



## GRIMSARGH WETLANDS UPDATE

As many of you will be aware, United Utilities submitted their planning application for a development of 12 properties fronting Preston Road in July this year. This application went to Preston City Council's Planning Committee on 5 November and we were very disappointed that the application was refused. This is in spite of the Planning Officer recommending the application for approval. There were four votes in favour of the application and four against, which meant that the Chairman had a "casting" vote and he voted to refuse the application. At the time of going to print we have only seen the draft wording from Preston City Council's Planning Department outlining the grounds for refusal. We have been advised that "The applicant has failed to robustly justify the provision of a financial contribution towards off-site affordable housing in lieu of on-site provision. As such, the application does not enable sufficient provision of affordable housing, contrary to Policy 7 of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy".

Where does that leave us? We have worked long and hard on this project, negotiating with United Utilities for what we thought was a good deal for the residents of Grimsargh. We are hoping that United Utilities will continue to support this project with the ultimate aim of transferring the wetlands to Grimsargh Parish Council. However, as the Planning Committee was only at the beginning of November there are a number of options to consider including United Utilities submitting an appeal. We are now in their hands but as they have been fair throughout this process, we remain optimistic. Please keep an eye on our Facebook Page and our website for updates.

In October, in response to a request from Grimsargh Parish Council, United Utilities carried out some repairs to the fencing alongside the footpath leading to the causeway from Preston Road. This involved replacing the primary metal support frame, whilst recycling the link-fencing (our recommendation). In bobbing up to check what the work looked like, before the October Parish Council meeting, Eileen Murray was reminded as to just why we are behind this project. The photo captured the tranquil scene that evening.

# COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION IT'S GRIMSARGH ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH 300 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

2016 marks a very special year in the history of Grimsargh St Michael's Church and of our village. It is 300 years since a church was established in Grimsargh, making it one of the oldest churches in the Preston area. In 1715 Samuel Peploe, the vicar of Preston wrote to the Bishop of Chester, asking for his approval to build a church in Grimsargh. On this being granted, Sir Henry Hoghton, gave the land for it to be built on. In 1716 the church was completed. It was built of Longridge stone and was 46ft long and 19ft wide. The area around the church was used as a burial ground. The church was dedicated to St Michael. In 1824 the vicarage was built across from the church. In 1840 the church was extended. The existing chapel replaced the old smaller one and the north side was built to the same height as the old nave. In 1868-9 the body of the church was rebuilt at a cost of £3000, borne by the Rev. John Cross, son of the late William Cross of Red Scar mansion. The Cross family had long been associated with the Church and on the floor of the chancel is a magnificent brass plate, where William and Ellen Cross are buried. It has a rich, Gothic canopy, inlaid with shields and decorated with allegorical figures. William Cross studied law at Lincoln's Inn and settled in Preston, falling in love with the view of the Ribble Valley from Red Scar. He bought the house and settled there. Other members of the Cross family are buried in the vault to the north side of the vestry door.

The Church has a rich history in Grimsargh and we hope that the whole community will join us in celebrating this very special anniversary. We will be holding a series of events throughout the year, including concerts, talks, parties, meals, competitions and special services. In October, the children from St Michael's school planted 300 bulbs in the grounds of the church to commemorate the anniversary. The children are also currently creating a timeline, depicting the church's history and this will decorate the interior of church beautifully next year. Many groups, businesses and organisations have also kindly pledged to decorate a pillar or window for the main week of celebrations in September. We are also appealing for any photographs of the church, past or present, for a pictorial display of the church's life in Grimsargh. Perhaps you have a photograph of a past garden party? Or Sunday School outing? We would love to hear from you. Kevan Thompson, a talented local artist, has created a delightful calendar, using his own paintings of the Church. A splendid booklet on the history of the church has been written by David Hindle,

and both Kevan's calendar and David's booklet will be available for purchase around Christmas time. David is also planning to combine a talk on the fascinating history of Grimsargh with a tour of the church, when there will be an opportunity for the public to view the Cross family brass plate. A major event is planned for every month throughout the year, including a special service at Brockholes at Easter time and a family walk linking Brockholes Nature Reserve with Grimsargh Wetlands. The celebrations will culminate in a special week of activities between the 10th and the 18th of September. On the 18th of September we are delighted and honoured that the Bishop of Blackburn will preach at the 10am service and this will be followed by a meal for the whole congregation.

