

Newsletter

December 2021



HERITAGE CORNER

A miscellany of Grimsargh's mid C20th shop-keepers and tradesmen

Grimsargh's shopkeepers and tradesmen have served the village well. According to Barrett's Trade Directory for 1936, Todd and Eccles occupied the premises of 'Yew Tree House' near to Longsight Terrace (Preston Road.) Their speciality was the making of delicious confectionery including oatcakes and crumpets which were sold from a van in Grimsargh and Longridge.

Harry Eccles was affectionately known as 'the oatcake man', but his was not the only confectioner in Grimsargh. About the time of the Great War Grimsargh Post Office and village shop was managed by James Myerscough, who offered competition to 'the oatcake man', when in 1936 his business premises had become a grocery and confectioner's shop. At the bakery the smell of new-baked loaves and confectionery tempted those customers who enjoyed an early morning cuppa in the café. One can imagine that the hot pies attracted the local artisans including village blacksmith and farrier, Ralph Ireland, who worked at the smithy next to the Plough Inn. The village post office eventually became the Co-operative grocers where the popular 1960s 'Co-op divi.' ensured sales until the advent of urban supermarkets which in turn led to the old Co-op being given a new lease of life as the present Grimsargh Social Club.

The quaint tradition of the 'oil delivery man' continued at Grimsargh until the Second World War. Paraffin oil was still used for lighting and cooking at some houses and the 'oil man' ambled up from Preston with his cart hauled by two lovely shire horses. At the farms he often received fresh eggs in lieu of payment. Hospitals depended on voluntary subscriptions and it was the custom for country schools to hold an egg collection at the time of the year when eggs were plentiful. Thousands of eggs were handed over to the ambulance men and were put into pickle for use in diets, doubtless a worthwhile gesture by the people of Grimsargh.

In order to 'keep the home fires burning' Messrs. Robert and James Wilkinson were in business delivering coal from the British Railways sidings at Grimsargh station. The coal wagons from Preston were shunted into the goods sidings and the burly brothers transferred it to their own classic commercial vehicles for local delivery. Both brothers worked very hard and tried their best to provide a service to the public in the days of coal dependency. Nothing was too much trouble when the telephone rang and the caller informed them that "I have run out of coal". At personal sacrifice they went down to the yard and loaded up two or three bags onto a 3-ton Morris lorry which was purchased new in 1933, and like its drivers was no stranger to hard work. During thirty years of active service, it covered over half a million miles carrying over 40,000 tons of coal. Customers on the rural patch were served at Longridge, Chipping, Ribchester and many villages throughout Bowland. The regular driver, proudly drove this lorry

to isolated farms such as Moss Nook, Grimsargh, (now the site of Redrow) where there was no hard road at all - only a field.

In those days there was a real need for coal, especially so, during the harsh winters of 1940 and 1947. During the 'big freeze up' of 1940, snowbound Grimsargh was cut off from the outside world and transformed into a 'winter wonderland' but this the epitome a many a Christmas card scene was not all that it seemed. On the 2nd February, 1940, Bob and Jim and their assistant, loaded up copious supplies to sustain the domestic energy sources of Inglewhite and Whitechapel. On the return run from Whitechapel, they came across something resembling the north face of the Eiger and had little choice but to abandon their vehicle or risk being buried in snow blown by the howling winds. They might have been gone for some time but for a brave rescue party who only managed to reach the spot NINE days later. A single track had been cut through the snow where telephone wires and poles had collapsed. An intrepid party eventually managed to free the Morris lorry from its icy tomb and miraculously the engine was to roar once more. The coal yard site and Grimsargh Station have now been replaced by the bungalows for the elderly in Old Station Close. Several occupants can remember those days and when before the comforts of gas central heating, the oil man came to Grimsargh, delivering paraffin oil on a cart preceded by two lovely horses.



The heavily laden 1933, classic Morris lorry pictured in 1960.



Snowbound Grimsargh 2NDFeb.1940. Preston Rd. outside the church showing how the village was cut off.

Associated with the farming industry were the blacksmith and farriers, wheelrights and joiners and other artisan occupations. In the 1930s Ralph Ireland became the last blacksmith and farrier to occupy premises next to the Plough Hotel which latterly became the village petrol station and garage. Already there were signs that the former agricultural hamlet was changing direction but urban expansion on a big scale in the C21st had yet to make its impact on the village of Grimsargh.

