



GRIMSARGH WETLANDS UPDATE

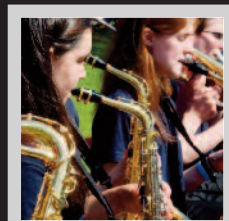
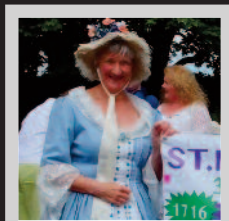
At the time of writing this article everything is very much “in the air”!

United Utilities lodged an appeal against the City Council’s Planning Committee’s refusal of their original application that, if successful, would have resulted in the site being handed over to the Parish Council. In addition they have submitted a new, second planning application – exactly the same as the original in terms of the proposal, though with some updated supporting documentation.

Preston City Council recently extended the number of houses within a scheme for it to be determined delegated authority to 30. So we expected that this application would be considered and determined by a Planning Officer. However, we learned that the application had been “called in” by a Senior Officer and will therefore have to go to the full Planning Committee. It is likely that this will go/have gone to the Committee on Thursday 9th June. We have been given a date for the Appeal Hearing of 28th June. Public support at these events is always extremely welcome and, we are advised, influential. Watch our Facebook Page and website for confirmation and updates on timings.

We would like to extend a very big “Thank You!” for the tremendous support we have received for this project over the past few months. If you’re not already following it, we strongly recommend the Grimsargh Wetlands Facebook Page. The photographs and commentary on daily goings on at the site are absolutely delightful.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



IS DOG FOULING ON THE INCREASE?

A number of people have approached us to complain about increasing levels of dog fouling in the village – pavements, grassed areas and footpaths. And we have noticed it ourselves.

Why you should ALWAYS clear up promptly after your dog:

Dog waste is not only an extremely unpleasant and unwelcome commodity – try cleaning it off the wheels of a scooter at the end of the school run – but 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. Why risk it when there are bins well placed throughout the village?

Most dog owners are responsible and do clear up after their dog. Sometimes one may genuinely not have spotted when the dog has “been” – many people will feel confident enough to help them out there and point it out.....some may not.

Sooooo.....please ensure that you always clear up immediately after your dog. There is no excuse for not doing so. Help us to identify any culprits who are failing to be good neighbour and who are also breaking the law.

If you are aware that someone is persistently offending, then the responsible thing to do is to report them – firstly to Preston City Council, and if they are unable to do anything, to the police (contact details given below).

To those dog owners who are less careful, the message is simple:

IT'S YOUR (DOG'S) MESS – CLEAR IT UP!!

Preston City Council online – complete the report a street cleaning problem form call – 01772 906909

Or Contact PCSO David Reid at Broughton Police Station on 863390 or by email david.reid@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

On another doggy issue.....we have also received complaints about people leaving their dogs barking either in their houses or gardens.....so please let us all be good neighbours and responsible pet owners.....



CCTV PROJECT

As you will be aware, Grimsargh Village has operated a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for a number of years. This scheme has been supported by the Rural Police section, based at Broughton Police station. The Police regularly attend Parish Council meetings in the Village hall, where they update the Parish Council on crime statistics within the Village so that the Parish Council can decide on what remedial action can be provided to assist the Police.

At one of these Parish Council meetings, it was highlighted that the Village would benefit from having CCTV coverage of the Village. This was deemed by the Parish Council as an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and would greatly assist any Police investigation.

The use of CCTV in Villages such as Grimsargh is not unusual, as the Village of Goosnargh have operated such a system for a number of years now, which has proved very beneficial both to the Village and to the Police.

As such, the Parish Council took the decision to install a CCTV system, which will cover Grimsargh Village and this project is now very close to completion.

The Parish Council, in conjunction with the Police, will see what effect on crime prevention/detection within the Village this new system has with a view to possible extension of the system to cover more parts of the Village in the future.

No member of the Public or any Parish Councillor will have access to any of the images being recorded. The images will only be viewed by the Police via a secure network, to which only the Police have access, as part of a criminal investigation.