Please look out for a calendar of events, dates and times, which will be publicised on the Church website, in the press, on social media and on our Facebook page. If you would like to get involved, sponsor an event or if you have any suggestions, please contact the vicar, Chris Halliwell on 653283 or Jayne Woollam on 704112 or [jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk). We hope that there will be lots to see and do next year at Grimsargh St Michael's Church. Please come and join our celebration and make 2016 year to remember!





# SPOTLIGHT ON: Grimsargh Farmers' Market

The monthly Farmers' Markets at the Village Hall will amazingly celebrate 10 years of operation this coming spring, making them one of the most sustained markets in the region.

Originally set up as a one-off pilot, a level of enthusiasm was initiated, which continued to grow the market popularity and success. Unlike many others in the area, they have survived the recession and have now got a rejuvenated focus, with the addition of Nicky Baylis to the team as the new Markets Co-ordinator. Nicky will need no introductions to most of you, having been at the head of the Field Day Committee for a number of years, before stepping aside from that role in 2014.

Nicky's goals are to bring in some new stalls, with the emphasis on food and to escalate the marketing so that everyone has the opportunity to know just how fantastic our local Farmers' Markets are.

There have already been a number of new and interesting stalls featured in the markets this autumn. We welcome these newcomers, but also are very grateful to be blessed with our regular stalls who have been with us since the start - as have many of the "Lovely Lasses" (pictured - the volunteers who fry and serve wonderful breakfast barmes the third Saturday of every month (except January when there is no market).

The markets continue to offer a wonderful range of meats, cheeses, cakes, chocolate, eggs, soaps, preserves, delicatessen goods, crafts and other seasonal ranges.

**Christmas Farmers' Market Saturday 19th December, 9am - 1pm. Christmas Carols, mince pies & mulled wine.**

All proceeds from the stall fees and café go towards the upkeep and development of the Village Hall.

Follow us on Facebook:

 /GrimsarghFarmersMarket



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR...

Hi, my name is Terry Cryer and I have recently become a Parish Councillor. Originally born in Bolton, I moved to 'The Hills' in 1996, having met my wife two years earlier.

My background is within Royal Mail (Post Office), where I worked from 1974 until last year, when I took early retirement. For the last twenty-three and a half years of my career, I worked within Security & Investigation within Royal Mail as a Criminal Investigator, dealing with all aspects of crime, both within the Business or against the Business.

Outside of Royal Mail, I was heavily involved as a volunteer with The British Red Cross Society for over twenty plus years, being in charge of a centre with thirty volunteers, as well as being an Ambulance Officer. I taught First Aid, both within Royal Mail and also within The British Red Cross Society, where I taught the public as well as Red Cross personnel. I also was involved with The Holiday for the Disabled, run by The Red Cross, where we dealt with both physical and mental disabilities of all kinds. I found this to be very rewarding and I gained a lot of experience during my annual week away from work within Royal Mail.

Additionally, I was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace on 11th November 1998 and sit as a Magistrate at Preston Magistrates Court in the city centre. This work is voluntary, as a Magistrate does not get paid like others within the judiciary, but serves their community to the best of their ability in the administration of Justice. The work is, at times, quite challenging, but I do find it very rewarding, which has enabled me to gain a lot of knowledge and experience.

Since retiring last year, my wife and I have learnt to play Bridge and I do like to play Crown Green bowls, in between travelling the world on cruise ships!



