

Gorgeous Grimsargh!

LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE AWARDS 2018

We were absolutely thrilled at the results of this year's competition – a massive improvement on previous years. Named the winner in the Most Improved Large Village category, shortly to be followed by Runner Up in the overall Large Village category. More glory went to our two Certificate of Merit winners;

Grimsargh Cricket Club – judged Best Cricket Ground and Surrounds

Grimsargh St Michaels CE School – judged Best School Building and Grounds for the second time in four years.

And yet more...

Grimsargh Village Hall – Highly Commended in the Public Building Category.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



FROM THE COVER

(Continued from cover)...

Our War Memorial, the Nellie Carbis Millennium Garden and the Public Notice Board on Longridge Road all came fourth in their respective categories. The War Memorial was singled out for praise in the Judges Report, which also commented that the maintenance of properties and gardens resulted in an obvious sense of village pride.

67 Lancashire villages entered the competition this year, so it's no mean feat to come away with so many top awards and no other village had so many. It was also really pleasing to hear so many of the judges and people from other villages say how lovely Grimsargh was.

Our picture is taken at the recent annual presentation at The Villa, Wrea Green; (standing) Chris Billington from Grimsargh Cricket Club, (seated) Councillor Joyce Chessell, and Bob Wallbank, also from Grimsargh Cricket Club. As well as having been a Parish Councillor for thirty years Joyce is also a member of FOGG (Friends of Grimsargh Green), who do a tremendous job in keeping the Green such an asset.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who really pulled out the stops this year to get the village looking its best. And really, it's not about awards (although they're very nice) but about all our families living in a cared for environment where community matters.



CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB....

This year to celebrate our beautiful village and our fantastic sense of community let's make our Carols around the Crib event a special occasion. The event will start at 6.30pm on Friday 7 December outside Grimsargh Club and as usual there will be a lovely selection of Carols and readings.....also mince pies, mulled wine and a brass band. Everyone is welcome to attend so please come along.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018

Let's start with that phrase "the start of the end of the Great War" and ask a question many, no doubt have asked "Why does our memorial give the years of the war as 1914-1919?"

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month was when fighting ceased - the Armistice was declared. For many that is considered the end of the war, but it was, in actuality a cease-fire, while negotiations for peace continued. Hence to others the Great War only fully, officially ended with signing of the peace treaty, "The Treaty of Versailles", which took place in June 1919. That is why, also, the phrase was used in Remembrance Sunday's commemorations.... "the start of the end of the Great War"...

That day we saw many Grimsargh residents and those from further afield gather around our memorial to commemorate the ceasing of fighting one hundred years ago.



The band played, the names of the fallen were read, wreaths were laid and prayers said. It was a solemn occasion, fitting in remembrance of all who have fallen, not only in "The Great War" - supposed to be "War to end all Wars", but the subsequent conflicts and, indeed, those that continue.

The Parish Council chose to support the charity "Remembered", with their theme of "There but not There" and placed a "Tommy" by the war memorial - a whispy silhouette of a soldier, to represent those whose presence is felt still....



These beautiful painted pebbles, provided by Rosalyn Loughscott, of Ribchester gave a contemporary feel to the display.

We thank all those who turned out with us on Remembrance Sunday - to the War Memorial and all the other services - at the Churches and other places in the region and beyond.

Lest we forget.....



SPOTLIGHT ON..... GRIMSARGH BADMINTON CLUB

On behalf of Grimsargh Badminton Club I would like to thank the Parish Council for allowing us space in their Newsletter to promote the club.

Through a combination of circumstances, a number of long-standing members left the club last year, leaving it struggling a little to find sufficient players to make the weekly sessions viable. However, a “marketing campaign” was embarked on, including flyers around much of the village and a new Facebook Page. We discovered many people were keen to ensure the club continued – being one of the longest running at the Village Hall. The campaign yielded great results and we are fully thriving once again. We do still have vacancies for a few more adult members, however. No previous playing experience is necessary and we have racquets available for anyone wishing to try the game.

Grimsargh Badminton Club meets in the Village Hall every Thursday evening at 8.00pm. Our aim is to play social, but competitive, badminton in a friendly atmosphere, primarily as a recreational

activity. Members pay a modest annual membership subscription, plus a weekly court fee, set at a level which covers the running costs of the club.



If you are looking for an activity which can be as energetic as you wish to make it, or if you would like to get back into a game you may have played years ago, why not give us a try – just turn up on a Thursday. Any newcomer gets a free initial trial session. For more details contact Richard Foster, Tel: 01772 652981, or visit our Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/grimsarghbadminton.

