



Newsletter

NOVEMBER,
2010

Taking an interest in your Community

Produced by Grimsargh Parish Council

“FOGG ON GRIMSARGH GREEN”

The Friends of Grimsargh Green (known as “FOGG”) has continued its work to improve the Village Green during the past few months. A much needed and properly laid out and surfaced car park has been constructed to replace the old informal parking area and it has been enhanced by solar lighting which is intended to make the area safer during the darker months. However, the lights will only be lit for a short period of time each evening but will not be lit throughout the hours of darkness.

A new “Wildlife and Flora” Information has been erected near the far corner of the Village Green near to the Pond and Wildflower Meadow. The mounting for this sign was constructed by students from Myerscough College at Bilsborrow as an educational project. The sign gives information about the Wildflower Meadow, the Pond (both old and new) and also about the living Willow Sculptures.



Planning is now ongoing to upgrade the Children’s Play Area utilising the funding that is to be released from the Redrow Grimsargh Manor and Grimsargh farm developments. The Local Areas for Play within development areas are now to be laid out as informal play areas and the resultant funding is being used to create a much improved Children’s Play Area on the Village Green. FOGG has been in discussion with Preston City Council about the planning and implementation of the Play Area Scheme. Preston City Council is responsible for the management and upkeep of Children’s’ Play Areas throughout the City and they will be planning and managing the improvement work on behalf of FOGG. We hope that the scheme will be completed by mid-2011 and the Play Area will, hopefully, be available for use during the summer months.

FOGG is also planning for Preston Guild and hopes to be in a position to create a permanent “Special Feature” on the corner of the Village Green near to the existing Information Sign. FOGG is open to suggestions about the form that this feature could take and we intend to involve the two Primary Schools for ideas in this project. Any residents who also have thoughts in this regard would be very welcome to put these forward as we have not decided on the form this Feature will take.

A LITTLE BIT BETTER

The Parish Council entered Grimsargh Village, as usual, in a variety of categories in the Best Kept Village Competition and we were pleased that the Village was placed 5th in its category out of 24 entries – a significant improvement. The Cricket Field was also in the finalists for its class but was, unfortunately, eventually unplaced. We hope to improve further next year

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“ADOPT A PLANTER”

We’re inviting local groups to adopt one of the public planters around the village. The idea is to have a light-hearted competition in the summer with each group trying to be the best with their displays – and the village looks even more colourful as a result! Details will be discussed and agreed with the groups. The Parish Council will provide support with plants and compost, if required. Hopefully we can build on the experience over the next couple of years and then can have some really impressive displays for Preston Guild Year in 2012. Subject to take up, there may also be some availability for interested individuals instead of Groups.



If anyone is interested in taking part, or has any ideas for the competition, please contact the Clerk. A map showing the location of the planters can be obtained from the Parish Council website or by speaking to the Clerk

VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT

Most people will have noticed that there has been building work going on at the village Hall over the summer. This completed on schedule and in time for the start of the new term.



There has been an extension added on to the rear which houses a fantastic shiny new kitchen, together with some additional storage. The Main Hall now has a carpeted recessed alcove, with window and glazed doors leading out to the rear terrace, giving charming views over the playing fields and bringing sunshine into the hall, for the first time. The bar has been re-located and subject

to a new fit-out, resulting in a great new look for the Main Hall. The Small Hall has been smartened up and is now ideal for business meetings or conferences. Finally a staircase has been added to the upper floor, enabling it to act as a Committee Room and further storage.



These improvements have greatly enhanced the existing facilities and the Hall is now an even more excellent venue for private parties and public events or classes. The GVCA (Grimsargh Village Community Association) Committee are delighted with the responses received from both regular users and the public, who all came together in an Open Day back in September. More information about the hall – the activities that take place there and hire details can be found on their website: www.gvca.co.uk.

PRESTON GUILD IN GRIMSARGH

The Parish Council is in the early stages of planning for Grimsargh’s celebrations of the 2012 Preston Guild. Representatives from Village Groups and the local Primary Schools attended an initial presentation by Phil Walsh, Head of the Community Guild Programme at Preston City Council, setting out Preston’s vision for the Guild. The Parish Council will be setting up a small Steering Group together with a number of Working Groups to plan events throughout Guild

Year and it is likely that the main celebrations in Grimsargh will take place between 16th and 23rd June 2012. If you are interested in being a member of one of the Working Groups or the Steering Group; or would like to contribute any suggestions or ideas for Grimsargh’s Guild celebrations, please contact Pat Tucker on grimsarghpc-patucker@yahoo.com or 01772704874.



