



Thank You All

Grimsargh Celebrated Preston Guild – in Style!



Everyone has agreed that the programme of activities that took place over the summer was a tremendous success. Congratulations must go to the Co-ordinating Committee who put in so much hard work, but also to each and every one of you who turned out to support and enjoy the events.

To mention just a few of the highlights:

- The Mosaic organised by FOGG (pictured right) – what a wonderful legacy for the Village. More details overleaf.
- The Swing Band Night with the Village Hall decked out like most of us have not seen it before and wonderful “proper” dancing being enjoyed across the generations.
- The “GPS” Treasure Hunt where so many adults turned up with their smart phones and the expectation that a teenager would be able to show them how to use the GPS function – everyone “clueless” and having to resort to printed maps instead – priceless!
- The Heritage Walks Brochure (details inside) with a guided walk through some of the prime historical and geographical assets of the Village. Copies can be obtained from the Post Office - another fantastic legacy from the 2012 Guild for Grimsargh.
- Field Day – from imminent disaster and a wash-out to joyful triumph after some fantastically creative re-arranging and brilliant use of Facebook and other communication channels.



From L to R, Patricia Lee, Geoff Swarbrick, Joyce Chessell

Each and every event in the programme was well attended and together they showed the very best of the talents and skills in the Village. We hope to be able to continue to promote combined group activities on a periodic basis in the future.

Well done everyone!

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Friends of Grimsargh Green

FOGG has been very busy during the summer carrying out a variety of activities during Grimsargh Guild week from unveiling the beautiful mosaic, fund raising, to planning the future programme of work.

The mosaic on the corner of the green was designed and created by the children in both Alston Lane R/C primary and Grimsargh St Michael's Primary schools with help from Patricia Lee mosaic artist. It was unveiled by Hon. Alderman Geoff Swarbrick known by many of you for the sterling work he carried out as Parish Councillor, City Councillor, Field day helper and fundraiser for the village hall over many years. The mosaic was funded through donations from Grimsargh, Preston City and Lancashire County Councils, DMAC, Signs Express and fundraising by FOGG. It has been widely admired and will hopefully be a lasting reminder of the Preston Guild 2012. It is hoped to bury a time capsule soon with all the children's names on scrolls.

During Grimsargh Guild week FOGG had a field day stall, and an interesting and enjoyable presentation of slides of Preston and past guilds by Roy Payne, retired photographer for the Lancashire Evening Post. Pat Tucker made a donation from her open garden event whilst Mary and Rowan held a very enjoyable cheese and wine evening at the Post Office. A very respectable £800 was raised and FOGG intend to place some seats on the village green with the proceeds. FOGG would also like to extend a very sincere thank you to all those involved for making these events so successful.

Our AGM was poorly attended but a thank you is extended to all who keep on supporting us in many different ways. During the next year FOGG wish to explore the possibility of draining the football field as well as continuing to keep the green tidy, especially around the pond and wild flower garden.

The green achieved QE11 Field Status (see note below) and an oak tree and plaque will commemorate this occasion in due course.

Britain in Bloom (BiB) - following the previous 2 years when the village green was judged to be level 4 thriving, FOGG is delighted that the judges this year have awarded the village green Level 5 Outstanding - the highest award possible. All the previous hard work has paid off and a big thank you is owed to all those volunteers who have helped FOGG to achieve this.

If you wish to know more about FOGG or join us as a committee member or volunteer please do not hesitate to contact one of the committee members:

Joyce Chessell	Telephone 653751	email chessell931@btinternet.com
Peter Croft	Telephone 652037	email petercroft216.orangehome.co.uk
Tony Cookson	Telephone 651303	email tony.cookson58@hotmail.co.uk

Village Green Trees

Recently FOGG asked Preston City Council to carry out a survey of the trees on the village green. We received the following report which saddened us but we realised that the work was necessary:

"A mature Horse Chestnut tree located near to the children's play area has bleeding canker at the base and is 30% hollow and will need to be removed shortly. Near to the care home there are two large, over mature Ash trees which are in decline and will need to be removed. Further maintenance work will be carried out on the poplar trees close to the footpath on the west of the green."

This is major work, requiring use of specialist equipment and is underway by Preston City Council as we go to print.

FOGG will look to replacing the trees in due course. Meanwhile we do have an oak tree which has been given to the village to commemorate the successful bid to become the QE11 playing field status. It is hoped to hold a celebration of this by holding an event in the future.

QEII Field Status – What Does it Mean?