We look forward to seeing you.

- Richard Foster

IS INCONSIDERATE PARKING ANNOYING YOU?

Despite featuring residents’ concerns in numerous past Newsletters, we continue to receive regular complaints and, indeed, witness ourselves some remarkable examples of “inconsiderate” parking within the Village. Parking blocking pavements being a particularly persistent problem, with dire consequences for many – as outlined in the article on the experiences of a mobility scooter user. We know the police cannot come out to calls on such matters and so have decided to try a campaign of our own.

We have produced a flyer that can be put under the wiper of any car that is parked in a manner flagrantly flouting the Highway Code. We are asking for any resident who considers parking in their area to be a problem, to contact us and be issued with a

number of these flyers. The document explains that the vehicle is considered to have been parked inconsiderately and allows for the relevant Highway Code (listed on the flyer) to be indicated.

The resident is asked to let us know the details of the vehicle, anytime a flyer is used. Preferably this will be by sending a photograph with the registration of the “offending” vehicle. We will keep records of every instance and contact the police where there is clear evidence of repeat “offending”.

If you are such a resident, please contact us by emailing: parking@grimsarghparishcouncil.org. We will issue you with a letter explaining just what we want you to do, together with a quantity of flyers.

VILLAGE PLANTER AWARDS 2018

On 30th September we had a lovely afternoon where the winners of the 2018 Grimsargh Planter Competition were presented with their awards by our independent judge Michelle Unsworth, of So Plants Garden Centre.

All those residents who maintain the planters around the village 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 (again) Nellie and Philip Cowell who look after the War Memorial. Second (again) was Eileen Murray for her planter on Preston Road, near the church; third was Grimsargh Gardening Club for their planter at the North entrance to the village.

Our grateful thanks go to all of you.



Members of Grimsargh Gardening Club and Grimsargh Brownies enjoy cake and coffee as Michelle announces the winners.



Councillor Terry Cryer, Vice Chair of the Parish Council, presents the winners shield to Nellie and her grandson James.

LET'S MAKE GRIMSARGH ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL!

Further to the article on parking (see opposite), I thought that I would add my perspective on the problems of the disabled, who use a scooter or wheelchair to or from or around the village.

I cannot walk more than a few metres as I have M.S.(Multiple Sclerosis) and so I have to use a mobility scooter. My scooter is a pavement scooter, small lightweight and collapsible which goes into the car boot. As it is only small, it cannot mount pavements so I can only cross the road where there are dropped kerbs on both sides of the road. This means that I am restricted where I can cross. Often I can encounter vehicles parked over dropped kerbs which mean that I have to retrace my route and find an alternative, which can often be several hundred metres. This can be very frustrating and adds time to my trip. On side roads, I am often forced into the road, which is not too bad if they are quieter but I cannot do that on the main road, as it would be too dangerous. On Longridge Road and Preston Road, dropped kerbs can be few and far between, and it can be hazardous on such a busy road to have to cross. One popular suggestion on the Neighbourhood Plan was to have a Pelican crossing on Longridge Road near The Hills which I would fully support. Another problem that I encounter is vehicles which are parked wholly or fully on pavements, leaving little or no room to pass. This is a particular problem on side roads, where the pavements can be narrow.

I am sure that anyone who uses a wheelchair or scooter or mums with larger buggies encounter the same problem. I would appeal to everyone when they are parking their vehicle to check that they are not parked over a dropped kerb and that there is room for wheelchairs or scooters to pass if they park on a pavement. I would also ask that anyone whose property adjoins a pavement to keep hedges, bushes or trees trimmed back as well as ensuring that there are no nettles or the like encroaching onto the pavement, as this can be a problem.

I hope that this has given everyone food for thought and they think carefully when parking so that Grimsargh is accessible for everyone!

Article by Councillor

Lynda Cryer, Grimsargh Parish Council

GRIMSARGH FIELD DAY, 2018 “ONWARDS AND UPWARDS!”

The sun shone, the cheering crowds lined the streets and the bands played enthusiastically. It can only mean one thing – Grimsargh Field Day, 2018. It may seem an age ago now, but the memory of this year’s Field Day will live long in the memories of those who enjoyed the biggest and best field day to date. Field Day Chairman, Keith Middlebrough, said, “It has been absolutely fantastic. There must have been several thousand on the field and I am delighted that so many people have turned out, yet again, to support this event. Its fame has spread beyond the local area and people from all over Lancashire are now flocking to Grimsargh to enjoy the day. Onwards and upwards!”