## 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 contact 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'S BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2015

We again entered the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition this year. Last summer 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 6th this year after putting in lots of hard work... but we shall not be deterred - onwards and upwards, 2016 is beckoning!

We are, however, very pleased to report that Grimsargh St. Michael's CE Primary school achieved runner up status in the Best Kept school (Large Village) category. Well done to Mrs Ward, the staff and the children who keep the school looking so wonderful.





# VILLAGE PLANTER AWARDS 2015

On 5 September we had a super afternoon where the winners of the 2015 Grimsargh Planter Competition were presented with their awards by our independent judge Michelle Unsworth. This year Michelle not only hosted our afternoon tea but donated a gift voucher for her garden boutique So Plants (Spout Farm) to the winners, Grimsargh Gardening Club. They are also the first recipients of our posh new trophy - main picture shows Melanie and Cath from the Club with Michelle. Their colourful planter heralds the entrance to the village from the northern side.

Second placed were Grimsargh Brownies who tend their bright yellow and white planter weekly on Brownie night. Their leader Kathleen English is shown top right.

In third place was our newest 'planter parent' Tracey Butler (bottom left), who adopted a neglected planter on Old Railway Walk this spring and has transformed it with a lovely woodland theme (shown to her right).

**Our thanks to everyone who attended the afternoon but most of all to all of you who put so much work into keeping the village looking blooming lovely!**





## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The annual service was held at Grimsargh St Michael's Church on Sunday 8 November followed by a wreath laying ceremony at our War Memorial led by Rev Chris Halliwell. Despite a cold and windy morning it was wonderful to see such a good turn out. Our picture shows the Beaver Scouts preparing to join the parade.



## GRIMSARGH FILM PROJECT

In May of this year Gillian Ashcroft from the Harris Museum contacted the Parish Council about an exciting film project that the Museum was involved with. This was to be part of an exhibition over the summer called 'A Green and Pleasant Land? - Rural Life in Art'. They were looking to produce a film, to be linked to the exhibition with the help of people from Grimsargh involved with community groups

The idea of the project was for different groups, from in and around Preston, to make a short film about where they live and what they think about living in Preston. The inspiration for this centered on the films created by Will Onda who documented Preston events around 100 years ago. A film company called First Take, who often create films with community groups would produce the film. Some of their previous work can be seen on their website: [www.first-take.org](http://www.first-take.org).

After meeting the film company, it was decided that the following topics would be included in the film: Grimsargh Field Day and its importance to the village; Grimsargh Wetlands; The changes in farming and how this has affected Grimsargh; and, the Village Green and its importance as a hub for the village.

Filming started in June of this year, with footage gathered for the events mentioned and interviews taken with, David Hindle, Joyce Chessell, Anthony Eccles and Keith Middlebrough. The film is now in the process of being edited, with the end result to be displayed in the Harris Museum. Once this has been completed, the plan is to organise a showing of the film at the Village Hall.

## GRIMSARGH CLUB

Over the last twelve months Grimsargh Club has undergone some significant changes. In August 2014 Annie Lupton took over as manager of the club, and it is no coincidence that under her stewardship, the last twelve months has seen the club go from strength to strength. Annie has looked at a number of ways to engage with the local community, introducing a series of events, including, PDQ pizza nights, psychic evenings, Weightwatchers, and live music events.

One of the most innovative ideas brought to the club, is the introduction of "Tots Bops", a singing, music, movement and dance class, for the under 5's that takes place in the afternoons.

On 31 August 2015, the club had an official opening for the new garden area at the rear of the building. A barbecue was waiting for members of the club, who had taken part in a six mile fund raising walk prior to the opening. Despite the rain a good time was had by all. The only disappointment was that people could not take advantage of the garden furniture on display. All the furniture had been manufactured from pallets by local craftsman, and club stalwart Ken Harrison.

It is not just the décor that has changed at the club there is a really vibrant atmosphere there these days, as the club goes from strength to strength. For more information about becoming a member of the club, or future events and activities contact Annie on **01772 651024**.

