



Newsletter

December 2024



www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org

HERITAGE CORNER

Sir Tom Finney Remembered

During the 1950s, my dad took me to Deepdale where I enjoyed the privilege of watching Sir Tom playing outside right and all I can say is sheer unfettered magic.

Many years later I wrote a book I called *'From a Gin Palace to a King Palace'* about the music halls of Preston. Being Preston born and bred, I sent him a letter requesting that he might consider writing the foreword to a book all about Preston. Imagine my delight one morning when I got a telephone call. In a Preston accent the voice said **"Hello David, this is Tom Finney here, I'll do that what you want. Can you come round one morning and tell me what you want."** I felt so happy that he had taken the trouble to accede to my request so seriously. After a few days I duly made a telephone appointment to visit him at home. So, one morning in July, 2,007, I duly knocked on the door of his bungalow and he invited me to sit down in the kitchen.

It all seemed quite surreal. Across the table sat the great man himself finishing off his breakfast, and there I was. I felt so humbled. Sir Tom invited me to have a cup of tea with him. I could not believe it the great man making me a cup of tea whilst still in his pyjamas and what a measure of the man. I went on to tell him that my dad used to take me to Deepdale and it had been a great experience seeing him play in several great matches. Also as a young lad, I queued up for his autograph at Lowthorp Road outside the ground, along with lots of other kids and he graciously took the time and trouble to have a friendly chat and sign his autograph. Sir Tom then stated, **"Yes, it's thanks to people like you that we got where we did."** I then had a very pleasant surprise when he then handed me the famous photograph of 'The Splash', at Stamford Bridge saying, **"Would you like a photograph. Do you want me to sign it?"** Naturally I replied, **"Yes please"**, and accordingly he duly endorsed it: *'Best wishes to David, Tom Finney.'* It now adorns my lounge, as a most treasured possession.

Sir Tom wrote an amusing foreword to the book in which he recalled going to the pantomimes and seeing music hall stars, Frank Randle and Sandy Powell at Preston's Royal Hippodrome and Palace theatres. Sir Tom was taken to PNE by his dad when he was five and learned the game of football with his friends on some spare land near his home at Holme Slack. Whilst playing for North End he



told me an amusing anecdote. Tommy Docherty had complained to the management that he was receiving less money than Sir Tom. **"But Tom Finney is a better player than you are"**, they told him. **"Not in the closed season"**, retorted the Doc!

A few months later, in the company of my dear late wife Dorothy, I again had the privilege of enjoying his convivial company for a full evening when he joined us for a book signing at Preston's Waterstones bookshop. Sir Tom wrote the foreword to my book, but needless to say, it was his autograph that was being sought in the book and not mine.

I was saddened by his death and duly paid my respects along with thousands of other Prestonians outside The Minster at his funeral. He was the pride of Preston and the greatest of footballers and yet a down to earth very humble gentleman and undoubtedly Preston's most famous son, the likes of which we will never see again.

By Councillor David Hindle



Grimsargh Lights Switch On and Blessing of the Crib

on **Friday 6th December**

at **“Grimsargh Green”** *(on the corner of Whittingham Lane)*

6pm

Children of St. Michael’s School sing carols
.....

6.15pm

The Blessing of the Crib. The Revd. Andy Williams and Father Doyle will lead us in a short service of Bible readings and carols, followed by the blessing of the crib.
.....

6.30pm

The big countdown to the switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights. Father Christmas will hand out a small gift to each child.

Throughout the evening, members of the wonderful Grimsargh Field Day Committee will be serving mouthwatering festive food, including **mulled wine** and **hot chocolate**. Special thanks to the Field Day Committee for organising and serving the refreshments.

This promises to be a very special evening of seasonal good cheer, marking the beginning of the holiday season.



“Tis the season to be jolly”

Don’t miss this opportunity to spread joy and create lasting memories with loved ones.

Grimsargh Parish Council proudly sponsors this event every year.



Grimsargh Gardening Club

We are a friendly and informal group which meets in Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month (except January). We welcome anyone who has a shared interest in plants and gardening and we try to provide a full and varied programme of speakers, outings and events throughout the year.



In August we always arrange a day trip by coach to visit interesting gardens and this year we went to Newby Hall and gardens at Ripon, where we toured the house and went round the gardens at our leisure.

In December we have our Christmas lunch, which this year will be held at Longridge Golf Club, a favourite of ours for several years.

This summer we had a members' only Open Garden evening in Longridge and next year hope to visit Grimsargh members gardens.

In the past we have organized three day holidays on Brethertons Goldline coaches to Highgrove House in Gloucester, Alnwick Castle and Dumfries House in Scotland.



This year we have enjoyed talks on the Return of the swift to their nesting places in this country by Lancs Wildlife Trust and heard about Annes Lets Grow project at Ashton Community Garden in Preston, amongst other interesting topics.

The Club has been established for many years and welcome new members from Grimsargh, Longridge, Goosnargh, Preston and further afield. Subscription is **£12 per year**

payable in October with a meeting fee of **£1.50 for members** and **£2 for visitors** to cover costs and include a raffle and refreshments.



Further details can be found on the websites of the Village Hall and the Parish Council with contact numbers for further enquiries.



Jake Higham update

The Parish Council were pleased to support Jake Higham who successfully qualified to represent Great Britain in the Standard Distance Duathlon World Championships, so here is an update from Jake on how it went.