Should anyone feel uneasy about the possibility of their image being captured, then they can contact the Police and request that their image is deleted for which there is a charge. However, deletion of the image is not possible when a crime has been detected on the footage.

If you need any further information on this project please contact Councillor Terry Cryer who has been coordinating this project on behalf of the Parish Council.

GRIMSARGH FIELD DAY



This year Grimsargh's Field Day will take place on Saturday 25th June. We urge everyone in the village to get involved so that once again Grimsargh's Field Day is the crème de la crème. The new Rose Queen, 11 year old Heidi Thompson, attends Alston Lane School; she is really looking forward to her special day. As always, Grimsargh's Rose Queen and her retinue, together with resplendent Rose Queens from neighbouring villages, will assemble at the Village Hall Car Park between 12pm and 1pm in preparation for the procession, which will depart at 1pm. The Fancy Dress entrants should also meet at The Village Hall Car Park between 12pm and 1pm. In addition, if you would like to enter a float, or if you would like to enter a vintage car in the procession, then you need to assemble in the playground at Alston Lane School between 12pm and 1pm. Judging will take place prior to the procession.

The Committee Needs You...

If you are able to help in any way, marshalling the procession, manning a stall or helping The Committee to set up on the morning of Field Day, please contact Keith Middlebrough on 07795527429. We desperately need volunteers to help on the day. If you can spare a few hours, we can guarantee that you will have a lot of fun, make new friends, as well as enjoying a well-earned bacon butty!

• STALLS

If you would like to book a stall, please contact Neil on 077870581283 or Calum on 07724930705. Alternatively, you can email, grimsarghfieldday2016@gmail.com. This year the cost of a stall is a bargain £20.

• SCARECROWS

We hope that mums and dads, boys and girls will have great fun creating scarecrows in the week leading up to Field Day. This year's theme is, "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly". We hope that your scarecrows will not scare off any unsuspecting crows but add to the colourful, carnival atmosphere of the Field Day week. The scarecrows will be judged in the days leading up to Field Day.

• GLITTERING GRIMSARGH BALL

If you want a night to remember, dust down that dinner jacket and grab yourself a gorgeous gown, because The Great Grimsargh Ball is taking place at The New Drop on Saturday, 1st October. If you would like to reserve your place, please call Keith on 07795527429.

• ON THE DAY

Grimsargh Field Day 2016, once again promises to be a fantastic, family, fun- day out! We are excited to add a new band to the Field Day line-up, "The Avenue", as well as all the usual brass bands and Grimsargh's own amazing Community Choir. We're thrilled to announce that the Dog Display Team will be back in the arena, along with The Great Grimsargh Dog Show and the ever-popular Children's and Adults' races. With the Great Grimsargh Bake-Off set to return to Field Day, we hope that Grimsargh's aspiring Nigellas and Jamies will be inspired to whip up a delicious cake or two! There will be the usual stalls, donkeys, games, Junior Football Tournament, bouncy castles, burger-stalls, fairground rides and not forgetting the ever popular WI Tea Tent, giving you the opportunity to sit and chat over a nice cup of tea and a mouth-watering, homemade cake. What is not to like about Grimsargh Field Day? And finally, if you have any old crockery that you could donate for a stall, please contact Keith.

Please keep up to date with what is going on this year by visiting our website or Face Book page. We look forward to seeing you at Field Day 2016.....



SOLAR FARM DEVELOPS ON VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS

All Grimsargh residents were aware of the works being carried out on the main road during February this year. Some of you were not aware that these were in connection with the development of a solar farm down behind (and not related to) John Turner's site.

There was a public consultation event back in February 2015 at which the majority view was in support of the scheme. The overall proposal consisted of two separate applications totalling a combined output in the region of 12MWp (megawatt "peak" - indicating the maximum power the plant could generate under optimum conditions). This is 3,000 times the size of a typical domestic installation.

Both applications were approved last year and the work commenced. In the meantime the original operator (TGC Renewables) was taken over by Anesco, who have scaled back the proposals considerably to just 2.9MWp. As part of that reduction the maximum height of the rows of panels has come down from 3m to 2.4m, making it less obtrusive.

