.....

Well, we really thought that the wonderful news of the planning appeal being dismissed would have been the end of the Hallam proposal – at least for a while. So it was with great surprise that we learned that they had submitted a case to the High Court in which they claim that legal errors were made, such as to require the decision to be quashed and the appeal remitted for redetermination. This is a highly unusual move and we can but await the outcome – expected about the time these Newsletters are being delivered. Check our website for the "Latest News".

A new planning application has also been submitted – with a further reduction in the number of houses proposed – this time 100 (down from 143). It is our contention that no development on that particular site would be acceptable. We maintain that, amongst other factors against this development, it would be entirely contradictory to Policy 19 of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy which seeks to "Protect the identity and local distinctiveness of certain settlements and neighbourhoods by designation of Areas of Separation and Major Open Space, to ensure that those places at greatest risk of merging will be protected."

We received fantastic feedback to our leafleting campaign a couple of weeks ago and we believe a significant number of residents submitted objections to this latest proposal.

Fingers crossed.....again!

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Best Kept Village – it could be us!

Do you want to help improve our village? Do you like getting involved as part of a community? Then the Best Kept Village Working Group could be for you!

We have a lot of things to be proud of in our village but equally we all know there are things we could improve. The judges of the Best Kept Village Competition highlighted last year some areas for improvement and if we want to stand a chance of winning this competition we should work together to bring Grimsargh up to the standard needed.

We are looking to form a small group of residents/Parish Councillors and those with a genuine interest in Grimsargh to look at the judges' report from last year, develop an action plan and implement improvements. We are not entering the Best Kept Village Competition this year but are going to concentrate on working together to tackle the improvements necessary. So if you are interested please contact Sue Whittam, Clerk to the Council on 01772 863477 or email Sue: clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Redrow Residents Association by David Nicholson

We are a group of people who all live on the Redrow Estate, Grimsargh. Redrow Residents Association has been in existence for over 12 months now, is fully constituted, and has just held its first Annual General Meeting in March 2013. The list of Trustees for this year is as follows:

Chairman - Terry Whitehouse; Secretary - Mandy Coupe ; Treasurer - David Nicholson
Trustees: Brian Ashworth, Diane Ashworth, Diana Lindsay, Ron Smith, Andy Whitehouse

After a very successful year of improvements to the upkeep of the estate in the form of litter picking, regular grass cutting, etc, we are informed that the hand-over and adoption of the estate is imminent.

Our grateful thanks must go to our retiring Chairman, Frank Almond, and our retiring Secretary, Liz Hindley, for all their hard work over the past year.

Neighbourhood Watch

All the estate is now covered by a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Our co-ordinator is Mandy Coupe who circulates the alerts from the local Police regarding crime in the area to those on our email database. Whilst this does not necessarily prevent crime, it certainly helps to keep the level of recorded crime on the estate to a minimum.

Waste Bins

We are in the process of requesting more general waste bins and dog waste bins for the area. One consideration is for them to be dual purpose rather than separate. Another consideration has to be where to site them, so if you have any ideas please contact us with your suggestions.

Pond Area

We have been successful in obtaining a £500 grant from Green Partnership Awards to have additional planting to the pond area on the corner of Swarbrick Avenue and Douglas Lane. There was a tidy up of the area on Saturday 11th May, which was very well attended. This was followed on Monday 13th May by the planting and building of a Hibernaculum which took place with a group of Conservation Volunteers, assisted by the local Girl Guide Group. See photos below.



Parking Issues:-

There are concerns by residents over the indiscriminate parking of vehicles by some residents who do not use their driveway and park their vehicles unnecessarily on the narrow roads of the estate. This is of concern to the local Police who have received various complaints of the footpaths being obstructed, driveways being obstructed/blocked and vehicles being double parked near to blind corners. If you can, please use your driveways to avoid any prosecution and/or accident. Remember, the emergency services do need unrestricted access as well.

Covenants:-

We wish to remind residents that the following covenants apply to all properties on the Redrow Estate whether those properties be owned or rented:-

- No commercial vehicle the overall carrying capacity of which exceeds six hundred kilograms (600kg) shall be parked overnight or permitted or suffered to be parked overnight on the Plot or on the road adjacent to the Plot or on any other roads on the estate.
- No boats, trailers, or caravans shall be parked or permitted or suffered to remain on the Plot in advance of the building line or so as to be visible from any road on the Estate.

Next Meeting:-

Our next meeting will be Thursday 13th June 2013 at 8.00pm in the small hall, Grimsargh Village Hall. All welcome.

