

Back at the beginning of the year, we were all watching the world news and beginning to feel apprehensive. Then in March – swiftly it seemed - everyday life changed for all of us. But as always, Grimsargh has adapted to that change, and to a new and different way of living.

Once we were in ‘lockdown’ it wasn’t long before we were contacted by resident Rachel Parker who set about organising a scheme to help anyone who was isolating with shopping, posting mail, picking up prescriptions or just a general chat, and pretty soon Rachel had a full team of volunteers covering the village. Our Vicar, Neil Salt, also has a small team of volunteers to help, where needed. In the meantime, Neil’s wife, recently retired palliative consultant Rev. Dr. Susan Salt, left her Fellside parish and returned to work at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

When our local hospitals and care homes were crying out for PPE, Andrew Wade put his 3D printer to work on visors; other residents helped with the initial purchase of materials but up to now an astonishing 700 visors have reached their destinations.

Our local store and pharmacy are both well stocked with our needs and although the Farmers’ Market hasn’t been able to take place many of us have taken advantage of stallholders’ home delivery arrangements.

Although we can’t enjoy a drink or a meal at the Plough just yet, Chris and Kelly have kept us entertained with Wednesday night Facebook Quiz or Fridays Family Fortunes – and it’s extremely competitive! The Plough car park has also become home to Andy Small’s Saturday socially distanced book and CD sale to raise funds for the Wetlands and keep us all in much needed reading and viewing material.

We have seen Bear Hunts and Rainbows in windows, people giving away books and toys, socially distanced VE Day street parties, and currently a pebble caterpillar is extending around the pond on Douglas Lane. As the traffic has reduced wildlife has taken a little back – deer have been seen in and around the village a few times now – the picture shows a deer spotted at 6.30 am one morning on Brindle Place.



Thursday evenings at 8pm have found us all outside clapping and hooting for our Carers and this is another opportunity to express our gratitude to all the keyworkers in the village – you really are, literally in some cases – lifesavers.



Finally, we know we’ve only been able to mention a tiny fraction of the good deeds that have been done, large and small, all day every day. If you know of a ‘local hero’ or an act of kindness you would like us to feature on our Facebook page then please send details to:

<mailto:grimsarghlocalheroes@grimsarghparishcouncil.org>

***And in the meantime – please everyone, stay safe.***



Mark Ashmore's shot showing Grimsargh in the glorious sunshine



Now who could this dapper rabbit be – out delivering Easter Eggs? Of course – Chris from the Plough – top bunny!

## VILLAGE EVENTS NEWS

Understandably, many of the regular events we look forward to so much have had to be cancelled this year. There will be no Grimsargh Field Day, normally the highlight of our summer. The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition has been cancelled, as has the Flower, Produce and Handicraft Show and we have decided not to hold our usual Village Planter competition as we don't want to put any additional pressure on any of our 'planter parents' to be going out and about if they aren't comfortable to do so, or are shielding.

Nevertheless, from early/mid-June onwards Government advice and guidance has eased a little and slowly we will see things returning to a 'new' normal. Some shops will be opening again and the Farmers Market team are working hard on enabling that to get going with safe social distancing measures in place.

In the meantime, the Scarecrow Competition is going ahead with the theme of **Heroes**. So come on, let's go all out with this – starting 15<sup>th</sup> June display your heroes – the judging takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.



## WHERE TO GET HELP

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April we published what we hope was a comprehensive Bulletin on where to get help during this very difficult period, making it as directly relevant to Grimsargh as we could. It includes contact numbers for our two volunteer groups for shopping/ prescriptions/support and a list of local businesses which will deliver shopping and other supplies. [The bulletin is on our website](#), with a link on our Facebook page and hard copies on our Notice Boards at the village shop and at The Hills bus stop.

We have updated the bulletin a couple of times and will continue to do so periodically, as we get a little clearer about what local facilities/businesses etc. are opening and their arrangements/hours or any other relevant information.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Normally the current Chairman of the Parish Council would report to the Annual Parish Meeting, which is held in April, prior to the election of Chair and Vice Chair at the Annual General Meeting in May. We were unable to hold either meeting this year in person and since May have been dealing with business via Zoom meetings, to which the public are invited via a link. Although I had intended to step down this year after 5 years as Chair, I'm staying on until we can hold a 'proper' meeting as not all our Councillors have access to the technology to participate in virtual meetings.