WEBSITE

The Parish Council Website went live in May this year. The website gives information about the Parish Council, meetings, minutes, projects, village events and useful contact numbers. There are also links to our Community policing team and the Village Hall website. If you have access to the internet you can find the Parish Council's website on www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org

GRIMSARGH'S FRIDAY FUN!

Back in July, 2010, young people from around the area bounced into action for games on Grimsargh village green. Over 50 young people turned out in rain and wind to take part in free activities from laser quest to bungee running, other activities including DJing, henna painting and Wii Sports tent.

The evening event was part of the "Park It Friday" events that were run across many of Preston's city parks. These were organised by the partners of the Children's Trust and were supported by Grimsargh Parish Council. The events ran during the school summer holidays to engage young people across the city and were very successful. It is hoped that they will be repeated in 2011.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

This Newsletter tries to keep everyone aware with what is happening in the Parish Council. It is intended to give you some insight on some of the issues considered by the Parish Council each month. Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of August when there is no meeting. We meet in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Notices of the Parish Council's meetings, together with a summary of the agenda, are placed on the notice boards each month. The public is always welcome to come along.

If you have any comments to make on the content of this Newsletter, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Also, if there is anything that you would like to raise specifically with the Parish Council, or ask the Parish Council to consider, again, please get in touch.

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CHANGING FACES

The past few months have seen a number of changes to the Parish Council. In September, 2010, Brian Woodburn and Sam Sellers announced that they would be resigning from the Parish Council. Brian had been a Councillor since 1996 and Sam had joined the Council in 1991 and, clearly, they would be difficult to replace. Very sadly, Sam Sellers has since passed away and his funeral was held in early November. We all send our condolences to Margaret and all of the family.

The Parish Council has now co-opted Ron Woollam and David Hindle to fill the vacancies. Ron has previously been a member of the Parish Council and has agreed to fill one of the vacancies now that he has more time on his hands. David is new to the Parish Council and we hope that both of them are now able to bring something new to the Council. Full details of Parish Council membership are shown elsewhere in this Newsletter together with the contact details for all Councillors.

The other change is the retirement of Peter Croft who has managed the affairs of the Parish Council for over 31 years. Peter announced his retirement at the September meeting but has said that he will continue as Clerk until such time as a replacement has been appointed and has taken up the role.

GRIMSARGH BROADBAND

Firstly, can we take this opportunity to thank all those residents who provided results to the broadband survey stated in our last newsletter. The results clearly identify the variety of broadband speeds available across Grimsargh with adequate speeds (up to 2Mb) at the Western edge of the village around The Hills to exceptionally low speeds for those residents of Elston Lane. These results have been plotted on a map which can be found at

http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&vps=2&jsv=285c&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Preston+PR2+5HZ,+United+Kingdom&oe=UTF8&mmsa=0&msid=105504489241235814103.000492223795cf57fd342

The summary of these survey results can now be used as proof that a real disparity of broadband speeds exist within Grimsargh and the Parish Council can now illustrate the problem to BT, Virgin Media, Sky and any other broadband supplier which we lobby. We do have a distinct advantage in Grimsargh in that the Ribbleton Telephone Exchange, which feeds Grimsargh, also feeds Red Scar Industrial Estate, Roman Way Industrial Estate and Millennium City Park. As these business centres continue to grow and attract additional business, those resident businesses will demand greater broadband provision from suppliers such as BT which will hopefully mean the upgrade of infrastructure and thus have a positive effect on our own villages' broadband speeds.

The Parish Council continue to work towards improving broadband provision for all areas of Grimsargh and will start to work more closely with neighbouring villages whom are also experiencing similar issues (ie. Cottam, Goosnargh, Woodplumpton). Working collaboratively and with Preston Council and Lancashire County Council, it is hoped to utilise Lancashire County Council's new IT Strategic Partner, namely BT, to improve broadband speeds and push towards new technology such as superfast Fibre optic broadband **To The Home**. Grimsargh Parish Council is also encouraged to hear of new and emerging companies whom are starting to offer high speed wireless broadband to areas of the Ribble Valley including Grimsargh.

Finally, if any resident and, especially, any self employed business resident in Grimsargh experiences real issues relating to poor or no broadband coverage, please contact Councillor Ellis or any Parish Councillor and we shall endeavour to assist where we can.