There was an offer made by TGC Renewables to give the Parish Council an amount of money, per year, to be invested into the local community. Anesco has agreed to broadly honour this offer, proportionate to the reduced scale of the development in a one-off payment. So there is a sum of £27,500 coming to the Parish Council sometime soon, which we will be adding into our pot for community based projects. We will have more information about community based projects in our December newsletter.



Photos taken recently by Stephen Melling shows the extent of the development, so far. You can also see a video taken by Stephen earlier in the year, during the initial stages of build:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfZOECVJipl

COULD IT BE YOU?

We currently have one vacancy on our Parish Council, so if you feel that you would like to get involved then please our Clerk Sue Whittam. We usually meet on the first Thursday of every month, except for August when we do not have a meeting, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. So why not come along and find out more about the work we do!



LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2016

We have entered the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition again this year. In 2014, we were thrilled to be awarded the Hambleton Shield as runners up to Freckleton in the Large Village category, so we were a little disappointed to come only 6th last year after putting in lots of hard work but, undeterred, we look forward to beating that this year!

Judging will take place during June and July. We don't get any notice of the judging, so we need to be ready.

Judges will look at the whole village, and assess how well we keep it. It's often a misconception that it's all about floral displays - not so; it isn't a 'pretty village' competition. It's a judgement of how we look after our environment as whole - the absence of graffiti, weeds, dumped rubbish, animal droppings, litter etc., on our streets and pathways, our homes, and around our public buildings and areas such as the village green.

So please be extra vigilant and pick up and bin those offending items!

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

Did you know that Grimsargh Parish Council gives small grants to support worthwhile causes in the Parish? We are always pleased to hear from local groups that benefit the residents of Grimsargh and we will try and help where we can. We are also happy to support larger projects such as the joint project we have recently carried out with Rotary to link the Old Railway Walk to St Michael's School - we gave £2,090 to that project which has made a fantastic difference to the families and children walking to school. 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

GRIMSARGH ST. MICHAEL'S VERY SPECIAL YEAR



2016 marks a very special anniversary in the history of Grimsargh St. Michael's Church. As many of you may be aware, this is the church's 300 year anniversary. While the existing church is not 300 years old, there has been a place of worship on this spot for 300 years. The current church was rebuilt in 1840 and 1868, facilitated by the generous patronage of Ellen and William Cross of Red Scar mansion. To celebrate this anniversary, a committee of enthusiastic volunteers has organised a wide range of events throughout the year. We have organised a "Light-up Grimsargh" competition, David Hindle's book launch, "Archbishop Chamber Choir" concert, "Musica Opera Lirica" concert, a parish meal at the Italian Orchard, a special service at Brockholes and an organised walk to Grimsargh Wetlands. Furthermore, Kevan Thompson created an attractive calendar of the church and David Hindle has written an extremely interesting book on the church's history. The children of St. Michael's School have also been involved in the celebrations, planting 300 bulbs in the churchyard to celebrate this noteworthy year; in February the children also presented the Revd. Chris Halliwell with a fabulous historic time-line, which can be viewed in the church.

However, we still have many exciting events planned and we hope that the whole community will enjoy the concerts, walks and talks on offer. The fantastic "Grimsargh Community Choir" will be giving a concert on Saturday 4th June at 6pm in church. Tickets can be obtained on the door. On July Sunday 10th there will be a concert by the renowned "Aeolian Wind" Group in church at 3pm. Tickets are £9, £7 concessions and under 16s are free. The concert will be followed by a delicious cream tea. One of the highlights of the year will be the "Picnic on the Farm". This will take place at Anthony and Sally Cowell's farm on the afternoon of Sunday 17th July. There will be lots of fun and games, as well as fair ground attractions and much, much more. Tickets are priced at £10 per family and £5 per adult.

However, the main week of celebrations runs from Saturday 10th September until Sunday 18th September:

Saturday 10th September Setting up in church, community window displays, 10.00am in church.

Sunday 11th September Morning service, 10am in church, speaker, The Archdeacon. In the evening, a short history of the church in drama and music, 7.30pm in church.