These sentiments were shared by villagers and the wider public, who this year enjoyed the usual Field Day fare of bands, races, games, dog show, Pendle Dog Agility, stalls, musicians, Fancy Dress, Bake-Offs, WI Tea Tent to name but a few of the attractions that filled the field with colour, music and fun.

Keith particularly paid tribute to the Field Day Committee who plan and organise the day but added, “The committee is relatively small and the event is getting bigger. Anyone who would like to get involved please contact me or any of the Field Day Committee.”

If you would like to get involved, please contact Keith Middlebrough on 07795 527429 and help to ensure that this quintessentially village event continues for the next generation of Grimsargh folk!



“This year’s Field Day was opened by the new Rose Queen, Libby Gibson.”

GRIMSARGH OPEN GARDENS JULY, 2018.

Grimsargh St. Michael's Church held an "Open Gardens" afternoon on Saturday 14th July of this year. The event brought the community together, as curious folk strolled slowly around seven glorious gardens, enjoying the warm sunshine, the beautiful flowers and the delicious cream teas. Organisers were indebted to those villagers who so kindly volunteered to open their gorgeous gardens and provide refreshments on the day.

Some time ago, former resident Pat Tucker organised a similar "Open Gardens" afternoon in the village, and organisers felt that this would be a good time to repeat the day, such had been its success. And indeed, it proved to a wonderful day. One visitor said, "We are amazed how many lovely gardens there are in Grimsargh. We hope that you will make this an annual occasion!"

In total, over £700 was raised for the "Church Windows Restoration Fund" and organisers hope that the event will be repeated at some time in the future.



GRIMSARGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Progress on our Neighbourhood Plan slowed somewhat over the summer as it was important for us to keep in step with the beginning of the Review of Preston's Local Plan. We need to dovetail our policies with this in order to achieve agreement. The main focus over the last few weeks has been to comply with their 'Call for Sites' – to put forward suggestions for development sites that can be evaluated as part of their Review, along with sites that we are anxious to protect.

Unfortunately, sites that already have planning permission can't count towards our contribution. As you can imagine it's not been easy to identify appropriate sites. We have continued to meet with Preston City Council Planning Officers to keep abreast of their progress and seek advice on ours, and will soon be hard at work on the next stage. Your Village, Your Future – get involved!

If you have an interest (or even better, some experience in planning) and would like to join our Steering Group, or for more information on the Grimsargh Neighbourhood Plan go to the dedicated website: www.grimsarghneighbourhoodplan.org Follow our Facebook Page for up to date news: www.facebook.com/grimsarghneighbourhoodplan/

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE HIGH SHERIFF OF LANCASHIRE...

...and guess what; the current High Sheriff lives in Grimsargh!



Firstly, it is a great privilege to carry on a role in Lancashire that has been in existence since 1154. It is an honour that is given by the Queen as Duke of Lancaster and the ceremony at Buckingham Palace is distinguished by the pricking of the lites. The role of Sheriff or “Shire Reve” which is for twelve months has evolved over the years. Initially the High Sheriff was the Monarchs representative in the County which gave the position enormous powers, including the collection of taxes and all aspects of law and order; indeed, up until 1972 we would have been required to witness all executions.

Now the principal activities are to uphold and enhance the ancient Office of High Sheriff and to make a meaningful contribution to the High Sheriff’s County during the year of Office. To lend active support to the principal organs of the Constitution within the county – the Royal Family, the Judiciary, the Police and other law enforcement agencies, the emergency services, local authorities, and church and faith groups. To ensure the welfare of visiting High Court Judges, to attend on them at Court and to offer them hospitality. To support the Lord-Lieutenant on royal visits and on other occasions as appropriate. To take an active part in supporting and promoting

the voluntary sector and giving all possible encouragement to the voluntary organisations within a County.

I therefore spend my time equally supporting the judiciary and public services such as the Fire and Ambulance Service, the Probation Service, the Police Service and prisons, and the voluntary and charitable Sector.



With only one year to do as much as I can I needed to hit the ground running. My great support team that has allowed me to do just that includes my Under Sheriff David Cam, the previous High Sheriff, Robert Webb my able Executive Assistant Karen Fairhurst and my wonderful wife Patricia. I have also been enthusiastically welcomed by all in the Judiciary including our Honorary Recorder of Preston HHJ Mark Brown and Chief Constable Rhodes. They have made my Judiciary duties much easier and facilitated a remarkable insight into our legal process. It has been a great honour to represent the people of Lancashire as their High Sheriff. So far as I reach the half way point it has been six months full of experiences that I would never had encountered outside of this privileged position.