So here is the report I had prepared for the April meeting:

"It's been another busy year. In May 2019 we lost our valued colleague Keith Middlebrough to a 'promotion' as a Preston City Councillor. We were fortunate in September to be able to co-opt Mark Bell to augment our team and Mark has quickly got to work Chairing our Young Persons Working Group.

The Wetlands continues to go from strength to strength. The new viewing platform, ramped area and step improvements off the compound have made The Mere viewable by those with prams, wheelchairs and the less mobile. Admirably led by the Trustees with a regular group of volunteers, it's now almost unrecognisable from when it was given to the Parish Council by United Utilities in 2017.

In May 2019, together with the Village Hall Committee, we held our first New Residents event, to welcome newcomers to the village. Most of our Community Groups were present to introduce themselves and it was a great afternoon, with very positive feedback. We plan to repeat this, probably every couple of years.

In September 2019 we had our usual enjoyable afternoon tea and presentation for our Best Planter competition, hosted at Little Town Dairy. Prizes were presented by our independent judge Michelle Unsworth of So Plants. The winner's trophy this year went again to Nellie Cowell with second prize to Grimsargh Gardening Club and third to Eileen Murray. Thanks go to all those who put so much effort into keeping the planters around the village looking delightful.

We continue to wrangle with the complexities of Neighbourhood Planning. There still remains a huge amount of work yet to do, both on the policy writing side and the Parish Action plan side. However, we are almost at the point of being able to consult our community on our 'Emerging Policies' document.

More work has also been done to make general improvements around the village using our share of the Community Infrastructure Levy or money from the Solar Farm donation; an electricity supply was installed on the Village Green to power our annual Christmas Tree. We are continuing to press Preston City Council to finalise the licence for the football pitch on the village green. Work on installing a new drainage scheme was finished in July 2019, with a considerable financial contribution from the Parish Council and an undertaking to be responsible for the maintenance going forward. We have also purchased new picnic benches from Dig In for the Village Green which will be installed as soon as possible.

Three grants have been awarded; one to the Field Day Committee for new bunting, one to Grimsargh Cricket Club towards the replacement of their mower and roller together with an undertaking to cover the cost of their lease with PCC, and one to the Village Hall to help with the purchase of a new heater/cooling system for the kitchen.

We continue to improve our communications with residents; our twice yearly newsletter has more content, our Website is kept up to date, and our Facebook page has increased in following from 576 to 750 this year, and is well used for communication, as is the messenger facility which now seems to exceed emails for communicating with us.

We continue to be active in regular Preston Area Committee meetings, which Councillor Murray chairs, keeping us up to date with local and national issues. We also meet regularly with Longridge Town Council to share cross boundary issues.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thankyou to all those without whose support our job would be so much more difficult. Our City Councillor Ron Woollam, always there to offer help and intervene on our behalf. Our PCSOs Julie Anyon and Vicky Shackleton, who have established productive lines of communication and attend or report regularly on our crime figures, which thankfully always remain low.

Thanks also to my fellow Councillors, for being so dedicated. And last but by no means least, our Clerk Sue Whittam. Once again, she has provided me personally and the Council with so much support and advice. We are fortunate to retain such a strong team.

***Lindsay Philipson – Chairman Grimsargh Parish Council, April 2020.***

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Some of you will recall the work you put in to completing our Whole Village Questionnaire in the Autumn of 2017. Some of you are new to the village since then, and may want the opportunity to have your say on future development.

Now we have reached the stage of preparing our draft policies we really need you all to engage with us again. We had originally planned to have an open event at the Village Hall but because of the physical limitations currently imposed upon us all, we will be issuing our 'Emerging Policies Consultation'



document electronically in July. It will be on our website and will be flagged on our both our normal [Parish Council Facebook Page](#) and our [Neighbourhood Planning Facebook Page](#).

We hope that you will be able to find the time to comment. This will help us move forward with the confidence that we are still going in the direction that is important to you all.