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## CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

Each year there is a short service of carols and readings around the crib outside Grimsargh Club. This year it will be on Friday 11 December at 6.00pm. It is followed by tea and mince pies in the Club - everyone is welcome to attend.



## CCTV FOR THE VILLAGE

We are still looking to install CCTV in the village and as part of this we are working with the police to identify the best locations. There are also technical, commercial and legal issues to be sorted but hopefully we will have a further update for our June Newsletter.

## WHO TO CONTACT

We get quite a number of phone-calls and emails about matters that are outside of our jurisdiction. In most instances, all we can do is to pass the person on to whoever is responsible for the matter raised. Now - we don't mind getting the calls or emails, but it adds us in unnecessarily as "middlemen" and would be more time-efficient for all if contact was made directly with the relevant body.

Some issues may be resolved through simple discussions between neighbours/residents: unkempt hedges, etc. "Official" bodies, ourselves included, would not generally get involved in such matters, unless there were clear health and safety concerns.

Some perennial issues (e.g. inconsiderate parking and dog fouling) do appear to be extremely difficult to resolve - in these specific instances we would advise first discussing with those involved, where possible, followed by gathering of evidence and then a discussion with the police.

We thought it might be useful if we produced in the Newsletter a list of "Who to Contact About What" - and to include some additional numbers that might be useful:

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**Pollution Control** (*noise, contamination, environment accident etc*) **Preston City Council - 01772 906907**

Out of hours: 01772 794728 (7pm-1am Sun-Thur, 7pm-2am Fri & Sat)

**Dog fouling, graffiti, litter, fly-posting, street litter, fly-tipping, waste & recycling** **Preston City Council - 01772 906909**

**Travellers - if on the green** **Preston City Council - 01772 906268**

If travellers are on private land it is the responsibility of the landowner

**Bulky waste collections** **Preston City Council - 01772 906904**

**Street lighting along Old Railway Walk** **Preston City Council - 01772 906471**

**Street - other - via Highways, see below: Highways - online reporting of faults**

(*e.g. pothole, cracked manhole cover, streetlight out, blocked drain, missing/damaged sign, etc*)

**Lancashire County Council - 0300 123 6780 or [www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads)**

**Berry Lane Medical Surgery** **01772 214880** **Out of hours: 01772 788058**

**Stone Bridge Surgery** **01772 214820** **Out of hours, NHS Direct: 111**

**NHS Lancashire** **0800 032 2424** **Out of hours, NHS Direct: 111**

**Police - non urgent matters, via Broughton Station** **01772 863390**

**Immediate concerns, but not sufficient to merit an emergency call - Preston Station** **01772 203203**

**The general non-emergency police number: 101**

**Local Schools** **Grimsargh St Michaels C of E Primary School - 01772 653600**

**Alston Lane Catholic Primary School - 01772 783661**

**Local Churches** **St Michaels C of E Church - 01772 653283**

**Alston Lane Catholic Church - 01772 782244**



Should any concern become persistent, or you feel that we may be able to give additional advice or support then please do contact our Clerk - Sue Whittam. There are some issues, however, that we will share your concerns on (inconsiderate parking, dog fouling, for example).

## 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 email 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).

# YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

## CONTACT DETAILS

Councillor Peter Burton - 01772 797565  
[peterh.burton@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:peterh.burton@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell - 01772 653751  
[joyce.chessell@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:joyce.chessell@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer - 01772 794862  
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Councillor Terry Cryer - 01772 794862  
[terry.cryer@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:terry.cryer@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

Councillor David Hindle - 01772 652090  
[david.hindle@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:david.hindle@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray - 01772 655812  
[eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

Councillor Keith Middlebrough - 01772 705383  
[keith.middlebrough@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:keith.middlebrough@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson - 01772 654983  
[lindsay.philipson@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:lindsay.philipson@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

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**Clerk to the Council:**

Mrs Sue Whittam  
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