



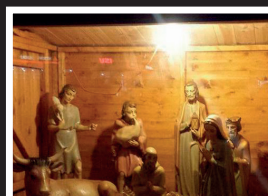
GRIMSARGH WETLANDS

The new Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is up and running and already several very successful Volunteer Days have been held. On 8th October a group of about 20 arrived on a beautiful autumn day all geared up and keen as mustard. Work began on clearing reservoir 3 (The Fen) of surplus willow by coppicing and using the stems to build scrub piles for the wildlife. Already fox, weasel, vole, shrew, and pheasant tracks have been spotted around the piles. Some heavy digging by the 'big lads' also resulted in the channels between the reservoirs being cleared, enabling the water levels to return to what they were when the reservoirs were decommissioned. The work resumed on 28th October, again with a group of around 20. More volunteers are always welcome; for insurance purposes, aged 16 or over only please.

The easy way to contact the group until their website is completed is via their facebook page www.facebook.com/grimsarghwetlands

At present the Parish Council is still responsible for the site but once the lease is signed The Wetlands Trust will develop their own ways of communicating news and progress to you. You should shortly begin to hear about the arrangements for becoming members early in 2018. This will be an exciting opportunity to have a say in how the Wetlands develops in the future.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

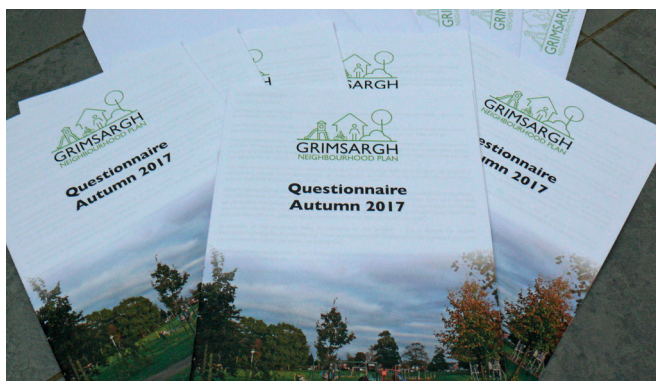


GRIMSARGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Many thanks for returning your Questionnaires in good time. We had a reasonably good response - 264 completed on paper and 5 on line; this equates to almost 26% of homes in the village. The randomly drawn winners of the Champagne Meal for Two kindly donated by the Plough were Johnathan and Resna Pond of Douglas Lane. The information is now being recorded and analysed by an independent firm. From the analysis the Steering Group will begin to develop the policies for the initial draft plan. Our Planning Consultant will assist with this process; we were successful in applying for a grant to cover these, and other administrative costs.

If we succeed in achieving adoption of our Neighbourhood Plan, it will become part of the Local Planning Policy documentation. It will help in decision making both for future planning processes and help to steer the future actions of your Parish Council. Your Village, Your Future - get involved!

For more information on the Grimsargh Neighbourhood Plan go to www.grimsarghneighbourhoodplan.org where we will post updates on progress. Or follow our Facebook Page: facebook.com/grimsarghneighbourhoodplan



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2017



The annual service was held on Sunday 12 November followed by a wreath laying ceremony at our War Memorial led by Father Doyle. It was wonderful to see such a good turn out from the community for what is always a very moving ceremony.



GRIMSARGH FIELD DAY BALL - OH WHAT A NIGHT!

As the coach gingerly crept up the steep hill towards the “New Drop”, the laughter of the Grimsargh Ball revellers, reverberated through the open windows of the coach and floated over the Ribble Valley countryside. Tonight was going to be a good, good night. The Annual Grimsargh Field Day Ball, the highlight of the Grimsargh social scene, exceeded all expectations. Ladies sparkled in sequins and glitter, and the blokes looked pretty dapper too, wearing smart suits and shiny shoes.



The party-goers enjoyed a delicious three course dinner followed by a raffle, champagne roll and disco dancing long into the night.

Raffle prizes this year included a television, meal vouchers, kindly donated by: The Plough, Francos, Houghton Manor, The New Drop, plus an array of bottles, bubbles and chocolates. North Preston Rotary Club very generously donated £388 to the field day this year, so that new barbecues could be purchased for next year’s special 50th Anniversary Field Day celebrations. Chairman, Keith Middlebrough, said, “Tonight has been absolutely fantastic. I would like to thank the Committee and all those people who make Field Day such a success year after year. Can’t wait for the next one!”

As the dancers took to the floor with gusto, these sentiments were echoed by the lively crowd!

LET'S BUST A FEW MYTHS ABOUT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL...

1. A key one - we are the lowest tier of local government. We do sometimes get confused with the Parochial Church Council. We are an entirely secular local government organisation.