## FARMERS' MARKETS TO RESTART

The Farmers' Markets are starting back - outdoors only - starting on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. Strict social distancing will be required, loo's will be for stall-holders only and parking will be limited. There will, obviously, be no café, but it will be an opportunity to buy some excellent local produce - meat, cakes, vegetables, pet food, gifts, pies, plants, books and more. [Follow their Facebook Page](#) for details.

The Village Hall has just started a very limited level of use again - with a commercial chef using the kitchen to prepare food for local delivery and an educational support group. They are in on different days, in different rooms and with strict procedures in place. The Committee have drawn up a "COVID-secure" Risk Assessment covering this limited use, which will be expanded as/when more use is deemed feasible and allowed.



The pebble caterpillar, which is extending around the pond on Douglas Lane

## MANY THANKS TO ST MICHAEL'S CHILDREN FOR THE COLOUR ON THE GREEN

Many of us have all seen and enjoyed the wonderful, colourful displays on the Village Green. These were created by St Michael's School art class, ably headed by Jean Coulston. Some will have seen those at the school too - which keyworker children helped with, while continuing going to school during lockdown.

They started with the cheery "Hello Spring", when it felt distinctly less than spring-like, and continued welcoming Easter with a poignant message, through to the glorious VE Day celebrations.

We thank them for their splendid efforts, bringing smiles to us all the past few months.



**NO FIELD DAY THIS YEAR, BUT A FEW PHOTOS FROM PAST YEARS, TO BRING SMILES.....**



Happy Days.....



2012, year of the Olympics...and the rain that flooded the Green, so the parade went from the Church car park to the Village Hall.



Just such a perfect photo....



Looking marvellous, Grimsargh Players.



Who would pay to do this again? Our former Parish Councillor, Keith Middlebrough, chair of the Field Day Committee



...and one from a little while ago....who recognises Michael Harrison and his parents....?

## NEW TO THE VILLAGE?

We love to welcome new residents to our village. We deliver a welcome pack with introductory letter, previous newsletters, a Heritage Walk map, and information about our village hall, farmers market, and some of the community groups. If you are new, or have new neighbours, let us know by email at [welcome@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:welcome@grimsarghparishcouncil.org) or send us a message on our Facebook page.

## LOCAL GRANTS AVAILABLE .....

Did you know that Grimsargh Parish Council gives small grants to support worthy 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. 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](http://www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org).

## Heritage Corner....

### A REAL STAR OF GRIMSARGH – A TRIBUTE TO NELLIE CARBIS

By David J. Hindle

While thinking about Carbis Avenue on the Redrow Estate, I am reminded that it is a testament to the memory of a good friend and a real character who possessed a natural sense of humour as well as a sharp wit, and who always expressed human kindness. Nellie Carbis was born the seventh child of a working-class family in Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire. Moreover, she was born in the age of the dollytub, the [posser](#) and the mangle and was somewhat bewildered by the marvels of modern technology.



I remember my first encounter with Nellie in 1957 when I joined the former Preston Scientific Society, which met in Ellesmere Chambers next to The Empire Theatre in Church Street, Preston. A well-informed Society it certainly was, but never dull or boring. The weekly lectures by experts in their own particular field included those given by Miss Carbis, who was also a venerable member and officer of this historic Society. My initial perception was of a very tall lady with a serious look, that is until you saw the twinkle in her eye and the way her face changed to smiles that radiated kindness and warmth of personality. Possessed of a range of talents Miss Carbis was always willing to share her knowledge with anyone and as a radio broadcaster and author; her distinctive dulcet tones reached a much wider audience.

In 1935 Miss Nellie Carbis, (in her words) “flitted to Grimsargh - my father and mother and our elderly cat, and all our elderly furniture. My father and mother settled just as well and found many kind friends in Grimsargh”



Photograph taken in 1936

Blackpool donkeys were wintered on some of the farms. Here three little girls of the Rhodes family from Clarkson's Farm on Cow Hill, have brought their donkey to school. With May, Doris and Joyce Rhodes

Miss Carbis took up her duties as Headmistress on the 1st July, 1935. A good standard of discipline prevailed: after all, she was an excellent shot with the chalk and sometimes the chalkboard! Political correctness - who had ever heard of that? Her distinguished tall figure and deep voice often heard warning "I'll have you know that I will not tolerate bad behaviour". I am also told that with the passage of time Miss Carbis began to mellow and demonstrated her love of animals (especially her new cat Jeannie) and the natural world, which of course, included children. Miss Carbis and her two assistants Miss Knowles and Mrs Baron educated the children in the three R's and introduced themes to stimulate

the interests of children. 'Our Daily News' hung on the wall and the infants duly endorsed it with all sorts of 'howlers'. Mr. Rubie, the Vicar provided Malt and Cod Liver oil from the Poor fund for children in special need and occasionally, as a special treat for the children, brought his Cinematograph School to school.