Monday 12th September Organised walk around the village, led by David Hindle. Please meet at 6pm by the children's play area on the park.

Wednesday 14th September Mothers' Union, "Lancashire Evening".

Thursday 15th September Talk by Theresa Swan entitled, "The Oils of the Bible", 7.30pm in church.

Friday 16th September Talk by David Hindle, "Grimsargh, The History of a Lancashire Village", 7.30pm in church.

Saturday 17th September Ceilidh, 7.30pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Sunday 18th September Service led by The Bishop of Blackburn, 10am in church, followed by a buffet lunch.

In addition, later in the year, Friday 14th October, there will be a cheese and wine tasting evening in the village hall. On this occasion several original paintings of the church will be auctioned. Also, the children of Grimsargh St. Michael's School will be presented with a special commemorative pencil, engraved with an image of the church before the end of the Summer term. We hope that there is something to appeal to everyone. Please come and join our celebrations and look out for our stall at the Church Garden Party and Field Day as we will be selling special commemorative mugs, calendars, pens, pencils and books to celebrate our church and its work here in Grimsargh. If you require any more information about any of the events, please contact Jayne on 704112 or email jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk or join our Face Book group, "Grimsargh St. Michael's 300 Year Anniversary".



NIGEL HOLMES – MY LIFE WITH A WOGGLE!

It was no great surprise that Nigel got involved with the 1st Grimsargh Scout Group when he and his family moved into the village nearly 20 years ago. “I joined cubs at 8 and, other than a period in my teens and University when I was involved with the Royal Navy, I have been in Scouts all my life”. Nigel had led Cubs, Scouts and been a Group Scout Leader in London, “we even formed a Venture Scout Unit named after the late Eric Liddell, of Chariots of Fire Fame – his sister being guest of honour at the inaugural weekend.”

His first role in Grimsargh was as Group Chairman, “a very grand sounding title but in truth I spent most of my volunteering time with a team of other parents trying to keep the old wooden Scout Hut next to Alston Lane School fit for purpose”. When they started the hut was not weather tight, the pipes to the loos froze regularly (and then burst) and it was so cold the young people had to keep their coats on in the winter and there was ice on the inside of the glass. “We managed to install heating and insulation and the quality of the facilities took a significant step forward.”

Now the hut is home of the Alston Lane Pre & After School Club and Nursery as well as the Scout Group, “the local education authority have made significant improvements to what we had and we have a good relationship with the school, all of which makes the delivery of the Scouting programme across the age groups much easier.”

Having worked for some 15 years as a Cub Scout Leader Nigel has recently taken on the role of Group Scout Leader. “Now my role is to support the adult leaders, help in the delivery of the programme across all the sections and make sure we have the capability to sustain and grow our group”. There are 13 adult leaders and 6 young leaders working across the Group and “they are the heroes”. The numbers of young people continue to grow at Grimsargh, they have over 80 young people on their books and weekly attendance is over 95%..

“We do a huge number of activities, far too many to list but Camping, hiking, the outdoors and self-sufficiency are still very much at the heart of Scouting”

The Scout Association launched a new training programme last year which, across all age groups, is focused on the young people having the major say in shaping their Scouting. The target is to have 50% of all activities out doors and to continually challenge the members to learn new skills and take on new challenges. “And it is here we could really do with some more help” Nigel concludes, “we are always looking for new adult helpers and this can be from a full warranted leaders role through to an occasional helper who has a hobby or interest that can help broaden our programme. We need to be looking to open a second Beaver Colony and I need to build an Executive Committee for the Group that can help oversee our continued growth. In short if you have been interested enough to read this far we probably need you! “

So if you fancy helping out in just about any way imaginable on an occasional or more long term basis Nigel would love to hear from you. He can be contacted on 01772 785787 or by e-mail to nf.holmes@talktalk.net.



CRIME – HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

We are very fortunate to have excellent support from our community Police Officer Chris Banks and PCSO Dave Reid. One of them attends almost every Parish Council meeting to report on crimes for the month and to flag up risks and any patterns, which we often share on our Facebook page.