2. We have no powers in governing planning applications. We are statutory consultees - so must be informed, as are immediate local residents. We can comment, but do not have to be heeded. We can lead the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, which can give additional strength to Local Plans and does become part of planning law - and as you can see, that is what we are currently doing.

3. We are not responsible for: parking, street lighting, roads, pavements, emptying bins, drainage, the Village Green.....however, we can (and do) lobby hard on your behalf on these issues.

4. As Parish Councillors, we are not paid, nor do we have allowances. Most of us are in employment, run our own businesses, undertake other voluntary work, or any combination of the three. We all have families, and normal busy lives. The last time we had a vacancy on the Council, it took almost two years to fill, and we don't have a waiting list. It's a role that most people, understandably, wouldn't wish to undertake. So please, don't tell us to 'do our jobs'! We do our utmost, communicating as best we can along the way via this newsletter, our Website and our Facebook page. If something urgent crops up, we will often send out a flyer or try to arrange a public meeting. And our normal monthly meetings are always open to the public (details on the reverse of this newsletter).

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

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: www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org

LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2017

We entered the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition again this year, but sad to report we didn't win or get a place in any of the categories.

Maybe we all didn't try hard enough this year, or maybe other villages improved their efforts significantly. It's hard to say. We shall enter again next year and we'll keep you all informed of the judging period, but in the meantime - let's all get into the habit of looking after our environment as best we can. It's all ours - let's keep it looking good.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE PLOUGH

When we arrived at the Plough in April 2017, we wanted it to be exactly the kind of place where we would like to enjoy our days off. That meant a proper pub, but with proper food. A friendly, comfortable atmosphere, where everybody's welcome. Unpretentious cooking with brilliant, seasonal local ingredients. Professional but approachable service from people who love to eat out as much as we do.

Fresh, and delicious and predominantly British, our food is served in an informal restaurant style by friendly staff.. The emphasis is on locally sourced home cooked food working with a small team of chefs to deliver an ever-evolving menu.

OUR PLANS FOR THE PLOUGH

We plan to develop not only the food and drinks offer but the outside area, which is long overdue for development. We want to make this area a safe environment for all ages of children and adults too. This will mean both investment from ourselves and the brewery who we are currently in talks with.....but Rome was not built in a day! We have plans to maximise the area making it an adventurous and interactive area for children of all ages so that parents can sit back and relax knowing the children will be safe and we can also see the adults enjoying some of the facilities that we have planned. We also want an area where families can relax and drink comfortably. There is plenty of room outside and with careful planning and the right investment we can hopefully produce the results!

ABOUT US

Kelly and I have been together for over 26 years with 18 of those being married. We have 2 lovely boys, Kale who is 24 and Ry who is 7 (big gap we know). I originate from Warwickshire but have spent a lot of time in the North West with Kelly originating from Thornton Cleveleys. We like to think of ourselves as down to earth, honest and approachable. We enjoy life with a big smile!

We have been in the trade for just under 20 years and have operated anything from back street boozers, big sports venues to lovely dining restaurants. One thing that has been common in all of these is that they have all needed some TLC and a lot of work and effort to get them right. The work at the Plough has only just started and is very much in its infancy. We are still laying the foundations of what is to come, which will take approximately three years to reach its true potential as we envisage it. We are very excited for the future and we may get a holiday at the end of it.

Phew!
Chris.

VILLAGE PLANTER AWARDS 2017

On 24th September we had a lovely afternoon where the winners of the 2017 Grimsargh Planter Competition were presented with their awards by our independent judge Michelle Unsworth, of So Plants Garden Centre.



Nellie, Michelle and Philip.

This is open to all ‘parents’ of the planters around the village, who were invited to tea and cake at Little Town Dairy as a small token of our thanks for their efforts in keeping the village looking so colourful. As well as a gift from the Parish Council

all winners receive a gift voucher from Michelle, who also supplies the plants for the planter at The Hills, maintained by Tracey and Katie, aka The Land Girls.

This year’s winners were Nellie and Philip Cowell who look after the War Memorial, pictured receiving the trophy. Second was Eileen Murray for her planter on Preston Road, near the church; third was Peter Croft for his planter on the corner of Preston Road and Whittingham Lane; and Highly Commended this year were members of Grimsargh Cricket Club for their planter further down Whittingham Lane. If you’d like to get involved, one of the planters on Old Railway Walk is looking for someone to adopt it!



Michelle discusses her plans for the new centre with Evelyn Heginbotham, of Grimsargh Gardening club

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Well, according to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) it is as follows: “People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to give something back to the community or make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. Regardless of the motivation, what unites them

all is that they find it both challenging and rewarding.”