Article by
Tony Attard OBE DL
High Sheriff of Lancashire

A CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE GREEN FOR 2018!

The Grimsargh Christmas Tree has been a moving entity and a bit of a saga over the years. For some time local business folk were able to support us – with either the provision of a tree, or the siting of it. However, in recent years this hasn't been so easy – shortage of trees being one particular problem!

So we have been discussing and evaluating options over this year and concluded the best route forwards is to “go for it” and aim to get a Christmas Tree on the Village Green. There are various issues involved in that – there is no ready source of power being one and the City Council owning the land being another. Solar lighting has come on leaps and bounds in recent years, so that the easiest way to address the power issue. We had started looking into sourcing lights and a tree ourselves, but first had to seek permission from the City Council.

Their stance is that they will only allow a tree if they provide and site it themselves. Health and Safety concerns being one of the reasons cited. We did give a communal “sharp intake of breath” when we heard that the costs for that would be in the region of £2,500 for the first year, falling to around £800 for subsequent years. This did seem somewhat pricey for the initial installation, but we recognise that it should mean they put in robust infrastructure to support the tree, which we viewed as an investment to cover many years to come.

There is one, small silver lining to the various housing developments that are going ahead in the village – we get an amount of “Community Infrastructure Levy” for those and it is from those funds that we can pay for the tree.

So – all being well this year we will have a substantial tree to be proud of, on display in the heart of the Village. We shall give out details of a “Switching on the Lights” ceremony we will hold, once we have firm details of when the City Council will complete the installation.



GRIMSARGH FLOWER, PRODUCE AND HANDICRAFT SHOW

This summer Grimsargh showcased again a variety of talented artists, green fingers grower and and Bake Off showstoppers for the 29th year.

We experienced a long hot summer which challenged our gardeners, however there was a superb turn out in the majorities of categories. Cakes, Jams and boozy fruit liquor filled the tables and we saw whole families entering the show for the first time. In fact, the growth in photography entries over the last few years saw the committee approach the parish council who were pleased to sponsor a new cup for Young Photographers which was won by Matthew Waring. It was an absolute joy to see the delight on the faces of

villagers as they entered the hall and saw that their entry had won an award, this was especially the case in our children's categories. As always, the café did a roaring trade as folk stopped by the view to entries and enjoy a cup of coffee and a homemade cake.

So, now is the time to start thinking of next summer and the team will soon be getting together to finalise the categories for the 30th show. As the nights draw in it's the perfect time to start on some crafts, learn some new skills or prepare a patch in your garden ready for the 30th show in August next year. We will be promoting the show at field day and via our facebook page so please give us a 'like' and watch out for more news in the spring.

If you would like to be involved contact Louise on 07447 970096 or louiseh.burton.lb@gmail.com

GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST RECEIVES MAJOR FUNDING FROM LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

The Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is pleased to announce that it has received £50,000 in grant aid from the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF). The first tranche of funding (£30,000) will allow major, and much needed, improvements to access for visitors with significant upgrading of the public footpath onto and through the Wetlands. In addition, steps will be replaced by ramped areas to enable full access for wheelchair users, prams and buggies. The second tranche of funding (£20,000) will be used to create a second access point onto the Wetlands, together with the construction of wildlife screens/hides accessible to all. In recognition of LEF's 20th Anniversary, the Wetlands project was one of only a small number of projects to be selected for this level of additional funding.



Jayne Woollam (Secretary to the Trust) accepts a cheque from John Wilkinson (Regional Director, Energy North at SUEZ R&R UK Ltd.) at the LEF's awards event. (l, r) John Wilkinson, Simon King OBE, Jayne Woollam, David Hindle (Chairman of the Trust) and Andy Rowett (Fund Manager of LEF). Photograph used with permission of LEF (www.lancsenfund.org.uk).