If you are interested in finding out more about us, please come along to our meeting, or contact our Secretary: Mandy Coupe:- Tel: 07753 115653, email: coupem53@gmail.com .

Thanks for the Photos - More Please!



Who can recognise this historical view in Grimsargh?

Photo courtesy of John Nuttall



Tame robins around here!

Photo courtesy of Carol Watkinson

Thanks to Carol Watkinson and John Nuttall for sending in photos, two of which are featured above. Others can now be viewed on the website. We would like to continue to add more – either of beautiful scenes, particular events during the year, or past-times. We will continue to feature one or two of the best received in future editions of the Newsletter. If you have any particular shots you think would be of interest, please email to: eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org. Thank you!

Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG) by Joyce Chessell

Since the last newsletter FoGG has continued to meet regularly to continue the work on the green. Three new seats are ready to install around the perimeter of the green. However, being made from recyclable material, they are quite heavy and so need a concrete base. The weather has played a big part in delaying the process of installation, but we hope to have them in place shortly.

The barrier is in place and will be painted black in due course. We have encountered a problem with a large van getting stuck under the barrier so do beware and check the height of your vehicle to the height of the barrier. We have also received complaints about the use of the car park by vehicles from the building site opposite. Although we acknowledge the car park was constructed largely for the use of people using the play area, unfortunately it is deemed a public car park and there is little we can do to stop others parking there.

In March FoGG, in conjunction with the Parish Council held a slide show commemorating the Dick Kerr's Ladies Football team. It was a very interesting and enjoyable evening with the proceeds going towards the costs of the Family Picnic and "Mini-Olympics" held on May the 12th.

Tony successfully recruited a number of volunteers to help with planting bulbs around the wooded area of the village green, adjacent to Whittingham Lane. The FoGG committee would like help to clear the bullrushes in the pond, so will be looking for assistance in the near future. Indeed we are always glad of help from residents who may feel they do not wish to join a committee but would enjoy helping out from time to time.

Some progress has been made regarding the drainage of the football pitch, which will cost in the region of £26,000 to reinstate to a playable field. A meeting has been arranged with Preston City Council to discuss the way forward and hopefully we will have some good news for the next edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. It will need some serious fundraising and bids for grants for this goal to be achieved.

It only remains for me to thank all the people who have supported the latest events and the FoGG committee. Should you wish for more information on how you can support FoGG by helping in the various activities: for example: setting up a junior football team, helping out, joining our small committee or making a donation towards the drainage of the football pitch; please contact any of the committee members.

FoGG Committee members:

Joyce Chessell:	Phone: 01772 653751, email: chessell931@btinternet.com
Peter Croft	Phone: 01772 652037, email: peter@croft216.orangehome.co.uk
Tony Cookson	Phone: 01772 651303, email: tony.cookson58@hotmail.co.uk

Conservation Area Status – Consultation Results

In answer to the question "Do you agree with the principle of a designated conservation area in our village?" the responses were as follows

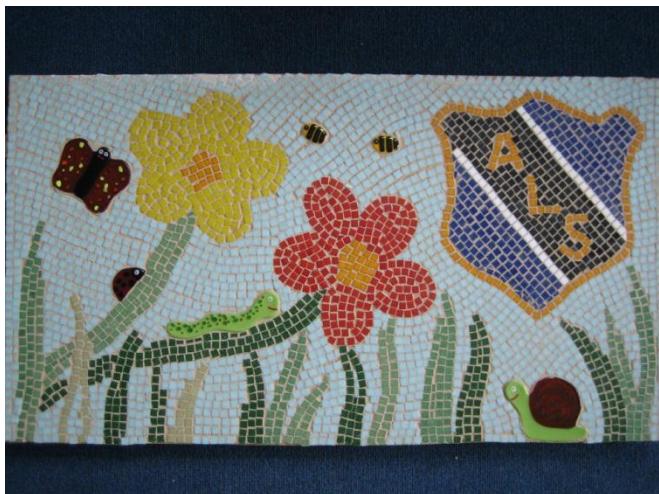
Residency of respondent	Yes	No	Total
Within Conservation Area proposal	52	57	109
Adjacent to Conservation Area proposal	29	9	38
Other	14	6	20
Totals	95	72	167

These results were forwarded to Preston City Council.