By Councillor David Hindle

Grimsargh St. Michael's Church, 'Festival of Angels'

Visitors to September's 'Festival of Angels' at Grimsargh St. Michaels Church, enjoyed two days of angelic exhibits, angelic paintings, beautiful ethereal music and delicious homemade refreshments.



The event, initiated by the Revd. Neil Salt and organised by 'FAF', the Church's Fundraising Team, was a truly community affair, attracting in excess of 160 visitors. People travelled from Grimsargh, Goosnargh, Preston, Knowle Green and Longridge to attend the event.

The 'Festival of Angels' was a celebration of 'spiritual angels', for example, 'St. Michael', the patron angel of St. Michael's Church, but also 'ordinary', people whose lives and work have made them 'extraordinary'. Nurses, shop assistants, teachers, cleaners, and many more, 'ordinary' people who have helped to keep everyone safe and keep society functioning during the dark, dismal days of the pandemic. Their hard work and courage were also celebrated.

There were paintings and models produced by the two local schools, St. Michael's and Alston Lane. There were contributions from the Guides, Cubs, Beavers, the Cowell family, the Mothers' Union, and many individuals from around the village. White card angels, created by Hazel Cliff and her daughter Susan, flew joyously from pillars and windowsills and mobiles. Resident of the village, and Parish Councillor, Joyce Chessell, sourced several nurses' uniforms originating from the time of Mary Seacole, 1850s, through to the 1920s, 1950s and right up to the present day. These, along with rare photographs and memorabilia from the old Preston Royal Infirmary, provided the public with a nostalgic and fascinating insight into how nursing in Preston has changed over the years.

A special service of music, readings and reflection conducted by the Revd. Neil Salt, was held on Saturday afternoon. Many found this a very moving service.

Visitors were also invited to hang an angel on the beautiful 'Memory Tree', created by local artist Kevan Thompson, in memory of a loved one. Again, this proved to be a moving experience for many, as the impact of Covid was remembered.



Furthermore, angels 'popped up' in gardens throughout the village, bringing much needed symbols of light and hope and peace around the village.

One lady remarked,

"This has been lovely. What a wonderful community event! Will you be doing it again next year?"

Perhaps, we have started a tradition.

If you were unable to visit the "Festival of Angels", please take a look at the event on Grimsargh St. Michael's Face Book Page.

The Parish Church of Grimsargh St Michael Coffee Morning

The Friday morning Coffee Morning has moved from the small room at the back of church to Grimsargh Club and we must express our grateful thanks to the Club Committee and the Steward, Curtis, for their kindness in allowing us to use their facilities and for the warm welcome we have received. A special thank you to Curtis and Georgina who are a tremendous help to us every week.

We moved to give us more space, to allow us to distance more easily following lockdown and to be more central to the village, so providing a meeting place for the whole village.

Everything is going as we planned. Numbers attending continue to grow and all who come are enjoying coffee, biscuits and delicious cakes as well as a really good chat. We don't charge, just ask for a donation. It is good that the Post Office is open at the same time, which means that people can combine a visit to the P.O. with a coffee.

**Do come along a join us, we are open
Friday Mornings 9.30am to 11.30am.
All are very welcome.**

Nellie Cowell and Jean Harrison.



Remembrance Sunday



A very moving ceremony was held at our War Memorial on Sunday 14th November. It was led by Reverend Neil Salt, and our Chairman David Hindle laid the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.



It was wonderful to see such a great turnout by Grimsargh Guides, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers.

Grimsargh Field Day, Saturday 25 June, 2022

Hopefully, by the time we reach June next year, the world will have turned again and we will be able to welcome people back once again to the fabulous "Grimsargh Field Day". 2022 promises to be a landmark Field Day, and for this year's event we will be bringing you a feast of entertainment. It seems such a long time since we last enjoyed all that a good Field Day brings to the village, so we want to make sure that 2022 will be memorable for residents and visitors alike.

There will be more noise and colour, more dancing and singing, more stalls and attractions, and a fabulous selection of refreshments, including the famous "Field Day Burgers". Our Rose Queen, Amber Leho, who has waited patiently for two years to be crowned, will open the day's proceedings, and we hope the finale will see the annual Tug of War between teams from the Plough and The Club.

On the run up to Field Day, we will be asking people to get involved, by bedecking the village in a bit of colour, with the now traditional "Scarecrow Competition", although this year it may have a twist!!

We cannot wait to see you once again, enjoying all that the Field Day has to offer, so make sure you mark the 25 June on your calendar, and we will see you then.