The awards were presented to the Trust at the LEF's 20th Anniversary Awards Event, held at the Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston on Friday 28th September, 2018. David Hindle (Chairman of the Trust) and Jayne Woollam (Secretary to the Trust) were on hand to receive the awards from Andy Rowett (Fund Manager of LEF) and John Wilkinson, Regional Director, Energy North at SUEZ R&R UK

Ltd. Also present, was internationally-renowned wildlife photographer and naturalist, Simon King OBE who enthralled the attendees with an inspirational presentation. Commenting on the award, David Hindle said "I feel honoured to be associated with this ongoing conservation project. Over the last two decades I have worked closely with landowners, conservationists, scientists and local authorities. I would like to thank all the many organisations and individuals concerned. I am especially grateful to Lancashire Environmental Forum, Grimsargh Parish Council, Preston City Council, United Utilities, the RSPB and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust for all their help. Grimsargh Wetlands is now managed by the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust who, in a remarkably short period of time, have achieved so much in restoring this crucial habitat. With this generous level of funding, we will now be able to share with the public, an improved footpath, improved access and viewing facilities and crucially a new and significant nature reserve for Lancashire."

The funding success will have an immediate and positive impact on the accessibility of the Wetlands site for members of the local and wider community. Lindsay Philipson, Chair of Grimsargh Parish Council, commented "*From the outset, the vision has been to enable the whole community to share in the beauty and serenity of the Wetlands. That this has so far been denied to the less mobile, those who use wheelchairs and families with prams and pushchairs is a source of regret. So it was top priority to put this right. This generous award means that not only will the public footpath see huge improvements in access, but the next stage in the planned improvements is also assured. It also enables us to fulfil a commitment made to Preston City Council Planning Committee, at the time of battling for planning permission to go ahead, that access for the community would be improved.*"

Fellow Councillor, Eileen Murray, who played a key role in saving the original site for the community, added "*Giving a greater level of access for*

the public to this site is one of the most crucial purposes of the Trust. Whilst the preservation and enhancement of the flora and fauna might be the most important role, without people being able to see, enjoy and learn, the full value of the site cannot be realised."

The Grimsargh Wetlands site is rapidly becoming established as one of Lancashire's premier nature reserves. Located in the village of Grimsargh, between Preston and Longridge, the site is based upon three decommissioned reservoirs that, historically, provided water for the local community and industry. On hearing about the funding success, Gavin Thomas (RSPB Reserves Ecologist for Northern England) commented 'Grimsargh Wetlands provides a refuge for a rich diversity of wildlife thanks to its broad range of habitat types. The number of bird species alone that it has attracted is remarkable and includes a variety of species that are of local, national and even global conservation concern. In particular, the site is a critical safe overnight roosting site for Curlews in the spring and summer. Curlew numbers are in free-fall globally, we have lost half of our Curlews in the UK in the past twenty years, and Grimsargh Wetlands regularly supports several hundred individuals. Whimbrels, a close relative of the Curlew, also use the site in late April and early May every year en route to their Icelandic breeding grounds. Securing the future of this important site for nature is great news for these special birds'.

Although the birdlife is the main attraction for many visitors to the Wetlands, there is a wealth of other wildlife to see. Roe deer are often seen grazing in the reserve. Dusk sees large numbers of bats moving around the reserve. The site boasts over twenty different species of bumble bee and over a dozen different species of dragonfly and damselfly along with a wide range of butterflies and moths (including Lancashire's largest colony of Ringlet butterflies). The site is also home to a diverse range of flowers with record numbers of orchids being recorded in recent years.

Secretary to the Trust, Jayne Woollam commented *'Awards like this really do have a major impact on the development of the reserve. However, the tireless work of the Wetlands volunteers remains central to the maintenance and on-going development of the reserve'. Jayne appealed 'For anyone, with a few hours to spare, to come along to the regular weekend working parties and become involved in the development of their local nature reserve. The team-leaders will always ensure that*

everyone is able to contribute to the volunteer day, irrespective of age, experience or fitness levels!'

Anyone with any queries about volunteer work or membership of the Trust should contact Jayne Woollam (email: jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk).

We are grateful to the Lancashire Environmental Fund (www.lancsenvfund.org.uk) for their generous financial support and to Red Rose Blinds and Curtains, Preston for their continued sponsorship.

The Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is a registered charity No 1173037.

**Article by Mike Fisher
on behalf of the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust**



LANCASHIRE
ENVIRONMENTAL
FUND

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 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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019

Your Parish Council meets usually every first Thursday of each month at the Village Hall and we start at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday 10 January 2019 *(note change of date)

Thursday 7 February 2019

Thursday 7 March 2019

Thursday 4 April 2019

Thursday 16 May 2019* (Note change of date due to Elections)

Thursday 6 June 2019

Thursday 4 July 2019

Thursday 5 September 2019

Thursday 3 October 2019

Thursday 7 November 2019

Thursday 5 December 2019

A copy of the Agenda is available 5 days before the meeting on our website at www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org

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Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!