The John Farrington Trust by Joyce Chessell

As the Parish Council representative on the John Farrington Trust I felt it would be useful to remind residents of the purpose of the trust and who can apply for a grant. The trust which is a registered charity covers the Ribbleton, Grimsargh, Goosnargh, Houghton, Whittingham, parts of Longridge and the Fulwood areas. Applicants must be under the age of 25 years, live in one of the above areas (for at least 2 years) and must require the grant for an educational purpose. The application can be made in the form of a letter outlining your personal details, educational history, course/project details, the cost of the course and how it will benefit you or your organisation and what the money will be used for. Small amounts are made available if the application is successful. Letters should be addressed to Vic Johnson for consideration by the committee. Vic's contact details are: 35, Ribblesdale Drive, Grimsargh, PR2 5RJ.

Groups may also apply and these are considered on merit. An example of grants awarded is to our two local schools: the money given was put towards the mosaics the schools made to commemorate Preston Guild (pictured below).



Alston Lane School Mosaic



St Michaels' School Mosaic

Open Gardens 2014

Following its success during the 'Grimsargh Celebrates Preston Guild', we are exploring the idea of repeating the Grimsargh Open Gardens event in July 2014.

Those who took part last year said they really enjoyed the experience.

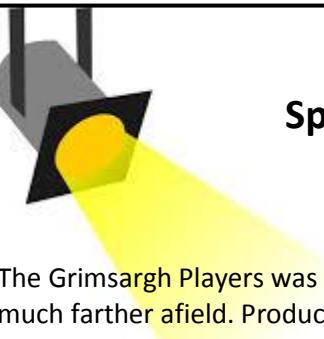
If anyone is interested in opening their garden (or would just like to consider the possibility!) please contact Pat Tucker by email at patricia.tckr@yahoo.co.uk.

GPC Small Grants Scheme

Is Your Group a Deserving Local Cause?

Grimsargh Parish Council will consider applications for small grants from local community groups and deserving causes. The application process is quite simple – a form can be downloaded from our website – see the bottom of the page “About Your Parish Council” or contact Sue, our Clerk – details on back page.





Spotlight On: Grimsargh Players by Kath Longworth

The Grimsargh Players was formed in 1947, originally by and for local people, but now has a membership from much farther afield. Productions used to be staged in what older residents will remember as the Unitarian Chapel which stood at the corner of Lyndale Avenue.

Moving to Preston Playhouse, Market Street West, we now perform two full-length plays each year in March and November and a one-act play at the Playhouse Festival each June.

It has long been our aim to bring more drama to the Village, and to this end we have taken part in the Field Day celebrations and put on an evening of entertainment at the Village Hall each June. This year our evening will be on Friday 28th June at the Village Hall, 7.30pm:

'Cakes and Ale' - a fun-filled evening, to include a performance of 'Last Tango in Grimsargh', an hilarious one-act play. Tickets will be available from 1st June, either by calling 07790081536 or from the Post Office, price £7 to include tea, coffee and cake.....ale available separately from the bar!

We are always looking to recruit new members, whether acting, backstage or front of house. If you are interested in drama we would be delighted to meet you. For more details contact our Honorary Secretary Jane Rawkins on 07854 799159 or email janerawkins4gps@gmail.com.

Grimsargh Players have now adopted the large square planter on the Village Green, so here's hoping for a good summer!

New Walk on the Website

Cow Hill Round

This is a lovely simple walk, perfect for a post Sunday-lunch stroll.

It offers delightful views over the open countryside to the south and east of St Michaels' Church and reveals some charming hidden footbridges.

You can view the old railway line from an aspect you might not be used to, gaze across to Longridge Fell and maybe even say "hello" to some friendly cows!

See the website – page "Walks Around Grimsargh".



Post Office Support to Grimsargh Toddlers



Grimsargh Toddlers

Grimsargh Village Shop and Post Office is hosting a fundraising evening in support of Grimsargh Toddlers on Sunday 9th June 7-10pm, Grimsargh Village Hall.

There will be a number of fine wines to taste, alongside a selection of local cheeses. Admission is £3 with all funds raised going to this local good cause.

If you want to know more – bob in to the shop and ask Rowan or Mary!

Grimsargh Wetlands by David Hindle

Grimsargh Wetlands (former reservoirs) is an important wildlife resource and facility for the local and wider community. The three decommissioned reservoirs have always been known as Grimsargh No's 1, 2 and 3 with Grimsargh No 1 being the most westerly and No3 at the eastern extreme. Access and viewing is gained from the public footpath which crosses over the causeway bisecting wetlands 2 and 3. The remainder of the site remains private property which benefits endangered breeding birds and the wealth of flora and fauna.