From my experience, challenging and rewarding pretty well sums it up – but that is my view after many years in the various roles..... What made me first step forward? Well I’d lived in Grimsargh for two years, commuting down to Leyland in a pretty busy job, with long hours. I realised I knew

no-one in the village. I'd lived in a terraced house in Glossop before and within weeks of moving in there knew loads of people. Detached house..... very different! So I bought a copy of The Longridge News and learned that the Grimsargh Flower, Produce and Handicraft Show were seeking new members. I laughed at the article, as there were no details of who to contact - oops! However, after a bit of sleuthing I knocked on the door of a wonderful lady, called Evelyn Heginbotham who, on hearing I was interested, smiled the biggest beaming smile and said "Oh do come in". The rest, as they say, is history. I have now put in a fair few hours volunteering across a range of groups within Grimsargh and beyond - but I've got back a whole lot more.

Now I sometimes give talks/lectures to business people on Project Management (my day job is consultancy/contract work, mainly with small businesses) and I don't flinch at all from talking about the experience I've gained from my volunteer work. I remember well someone telling me that, when I walked into a room full of volunteers to leave behind all my experience and expectations of the professional environment. Now.....yes there is a level of truth in that..... however, after really rather too many years of volunteering I realised I had learned an absolutely invaluable lesson: with volunteers it is as clear as day that the "usual" motivations of the workplace are not there - no promotion, bonuses, pay rises, etc. What motivates people is doing something worthwhile, being listened to, having real influence on outcomes, being thanked for doing a good job and enjoying the teamwork. Then I had a light-bulb moment. It is, quite simply, exactly the same in the workplace. People primarily don't work only for the money - what really drives all of us, in all environments are those "softer" motivations.

Now that is just one - just one of the myriad of invaluable lessons I have learned from volunteering. There are numerous other skills I have picked up too - cloud-based collaborative tools being just one suite - wonderful for keeping up to date with latest tech tools for someone who is self-employed! Now, I'll be honest - I walked into volunteering with a pretty comprehensive set of tools to start with, as an engineering project manager with blah years of experience. Yet I still learned lots - and am still learning. How much more invaluable could volunteering be for someone at the start of their career? Or for someone wanting to return to work?

Get a refresher - rehearse those skills in a friendly environment.

As an employer (in the past) I can also say I have so often had a stack of CVs to go through - so many with broadly the same qualifications, similar experiences and how on earth to differentiate - how to identify that "something"? It is so often those with Duke of Edinburgh or volunteering experience that just seem to be more "rounded" individuals and rise to the top of the pile.

OK - so that's probably enough on the rewarding side of things: challenging? Hell yes - taking the hit from yet another defeat on fighting a planning application; being turned down for that grant application for the new loos (which we still went on to do, just two years later, when we'd made more money!); finding a route through an impasse within the team - it happens - we're human; and perhaps the most crushing and soul-destroying - reading snide comments on Social Media, or in personal emails from people - attacking me and/or the team for not doing what they think we should so easily have been able to do. Reflecting on the many man-days of work that went into that particular "failure". That hurts - and I mean really hurts. Yes I have been in tears - on more than one occasion - but we build each other up - those of us on whichever team it is. We rally together - repair the damage done by those thoughtless comments - often from individuals we know do little or nothing themselves in the community - they simply don't know what is involved. So we forgive their insensitivities, brush ourselves down and get on with it. That team-bond is incredibly strong. As a result I live in a wonderful extended family - a volunteering family - some of whom do amazing amounts of work for their community - some of whom do just the odd hour or so that they can manage to give amongst their busy lives - and we value them all just the same.

Why volunteer? I ask you - why not?

Anyone who can spare just an hour or two a month can contribute - please don't ever think you have nothing to give - you do and we will value it. There are a multitude of organisations in the village that would benefit from just an hour of your time. Get in touch and we'll have a chat: eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

Each year there is a short service of carols and readings around the crib near Grimsargh Club. This year it will be on Friday 8 December at 6.30pm. It is followed by tea and mince pies in the Club - everyone is welcome to attend.



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Councillor Peter Burton - 01772 797565
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Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell - 01772 653751
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Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer - 01772 794862
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Councillor Terry Cryer - 01772 794862
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Councillor David Hindle - 01772 652090
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Councillor Ian Liptrot - 01772 703541
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Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray - 01772 655812
eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Councillor Keith Middlebrough - 01772 705383
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Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson - 01772 654983
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To send an email to all of us
use: all@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Grimsargh Parish Council usually meets on the first Monday of every month at the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome and anyone can raise any issues or concerns with the Parish Council as there is time set aside for this on the Agenda. Why not come along and find out about the work we do and maybe get involved!

Thursday 11 January 2018
***(note change of date)**

Thursday 8 February 2018

Thursday 1 March 2018

Thursday 5 April 2018

Thursday 10 May 2018
(note change of date due to Elections).

Thursday 7 June 2018

Thursday 5 July 2018

Thursday 6 September 2018

Thursday 4 October 2018

Thursday 1 November 2018

Thursday 6 December 2018

We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!