"We
Cannot Wait
to See You
Again!"

Oh Christmas Tree

This year our Christmas Tree lights switch on will be held on Saturday 27 November at 6.30pm.

We do hope that this year our beautiful tree on the village green will not be vandalised. The last two years have seen such damage and destruction to the tree and lights which is a real shame when the tree is such a focal point in the village and the start of the Christmas season.



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 10**

December outside Grimsargh Club and as usual there will be a lovely selection of Carols and readings.

Everyone is welcome to attend so please come along.

Winter Weather and Gritting

With Winter approaching and the weather turning colder, the gritters may be out and about. You can keep updated on **#LancsWinter** and find out when and where they will be gritting, so visit:

 **lancashirecc**

 **lancashirecc**

Winter website:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter

Grimsargh Village Hall, Grimsargh Badminton Club and Me

I moved to the North West in the mid nineteen eighties to take up a new job with a company based on Walton Summit. We produced a range of specialised polymers, paints and adhesives for a wide range of industries including automotive, aerospace, agriculture and printing. As a Technical Manager I was lucky enough to travel around Europe and visit the United States and the Far East. I worked there for twenty-five years and retired ten years ago.

When I arrived in Preston, I looked around the area and finally settled on Grimsargh as a suitable place to live. It was convenient for work, and became increasingly so when Junction 31A on the M6 opened. At the time the area did not seem to be overdeveloped and traffic through the village was moderate!! Happy days.

Whilst making a half-hearted effort at decluttering during one of the pandemic lockdowns I came across a Village Hall newsletter from 1989 inviting interested parties to attend a meeting with the purpose of setting up a badminton club in the hall. The idea of starting the club came from the Village Hall chair, Dr. Watt, who had been the driving force behind the building of the hall and many other village initiatives. I went to that meeting as my first real introduction to village life and the rest, as they say, is history.

The badminton club has a fairly informal structure, but for some reason I got selected as Chair and thirty years later I am still involved with running the club. At the time of its formation community groups using the village hall were required to nominate a representative to serve on the Village Hall committee and I undertook that role. A few years later



the serving village hall Treasurer left his post suddenly and I was asked to take over with only a few weeks to prepare the annual accounts in time for the hall's AGM. Having got over that hurdle, my stopgap occupation of the post has now lasted for over twenty-five years, with no end in sight. I also represented Grimsargh Village Hall for a number of years on the Lancashire Association of Village and Community Halls. This organisation promotes 'Best Practice' in halls and attempts to give them a voice at national level. I eventually gave up this role as meetings were on Saturdays and began to interfere with my golf.

Finally, I will get to the purpose of these ramblings, the promotion of Grimsargh Badminton Club. Over the years I have probably seen hundreds of members come and go. Occasionally we have had more members than we could really cope with and at other times I have been sitting alone in the hall on a Thursday evening, wondering if anyone was ever going to turn up. The Covid pandemic has been a further setback, but since reopening we have managed to attract a few new players. We do have room for a few more adult members to ensure the continued viability of the club. The club meets Thursday evening, 8-10pm for recreational rather than competitive badminton. If you are interested in joining, please contact me, Richard Foster, preferably by text in the first instance, on 07551 929262.

By Richard Foster

Remembering Peter Croft

'You've Got a Friend in Me'

Few individuals have had such a positive impact on the community as Peter Croft. Peter came to live in Grimsargh in 1975, and over the years he worked tirelessly for the benefit of others, embedding himself into the life of his adopted village. Peter wanted to make a difference to his community, and he certainly did make a massive difference to many.

Many will remember him for the huge contribution he made to Grimsargh Parish Council in his role as clerk, a role he fulfilled with enthusiasm for many years. Peter was also the Presiding Officer at Local and General Elections, a role he loved, and performed with his usual diligence and integrity. Others will remember him as Treasurer of Grimsargh Cricket Club, or in his role as Secretary to Grimsargh Club. Still others will recall Peter standing behind the Post Office counter, a job he enjoyed for many years, after taking voluntary redundancy from Lancashire County Council; Peter particularly enjoyed working in the Post Office, where he worked part-time, full-time and even worked as a trainer, passing on his skills and experience to others. Peter was indefatigable. He never stopped 'doing'. He saw a problem and he acted to solve it. Latterly, he took up the role of Treasurer of The Friends of Grimsargh Green (FOGG). Working alongside Joyce Chessell, Tony Cookson and John Baron, he helped to restore and improve Grimsargh Green, leaving a lasting and impressive legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Peter will be remembered as a 'character', a man who enjoyed a pint at The Plough and The Club, regularly ambling down the main road after the Ten O'Clock News, to catch last orders with two or three regulars, his pals. He had a wry sense of humour and above all he enjoyed precious time spent with family and friends; he particularly cherished holidays abroad with his dear wife, Brenda. At home, he enjoyed nothing more than pottering in his beloved garden or playing with Poppy his fun-loving cat. At his funeral, Brenda acknowledged that, "He was a man of strong opinions", but also noted that he was a man of "kindness and compassion and courage." Bravely, he fought a serious illness for five years with admirable stoicism and a complete lack of self-pity.