The scheme is designed to protect playing fields and open spaces. Deeds (commonly called Deeds of Dedication) will be entered into for each site; these are legally binding contracts which will ensure the protection of the site in perpetuity. More information about the scheme can be found on the website: www.qe2fields.com.

Conservation Area Status for Grimsargh?

We Want to Hear Your Views

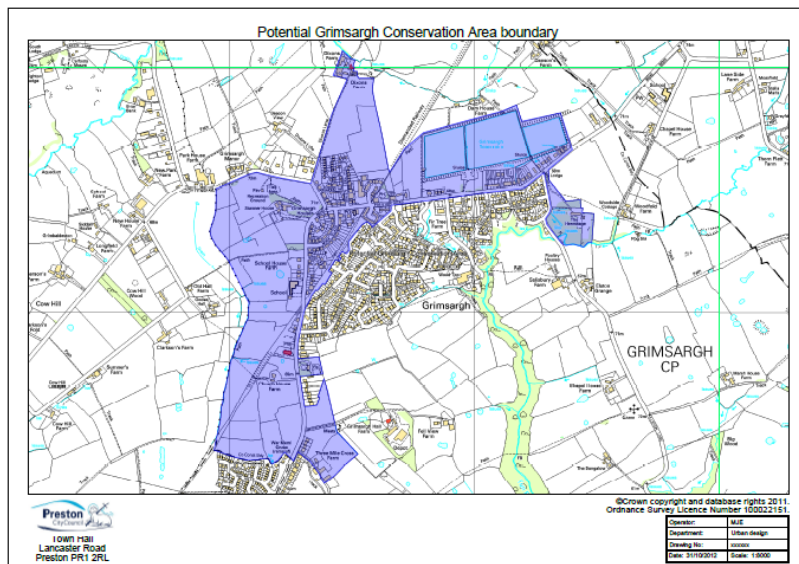
In the July newsletter last year we reported that we were looking at Conservation Area Status for parts of Grimsargh.

A special Working Group has spent much time investigating and evaluating the options and now has a specific proposal for which we are going to be seeking your views.

This map can be studied more closely via our website – see “Projects/Conservation Area Status”. There is also further information available on that page.

The timetable and format for this preliminary consultation are as follows:

- January 2013 - a flier will go out to residents of those properties within and adjacent to the proposed area.
- 27th February 2013 - There will be a public meeting for all residents in Grimsargh Village Hall, 7.30pm. There will be experts on hand to discuss the proposals and answer any questions. There will also be a questionnaire at the meeting for any residents to answer, should they wish to take an active part in the consultation. Additional copies will be made available to anyone unable to attend the meeting.
- March 2013 - the results of this consultation will be compiled and analysed.
- Next steps will be established, following on from the results of the consultation. These will be published via the website and the next Newsletter – to be delivered in June.



Conservation Areas are defined as ‘areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’ (Section 69 of the *Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*). As such, the status may help to retain Grimsargh’s historic and natural charm as a classic Lancashire village. It does, however, bring with it additional controls over what owners can do to their property and hence we are carrying out this initial consultation to gauge the views of residents prior to any further consideration.

Any designation of a Conservation Area would be under the jurisdiction of Preston City Council and they would carry out a further comprehensive consultation.

Any initial queries should be forwarded to Sue Whittam, the Clerk to Grimsargh Parish Council (see contact details on the back page), who will collate them for us.

New Bench for Old Railway Walk

Those of you who regularly stroll along Old Railway Walk will not have failed to notice the new bench that was installed there earlier this year. This bench was very kindly donated to the Village by Eileen Siddle, in memory of her late husband, Allen. The Parish Council were very touched by Mrs Siddle’s offer and helped to source and install the bench. Now it will be there for many years for all to enjoy.





Hallam Development Update

We were not surprised to hear that Hallam Land Management had lodged an appeal against the decision by Preston City Council to refuse planning permission for their proposed development. Those of you who wrote in response to the consultation will also have been informed. We have been advised that the inquiry for the appeal will start at 10.00, on Wednesday 9 January 2013 at the Town Hall, Preston. We have submitted a request to speak at the appeal hearing.

If other members of the public are intending to attend the appeal, we would be grateful if you would let us know, as we believe it would be very beneficial to co-ordinate our efforts. Please contact our Clerk, Sue Whittam – details on the back page.

Have you heard about Freecycle?

Here's something Parish Councillor Lynda Cryer believes we all should know about:

Now that we've all got our wheelybins, we are getting used to recycling. But what do you do with usable items that you no longer need? Instead of throwing them away, why not give them away?