Grimsargh Reservoir's legacy is that of an officially designated Biological Heritage Site, worthy of consideration as a future local nature reserve and educational resource. In the long term habitat could be improved, with the propagation of a phragmites reed bed and more shallow pools thereby attracting more invertebrates, fish and amphibians which in turn should attract animals higher up the food chain such as reed warblers, water rail, migratory marsh harriers and perhaps even winter visiting bitterns.

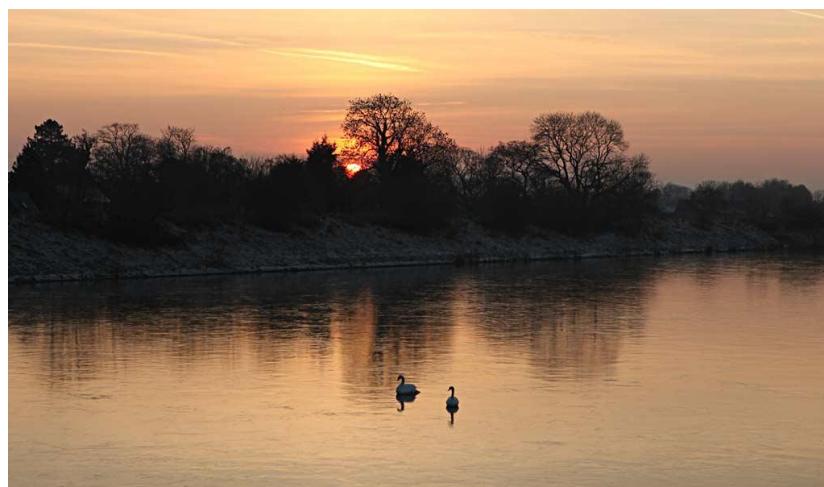
Nevertheless, the wetlands are in an attractive state for wildlife and incorporate an especially interesting habitat mosaic of fen and open water with an established colony of sedge warblers and reed buntings. There is a large expanse of shallow open water incorporating two islands where several species of waders including the charismatic lapwing, common sandpiper, oyster catcher, redshank, mute swan, Canada goose, shelduck, mallard, tufted duck, waterhen and coot successfully rear their young.

Amazingly over one hundred and thirty species of birds have been recorded including uncommon species such as spotted crake, water rail, black tern, Slavonian and black-necked grebes, osprey, hobby, red kite, honey buzzard, goshawk, black tailed godwit, whimbrel, ruff, greenshank, brent goose, snow goose, long tail duck, common scoter, scaup, ruddy shelduck, smew and even avocet.

The flash of blue provided by a kingfisher is sometimes a delight to witness during the winter months while during summer evenings vast numbers of swallows, swifts, sand martins and house martins fly relentlessly over the wetlands catching abundant insects and Canada geese are extremely vocal as they leave their reservoir roost and seek a quiet stretch of the Ribble for the day. Significantly the adoption of reservoir two as a roost site for migrating whimbrel led to numbers reaching a peak of 202 on the 1st May, 2010 and more recently 90 in May, 2013

Unimproved grasslands on Grimsargh reservoir embankments support a rare meadowland flora that is representative of a type of grassland under threat in Britain and reflected by the recording of eighty species of wildflowers. No 1 reservoir provides habitat for several species of dragonfly including Anax imperator and Orthetrum cancellatum. The embankments also attract up to 14 species of butterflies. The smaller mammalian contingent comprises of pygmy and common shrew and the wood mouse which in turn provide prey for kestrels and barn owl. At dusk noctule bats fly over the banks and are joined by Daubentons (water) bats skimming the surface of the water and pipistrelle and long-eared bats. The fen area and shallow pools is a haven for amphibians. Smooth newt, common frog and common toad occur and the endangered and specially protected great crested newt is also present.

Our village is unique in having a wildlife haven of this calibre within its parameters and there is no doubt that the creation of a new wetland for Lancashire's wildlife is indeed an exciting prospect for current and future generations.



Photograph taken last winter by John Nuttall.

In Brief

Extended Opening Hours for the Post Office

From 1st July, the Grimsargh Post Office counter hours will be extended to run 8am - 6.30pm Mon-Fri and 8am – 4pm Saturday. So now it will be convenient for many more people who work, to post parcels, use the “Local Collect” delivery option or other Post Office counter services.

Happy Gardening!

Good luck to all our Planter Adoptive Parents – we will be in touch soon regarding this year’s competition. Good luck to everyone else with their gardening – what will this summer bring.....?

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.

Are You Alice Kell's Grand-Daughter?

If so – Gail Newsham (who gave the Dick-Kerr Ladies Slide Show in the Village Hall) would very much like to talk to you again – you can phone her on 01772 696957.

Your Parish Council

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