At his funeral on Monday 1st November, as Peter's coffin entered Church, the Toy Story hit, 'You've Got a Friend in Me', played mischievously through the sound system; we had to smile. He had the last laugh. We had a friend in Peter. He was a friend to so many, and definitely a friend to the people of Grimsargh. Having written most of his own eulogy, one of the main messages that was repeated throughout this moving testimony to his life, was that he loved everyone who had attended his service. On a bleak, cold, November afternoon, this loving and generous message warmed our hearts and our memories of Peter. We definitely had a friend in Peter. He will be sorely missed.



Peter Croft

My earthly life is over now,
my body hurt, and I had to go.

Although it's sad that we must part,
I leave a message for YOU to start.

This planet needs love as you gave me,
so go get your spades and plant a tree.

My love for all will always flow,
when I watch those trees as they
bloom and grow.

Poem by Brenda Croft



Defibrillators in Grimsargh

We have four defibrillators in Grimsargh one outside the Village Hall, one outside Grimsargh Club, one outside Grimsargh St Michael's School and one on the Village Green. We are often getting asked how do we access these?

In case of an emergency, you must always ring 999 and if there is not an ambulance or a paramedic available you will be advised by the call handler to go to the nearest defibrillator. The call handler will tell you where the nearest one is located and will give you the code to access the defibrillator. All our defibrillators are registered with North West Ambulance Service and are checked on a weekly basis. Sometimes our defibrillators may display an error message, due to weather or other issues so it is really important that you go to the dedicated defibrillator as directed by the call handler.



Consumer Alerts!

Scam NHS Covid Pass Email

Please be aware that criminals are using the NHS Covid Pass as a way to target the public by convincing them to hand over money, financial details and personal information. They are sending text messages, emails and making phone calls pretending to be from the NHS and offering face vaccine certificates for sale online and through social media.

A Lancashire resident received such an email headed 'UK Digital Covid 19 certificate - your NHS order has been dispatched' and the email asked to click to 'accept the invitation'. A closer look showed the email had been sent from an email address in Japan and nothing to do with the NHS.

Remember the NHS App is free, the NHS Covid Pass is free and the NHS will never ask for payment of for financial details. For information on how to get your free NHS Covid Pass visit www.nhs.uk/nhscovidpass

Scam Post Office Text

Beware of receiving a text pretending to be from the post office claiming you have a parcel to collect, then asking for payment of £1.99. You are asked to click on a link and provide a card number, bank account number and sort code.

This scam is most likely to catch people out who are expecting the delivery of a parcel and especially around Christmas time when most people are arranging/receiving gifts. Avoid clicking on any suspicious links and if in doubt check directly with the parcel delivery service and check their website for information on current scams.

You can also contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Hotline on **0800 223 1133**. You can see the latest consumer alerts on Facebook by searching for Lancashire Trading Standards Scambuster Stan.

Grimsargh Wetlands Open Day 2021

The Grimsargh Wetlands Open Day took place on Saturday 21st August and it was truly gratifying that on a dreary, wet afternoon, during what was supposed to be ‘high summer’, over seventy people attended for the long-delayed, formal opening of our new viewing screens and access points.



Grimsargh Wetlands - Island Lake (photograph by Phil Garlington).

Trust Chair, David Hindle got proceedings underway, providing attendees with a brief background to the site and the work that has been undertaken. This was followed by a few words from the Trust's Patron, Lord Horam of Grimsargh, who had travelled from London to attend the event. Representatives from the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) then added comments about the Fund's support for Grimsargh Wetlands. We were delighted that both Andy Rowett (LEF

Fund Manager) and Shaun Turner (Lancashire County Councillor for the Environment and Climate Change and LEF Director) were able to attend. It is only through the continued generosity of the LEF that we have been able to develop the site with upgraded pathways, new viewing screens and additional access points. It was left to Andy Rowett to conclude the formalities and 'cut the ribbon' thereby officially opening the new viewing screens and access points.