Freecycle is a website for doing just that. All you do is go onto the website www.freecycle.org.uk go onto your local group (there is one in Preston) register with a username and password and then you can post your unwanted items. You can also respond to "Wanted" posts if you have an item which someone is appealing for. If you post an item, people will respond by email. Then all you have to do is contact them by email or phone to arrange for them to collect the item from you.

It is an excellent way of getting rid of things which you no longer need but are too good to throw away. It also saves a trip to the tip! I have given away many things, from an entire kitchen of cupboards to a pressure cooker that we did not use. All items are well received. Freecycle's motto is "changing the world one gift at a time".

So next time, you are thinking about throwing something out, think "Could I Freecycle it?"

Planter Competition – 2012 Results

The glorious display from Grimsargh Gardening Club which so triumphantly celebrated 2012 won this year's competition (pictured right).

The places for the runners up were extremely close with a third place going to the Cricket Club and a tie for second place between Ron and Jayne Woollam and Grimsargh First Brownies.

All the groups and individuals who took part in the competition this year are thanked for their efforts and hard work. It was a tough year with awful weather, but still the planters looked lovely and we look forward to seeing what spring will bring!



Grimsargh Community Choir

A note from Ben Holt:

The Choir is for anyone who wants to sing in a relaxed, friendly environment. We sing a range of songs, and perform regularly throughout the year. Since our first concert, just before Christmas 2011, we have performed at Grimsargh Farmers Market, Grimsargh Field day, the 'Celebrate Creation' event at Brockholes Nature reserve and also a summer concert in St Michael's Church.

Anyone can sing! We do not audition, and welcome anyone from year 6 upwards. We are currently planning our Christmas events – look out for details.

Above all, we exist so that anyone can come along and enjoy music – and there are few better ways to enjoy music than to take part in it.

We meet on a Thursday at 8pm, in St Michael's School, Grimsargh. For further information, contact Ben Holt on 07789 393609, or search for 'Grimsargh Community Choir' on Facebook.

Redrow Residents Association...

So who are we?...we are a group of people who all live on the Redrow Estate, Grimsargh. There are 10 of us, and we hold meetings approximately every three months to discuss issues affecting our area.

What have we done?...a little over a year ago, we got together because of concerns that the estate was looking untidy and parking issues. There was a feeling that now all the houses had been sold, the standard of maintenance had dropped, and we needed to take action to get things improved.

We started with the grass cutting, and within 48 hours of telephoning Redrow, the grass was cut! Since then and throughout this year, the standards have improved and have been maintained.



From L to R:- David Nicholson, Ron Smith, Wendy Coupe, Liz Hindley, Frank Almond



Douglas Lane/Swarbrick Avenue

We are also involved in the transfer of ownership of the estate from Redrow to Preston City Council. This is important in the long term, as it ensures that the council are responsible for the upkeep of the estate, rather than Redrow. We believe this process of transfer is now nearing completion.

A committee member took on the issue of the flooding at the entrance to Douglas Lane. Despite the best efforts of the recent weather, it appears that this problem has now been resolved!

Finally...Neighbourhood Watch. The whole of the estate is now covered by a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. One of the benefits is that we receive alerts from the local Police regarding crime committed in the area, and we then circulate these to everyone that

we have an email address for. While this doesn't necessarily prevent crime, it certainly helps keep the level of recorded crime on the estate to a minimum.

What next?... we are applying for a grant to have some additional planting to the pond area. If we are successful, the planting will take place in early spring of 2013.

We are looking to have litter bins placed around the estate as currently there are none.

Ambitiously, we are trying to take on the issue of poor mobile phone reception. This is perhaps a project for the longer term, and definitely more difficult to resolve than getting the grass cut!...but as you can see, we've had some successes and are not put off from trying!

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact our Secretary:-

Liz Hindley - phone - 01772 792221, email - lizhindley@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be Thursday January 17th at 7pm in the Small Hall, Grimsargh Village Hall. All Welcome.



Douglas Lane



Ron Smith
Committee



Mandy Coupe
Committee



Frank Almond
Chairman



Liz Hindley
Secretary



David Nicholson
Treasurer

Grimsargh Village Hall Goes “Green”

No – it’s not had a new paint job – but it has now got a large new installation of solar panels! 39 of them in total, placed in a prime south-facing position on the rear roof.

The hall will see three-fold benefits from this installation: the free electricity generated by the panels – up to 10kW at a time on a sunny day; the income from the government’s Feed in Tariff Scheme – which pays for every unit of electricity produced – irrespective of whether it is used by the Hall, or not; additional income from the sale of any surplus electricity back to the grid. All of which helps with the Hall Committee’s commitment to endeavour to keep hire fees down for the Community Groups that use the Hall on a regular basis.