"The School Garden" ~ 1950

Towards the end of the war an area of rough pasture was leased by Mrs. Mallot of Grimsargh House as the 'School Garden'. The rent payable was one shilling a year and the garden was directly opposite the home of Miss Carbis. Following the cessation of hostilities, the land was transformed into a delightful haven and educational resource by Miss Carbis and the school children. The garden still contains many of the original 140 species of exotic and ornamental trees and plants which became both prominent and beautiful features of the village landscape.

For 29 years she was headmistress of the old Grimsargh Parochial School until her retirement in 1964. A retirement party was attended by the Vicar of Grimsargh the Reverend J. Brindle and Mrs Brindle, officials, friends and staff and of course, the children who presented her with a transistor radio and two bouquets.

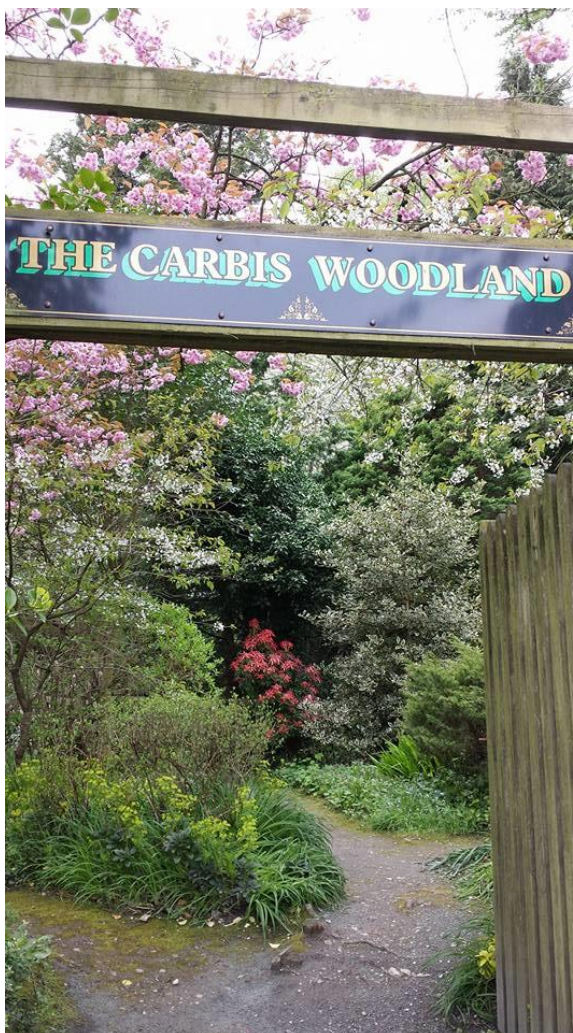
Miss Carbis died just a few weeks before the Millennium, on Saturday, 20th November, 1999, at the age of 95. Many of Grimsargh's senior citizens were taught by her and can remember the formation of what is now the Millennium Woodland. Today Nellie's garden legacy is remembered as a permanent tribute to a quite remarkable lady.

It was testament to her role in the local community and village life when on Tuesday, 30th November, 1999, a full congregation gathered at her funeral service in Grimsargh Church to pay their last respects.



I felt humbled to read the lesson for I could empathise with her views and share her humour. High on the joint agenda would be the enhancement of the quality of life by an interest in all things to do with the natural world and an appreciation of local history.

Some photos of the stunning Carbis Woodland as it is today:



The Woodland remains open – except for occasional periods when our lengthsmen is working in there, when a sign is put up to ask people not to enter, to give him all the space he needs to do the work.

## GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF WORK ON NEW VIEWING SCREENS



Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is pleased to announce that work on the Wetlands' new public access point and viewing screens was completed in March 2020. The work, funded by the Lancashire Environmental Fund, was managed by Trustee Geoff Carefoot who has provided the following background to the project. *"The Lancashire Environmental Fund made available £20,000 for us to open up the old compound off Preston Road, put in a ramp for access by all prospective visitors and erect viewing screens that overlook both of the two main reservoirs. Work commenced in September 2019, with the construction of custom-made timber viewing screens at the top of the embankment. This work was undertaken by McKay and Simpson, of Southport, who have the RSPB, English Nature and other conservation bodies amongst their clients. The screens have a number of viewing slots at various heights to enable visitors to easily see the wildfowl and waders on the reservoirs without disturbing them. John Dewhurst, of J. J. and S. Dewhurst Engineering Services, was then employed to form the ramp up to the screens, level off the viewing area and drag out, and dispose of, some of the waterlogged willows that were preventing good views of Reservoir 1. All this in the wettest autumn and winter I can recall which severely slowed the groundwork. Goosnargh Tree Services were subsequently employed to cut down and chip many of the willows on the embankments which were restricting viewing opportunities. Finally, on a small section of the embankment near the screens, the underlying masonry has been exposed. This shows the site's industrial heritage, coming up to 200 years old now, and forms a distinct micro-habitat".*



Volunteers putting the 'finishing touches' to the new access ramp and viewing screens area (photograph by Geoff Carefoot, March 2020).

Geoff concludes by commenting: "I was very impressed with the 'can-do' attitude of our contractors who all did excellent work on our behalf. I am delighted that, notwithstanding challenging weather conditions over winter, we finished ahead of time and within budget....in fact we have £8.20 change!"

In parallel with the work on the viewing screens, work has also been completed on the production of a series of new informational notice boards for the Reserve. This has been made possible by a generous

donation from the Putland family, Grimsargh for which we are extremely grateful. The boards, designed by Lynne Gorner, **from 'Naturally Creative' based in Huddersfield**, feature artwork by the children of our local Primary Schools and provide an insight into the wildlife of the Wetlands, the history of the site and its importance to the local community. Production and installation of the boards was arranged by 'Life for a Life', a local charity, which plants trees to '*commemorate loved ones or celebrate special occasions*' to raise funds for hospitals, hospices and other healthcare-related organisations (<https://www.lifeforalife.org.uk/>). One of the informational boards has been erected next to the new viewing screens and the others have been placed along the public footpath that bisects the Reserve.



Dr Tony Putland and Jayne Woollam (Secretary to the Trust) with one of the newly installed informational boards (photograph by Mike Fisher, March 2020).

Of course, since the completion of the work described here, all our hopes and plans have been overtaken by events. At the time of writing, we are all in 'lock-down' and nature reserves across the country are closed or have severely restricted access with screens and hides closed for the foreseeable future. The Wetlands is no different and the viewing screens are currently (April 2020) closed to public access. Rest assured that, as soon as it is safe to do so, access will be restored and all members of the local community will be able to engage with the wildlife and enjoy the peace and serenity of Grimsargh Wetlands – your local nature reserve.

Anyone with queries about Grimsargh Wetlands, including opportunities for volunteer work or membership of the Trust, should contact Jayne Woollam (email: [jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk)). We are grateful to the Lancashire Environmental Fund for their generous financial support. The Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is a registered charity N° 1173037.

**LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND**

A FEW MORE FIELD DAY PHOTOS FOR A FEW MORE SMILES.....



Looking lovely



Awww....cute



Great rhythm



Great construction



Amazing costumes



Smiles and perhaps a few tears...

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks for photos go to: Mark Ashmore, Jean Coulston, Grimsargh Field Day Facebook Group, Your Grimsargh Facebook Group and Lindsay Philipson & family plus Nellie Carbis publications.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2020

These are our remaining dates for 2020. Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month. We usually meet in the village hall and start at 7.30 pm. As of May 2020, our meetings have been held via "Zoom". See our [Council Meetings page on the website](#) for details and any updates. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday 2 July 2020  
Thursday 3 September 2020  
Thursday 1 October 2020  
Thursday 5 November 2020

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