LEF Fund manager Andy Rowett cuts the ribbon while LEF Director, County Councillor Shaun Turner (left) and Trust Patron, Lord Horam (centre) look on (photograph by Jayne Woollam).



Open Day guided walk underway (photograph by Phil Garlington).

It was heartening to see so many people attend the event. In particular, it was good to see some of the people who were instrumental in the creation of the site, following the decommissioning of the original United Utilities reservoirs. Preston City Councillor, Ron Woollam was present. Ron enlisted support from Ribble Valley MP, Nigel Evans, in his efforts to save the reservoirs from development back in 2005. Likewise, both Lindsay Philipson and Eileen Murray, who, as members of Grimsargh Parish Council, were closely involved in establishing the Trust to oversee the site, were also present.

Following the formalities and guided walks, the, by then, rather wet and hungry attendees were invited for refreshments, hosted by Jayne and Ron Woollam. Overall, the event was judged to be a real success and our thanks go to all who participated.

It would be wonderful if the support seen at the Open Day translated into new volunteers attending our programme of volunteer days. Those who participated in the Open Day guided walks were struck by the impact of the recent 'lay-off', as a consequence of the pandemic. Nature has certainly not been 'locked down' and there is much to be done to return the site to the state it was in before the pandemic. It is no exaggeration to say that the work we do in the coming months will be critical in ensuring that, for example, we do not lose the beds of orchids and primroses that the site has become so renowned for.

We are pleased to say that, after the lockdowns and restrictions of the past 2 years, we have a full Winter programme of volunteer days and we welcome as many of you as possible to join us. There is, inevitably, much work to be done. The following dates in early 2022 are scheduled (weather permitting) for volunteer sessions:

Sunday 16th and Saturday 29th January
Sunday 13th and Saturday 26th February
Sunday 13th and Saturday 26th March
Sunday 10th and Saturday 23rd April

All volunteer sessions start at 10am, when we meet in the Compound (just off Preston Rd., opposite Oban Court). Generally, we work until about 2pm; however, people are free to leave as and when they wish. We do ask everyone to book onto the volunteer day using the booking system on our website:

www.grimsarghwetlands.org/events/volunteer-days.php

If you register as a volunteer on the website, you will be sent email reminders about volunteer days containing detailed information about both the work planned for the day and the tools you should, ideally, bring with you. You should also bring your own refreshments.

Trust membership and sponsorship information is available in the 'Membership' section of our website. If you have any queries about volunteering opportunities, membership or sponsorship, please contact Trust Secretary, Jayne Woollam (jaynewoollam@hotmail.co.uk). General queries about the work of the Trust should be sent to grimsarghwetlandstrust@gmail.com. Our website (www.grimsarghwetlands.org) provides full details for those of you planning a visit to the Wetlands.

We are grateful to the Lancashire Environmental Fund for their generous financial support. The Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is a registered charity No 1174037.



GRIMSARGH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meetings 2022

We usually meet the first Thursday of the month at the Village Hall and all meetings start at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday 13 January 2022

**(note change of date)*

Thursday 3 February 2022

Thursday 3 March 2022

Thursday 7 April 2022

Thursday 12 May 2022

**(note change of date due to City Council Elections)*

Thursday 2 June 2022

Thursday 7 July 2022

Thursday 1 September 2022

Thursday 6 October 2022

Thursday 3 November 2022

Thursday 1 December 2022

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



New to the Village?

We love to welcome new residents to our village. We deliver a welcome pack with introductory letter, previous newsletters, a Heritage Walk map, and information about our village hall, farmers market, and some of the community groups. If you are new, or have new neighbours, let us know by email at welcome@grimsarghparishcouncil.org or send us a message on our Facebook page.

Contact Details

Parish Councillors:

Councillor Mark Bell - **07887 523552**

Mark.bell@grimsarghparishcouncil.org

Councillor Peter Burton - **07546 883060**

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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 Mrs Lindsay Philipson - **01772 654983**

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Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam - **07749 934208**

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County /City Councillors:

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susan.whittam@lancashire.gov.uk

City Councillor Graham Jolliffe - **01772 860188**

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City Councillor Harry Landless - **07733 528991**

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City Councillor Ron Woollam - **07540 805257**

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

www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org