The project was largely funded by a grant from the Lancashire Environmental Fund, which has paid for 80% of the total costs on the installation and also some further energy efficient improvements at the Hall.

In addition, there is a display in the foyer (shown below), explaining in simple language how the solar panels work, and showing the power currently being generated together with the total produced since the panels were installed - check it out next time you’re at the Hall – the figures are impressive! There are flyers too giving the same information, which are freely available to take home.

Grimsargh Village Hall

SOLAR ENERGY

P.V. PANELS

ELECTRICITY

Photovoltaic energy

FIG A.

WHAT IS SOLAR ENERGY?

Solar energy is the solar radiation that reaches the earth. “Solar” is the Latin word for “sun” - and it’s a powerful source of energy. In fact, the sunlight that shines on the Earth in just one hour could meet world energy demand for an entire year!

We can use solar power in two different ways: as a heat source, and as an energy source.

PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY

Photovoltaic energy systems are solar systems that produce electricity directly from sunlight. Photovoltaic systems produce clean, reliable electricity without consuming any fossil fuels. They are being used in a wide variety of applications, from providing power for watches, highway signs, and space stations. In Grimsargh’s case they provide the village hall with its electrical needs.

Photovoltaic energy is the conversion of sunlight into electricity through a photovoltaic (PVs) cell, commonly called a solar cell.

Grimsargh Village Hall

SOLAR ENERGY

PV PANEL

AC/DC INVERTER

FUSEBOX

IMPORT METER

EXPORT METER

BUY FROM THE GRID

SELL BACK TO THE GRID

LIGHTING AND ELECTRICITY SOCKETS AND SWITCHES

Photovoltaic energy

FIG B.

PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY EXPLAINED

The electricity generated from the sun’s energy is then fed directly into the existing supply of the property where it can be used. The electricity generated is free and has no carbon emissions.

As you can see from the above diagram you will still be using electricity from your supplier, however, you will also be generating electricity from the PV panels on the roof. This electricity comes out as DC (Direct Current) so has to be converted to AC (Alternating Current) by the inverter so that it can power your electrical appliances.

The meter will tell you how much energy is being produced by your PV panels at any given time, and this becomes even more important when it comes to the feed-in tariff, which allows you to make money for every unit of energy you produce.

The Hall features a wide range of classes and activities for all ages and interests, together with hosting the popular monthly Farmers’ Markets. It also provides an excellent facility for family parties, functions and business events.

Recent further recent improvements included the acquisition of a full set of chair covers, table cloths and drapes which transform the look of the Main Hall – as seen by many at the Swing Band Night during our Guild celebrations.

Full details of the Hall, its facilities and activities can be found on their website: www.gvca.co.uk.

New Walks on the Website

Grimsargh Reservoirs

This walk is a very short stroll around our wonderful local reservoirs, which we are now referring to as “Grimsargh Wetlands” in recognition of their status as one of the area’s much valued assets as a haven for wildlife, most particularly birds (125 species recorded). As this photo shows, the walk can be particularly rewarding at or around dusk, when the sun-set over the water is most spectacular. We found out during walks arranged as part of the Guild celebrations that many residents have never been around the Reservoirs. We would strongly recommend anyone who is able to take this brief walk and explore this wonderful asset on your doorstep.