We are very pleased to tell you that recorded crimes in the village have fallen in the last 12 months from 87 to 66.

Of these, there were 44 ‘public’ crimes – 7 thefts, 5 criminal damage, 20 burglaries (the biggest reduction) and 12 vehicle crimes. While this is good news, even one crime is one too many, and we are hoping that our new CCTV system will be a further deterrent.

As an example, a neighbour mentioned to me last week that her husband had taken the dog for a walk, leaving the garage door open, a couple of weeks ago in the afternoon – they are in a quiet cul de sac, but his bike was gone when he returned. It’s this kind of opportunistic crime you can guard against easily – lock those house and garage doors and cars and keep valuables out of sight.

The LCC Road Safety Team is currently undertaking a survey with regard to reported speeding on Whittingham Lane and follow up action will be taken.

And finally, please be considerate when parking in the village, particularly near the local businesses. If you park with two wheels on the pavement and don’t leave enough room for a wheelchair user to pass on the inside – you risk a parking ticket for obstruction.

HOW COULD SOMEONE DESTROY SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE?



We were completely devastated to learn on 9th May that the Inspector's decision in the Gladman Developments Ltd. appeal against Preston City Council's decision not to grant outline planning permission for the development of up to 150 homes on the land on the corner of Preston Road and Elston Lane was to allow the appeal. This means that outline planning permission is granted, and Gladmans can now go ahead and market the site to a builder.

The Inspector's 35 page decision document went into minute detail on many aspects of planning law, national and local planning policy and took into account a very recent Court of Appeal judgement.

We don't believe we could have worked any harder to support Preston City Council in defending this case and despite the outcome we remain grateful to those residents who gave up a tremendous amount of their time to assist us. It was a real team effort.

******Latest News - It's not over yet folks - We have just heard that Preston City Council are going to challenge the Inspector's decision. This is good news for Grimsargh - Let's hope common sense prevails******

IMPORTANT CHARGING FOR GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS



Did you know that from 4 July 2016 your garden waste collection (brown bin) will be chargeable? So if you want to carry on having your garden waste collected you need to subscribe to the Preston City Council's chargeable service. If you sign up before the 19 June you will pay £20 to cover collections made between 4 July 2016 and 31 March 2017. If you sign up after the 19 June then the collection will cost £25.

You can either pay online at www.preston.gov.uk/gardenwaste or alternatively you can call 01772 906905. Your collection day should not change and everyone who subscribes to the service will receive a sticker for their bin. Please note that your garden waste bin can no longer be used for food waste. You can only use your brown bin for all compostable waste such as grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, cut flowers and weeds. For full details of what can be disposed of in your brown bin please check your collection calendar or visit; www.preston.gov.uk/gardenwaste for more information.

If you choose not to subscribe, your garden waste will no longer be collected and you will need to make alternative arrangements for its disposal. You will not be allowed to put your garden waste in your general waste bin and Preston City Council will not empty bins containing incorrect items.

ROTARY TO THE RESCUE!

About a year ago we learned that Lancashire County Council had been forced to abandon plans to link Old Railway Walk through to the Guild Wheel. The combination of severe budget cuts and an identified pipeline problem meant that the long awaited extension to Old Railway Walk that would take the schoolchildren of Grimsargh St Michael's CE school straight up to the rear entrance without having to go up on to Preston Road to cross just wouldn't happen in the foreseeable future, if ever.

Cue the cavalry! Longridge and North Preston Rotary Club offered to undertake the work themselves. With a grant of 50% of the cost from the Parish Council small grants scheme, the work began as soon as there was reasonably good weather in March and was finished in time for the children returning to school after Easter. Members of the Rotary Club did everything - clearing scrub, flattening the ground, laying the hardcore for the final tarmac.

Not only does this save time on the school journey but on the dangerously narrow pavements near Skew Bridge - particularly in winter - it may even save lives. Already there is a noticeable drop in traffic hold ups as fewer families need to cross at the school crossing.

Huge thanks go to the Rotary Club for coming to the rescue, and we look forward to working with them again on future projects.



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS

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