Grimsargh Heritage Walks

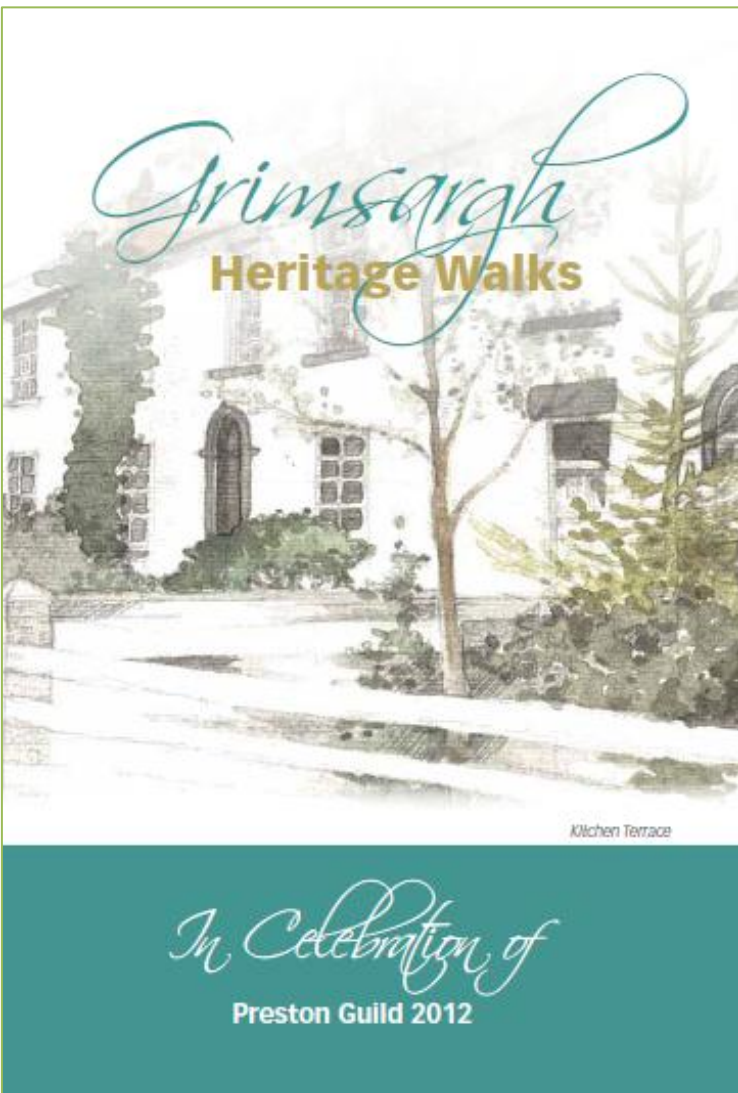
There are two routes described in the beautiful brochure, which was produced by Pat Tucker, as part of the “Grimsargh Celebrates Preston Guild” programme and is available from the Post Office. The routes take in the Village’s most notable historical sites and some lovely countryside along the way.

The shorter of the two walks follows a route around the Village Green, along the main road to the Church and back, around the Reservoirs and back to the Green.

The longer walk takes in an extension down Elston Lane, across Tunbrook Woods, up through the Crematorium, along part of the Guild Wheel and back to the Village via the meadow behind The Hills.

The brochure gives a little history of each of the important sites along the way and also includes wonderful illustrations, including historical maps and some prints of paintings especially commissioned from local artist, Heidi Berry.

The pictures can be seen on our website and there is also a plain text version of the description of the walks available to download.



Let us Have Your Favourite Walk

We would welcome your input for another walk to go on the website. If you are interested, simply send us a description of the walk, some photographs and we will do the rest! Email your submissions to: eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org.

In Brief

Carols Around the Crib

Each year there is a short service of carols and readings held at the Crib, by the Post Office. This year it will be on Friday 14th December, 6.30pm. It is followed by tea and mince pies in the Club – everyone is welcome to attend.

Christmas Tree Thank You

Many thanks, once again to Alan Coar and Browns Garage for providing and hosting our Village Christmas Tree this year. It does provide a lovely central focal point for our festive decorations.

Seasonal Thoughts From Your Parish Council

2012 was a very packed year for all the UK, but especially those of us in Preston and particularly Grimsargh.

We hope that 2013 brings us all some drier weather, a bounce back in the economy and a solution to the bugs threatening our native ash trees.....

Perhaps more within our ability to bring about, however, will be sustained continuation of the wonderful community spirit we have enjoyed throughout this year.

We would like to wish you, your family and all our other friends a very happy Christmas.



Photo courtesy of Eileen Parker

Send us Your Photos – Please!

We would like to add another page to our website showing photos from around Grimsargh – either of beautiful scenes (like the one above from Eileen Parker) or depicting particular events during the year, or past-times. We will feature one or two of the best received in future editions of the Newsletter. If you have any particular shots you think would be of interest, please email to: eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org. Thank you!

Your Parish Council Contact Details

Peter Burton - 01772 797565
peterh.burton@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Joyce Chessell - 01772 653751
chessell931@btinternet.com

Lynda Cryer - 01772 794862
lynda.cryer@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Andy Ellis (Vice-Chairman) - 01772 653642
andy.ellis@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

David Hindle - 01772 652090
hindle@hdavid749.orangehome.co.uk

Lynn McCann - 01772 704682
lynn.mccann.@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Eileen Murray (Chairman) - 01772 655812
eileen.murray@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

David Nicholson - 01772 798896
david.nicholson@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Ron Woollam – 01772 704112
ronwoollam@btinternet.com

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Sue Whittam
3 Hazelmere Road
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 9UN
01772 863477
clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com

To send an email to all of us – use:
all@grimsarghparishcouncil.org