My trip to Townsville, Australia to represent the Great Britain Age Group Team was a fantastic experience and one which I will never forget. The race went as well as it could have done, I managed to finish 6th in my age group and being the first GB athlete in my age group to finish means I have automatically gained a qualification spot for the World Championships next year which are being held in Spain which is a relief as it's a lot closer than Townsville! I raced against athletes from all over the world and there were approximately 400 athletes in my race from countries such as New Zealand, Spain, Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan and of course Australia. I loved every second of my time in Townsville. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ron Woollan, Sue Whittam and the Grimsargh Parish Council for their generosity and continued support throughout my journey to represent GBR.



Remembrance Day Sunday 10th November 2024

A solemn procession made its way to the war memorial, led by the Revd. Andy Williams. The air hung heavy with the weight of remembrance as the Grimsargh community gathered to remember their fallen at the war memorial. The wreath laying ceremony was led by Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Peter Burton, each wreath a symbol of respect and remembrance.

The service ended with a poignant rendition of the Last Post, its mournful melody piercing the grey November day.

As the final notes faded, the crowd dispersed, each carrying with them the memory of those who had given their lives for their country. The war memorial stood tall, a legacy to the sacrifices made.



Well Done Grimsargh!

Best Kept Village, 2024



We are sincerely grateful for the invaluable contributions of the sponsors of the tubs and planters around the Village. Their dedication, time and effort have made a significant impact on the appearance of the village this year and on our success in the Best Kept Village Competition.

This year we have achieved the following results in the Best Kept Village Competition:

LARGE VILLAGES:

Highly Commended | 5th

PLACES OF WORSHIP AND GROUNDS:

Highly Commended | 6th out of 21 entries

WAR MEMORIAL:

Highly Commended | 6th out of 22 entries

Please see below some of the highlights from this year's report from the judges of the Best Kept Village Competition Report 2024.



Our first visit was on the Monday after the field day. The villagers had worked hard, all the litter had been bagged up, the green was beautifully mown, the village was in good order.

The village boundaries are marked with beautiful flower arrangements. The task of keeping the long paths weed free alongside the long busy road through the village is not an easy one. There are recycling bins available for general use. The defibrillator is by the cricket facilities. The notice board by the village store has up to date information displayed. It is well positioned though perhaps a more open aspect for it, say near the village green, would be good.

The village green is a well-kept open area centrally situated in the village with good parking. The children's playground is in good order.

The war memorial deserves a special mention. Beautifully tended by those living nearby, walking along the footpath there you can so easily pause and reflect without having to detour.

The millennium woodland area is litter free and peaceful; the churchyard is beautifully tended and the pub, the Plough, is clean and tidy.

Well done Grimsargh!

Are you passionate about wanting to improve our village? Do you want to make a positive impact on your community? We're seeking dedicated volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. We may even have a competition for Best Kept Tub and Planters next year. No matter what your experience, there's a role for you. Let's work together to make Grimsargh the best it can be. To get involved, please contact Councillor Jayne Woollam.

Local Lad, “Tony Lewis”, Made Good

Having lived in Grimsargh for 29 years, I fondly remember Ella and Harold Lewis being stalwart members of St. Michael's Church. Harold was a loyal member of the Church Choir and Ella was an active member of many Church groups. A lady with a very sharp sense of humour, I recall Ella taking part in many Mothers' Union playlets, not least playing a very droll Cinderella when she was over 70 years of age. She never cracked a smile and gave a hilarious performance.

This ordinary couple lived quietly, in Lynwood Villas, opposite Grimsargh Green. Older residents will remember Ella and Harold well. An unassuming couple who kept themselves to themselves and never talked about their “extraordinary” son.

Thier son, Tony Lewis, grew up to become a renowned statistician, whose work would change the rules of cricket forever on a global scale.

Tony, together with Frank Duckworth, invented “The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method”, a mathematical formula designed to calculate the target score, the number of runs needed to win for the team batting second in a limited overs match, by a game that is interrupted by the English weather or some other unavoidable circumstance.

Recently, his brother, Brian Lewis, got in touch with Grimsargh Parish Council. Here is part of his brother's remarkable testimony to his brother in his own words:

“My brother, Dr. Tony Lewis MBE, was the joint architect of the Duckworth/Lewis method which revolutionised the world of cricket.

I feel little is known about his roots to the village of Grimsargh, near Preston. I think the local community should know.

Educated at Longridge C of E in Berry Lane, living at 12 Nook Glade and Abbey Lawn, Cow Hill, he first played cricket at Grimsargh Cricket Club under the captainship of our father Harold Lewis - this in the late '50's early 60's.

He went to Longridge Junior in 1947-53. I went 1940-56. At Kirkham Grammar School he was often top in Maths, as well as being a strong rugby and cricket player. He was also a good batsman under dad's eagle eye when playing for Grimsargh. He took a first-class honours degree in Statistics at Sheffield university and captained their rugby xv in the final of the University's competition, losing to Loughborough.

Later, he was awarded his MSc. from the University of Michigan, USA. He taught Maths at Wellington School before lecturing in Maths and Statistics in what is now DeMontford University, Leicester.

He spent several years at the University of Western Australia before returning and finally retiring from Oxford Brookes University. It was here he was awarded his PhD for the statistical academic rigour behind the D/L method.

He ran seminars for all the world's top scorers so that they could interpret the method properly. He met most of the captains of all the international teams, indeed, I had the enormous satisfaction of introducing him to Michael Vaughn just before the beginning of the amazing Ashes series in 2004.

He met the Queen twice, once at Buckingham Palace with the Aussies in 2004. I was with him when Princess Anne awarded him the MBE at Windsor. He kept the award secret from everybody until he was given permission by the Palace to do so.

He was a member of Middlesex CC and often took me to Lords to see a number of memorable matches. Everybody knew him and he was always warmly greeted. It was a thrill to sit with the members in the Pavilion. A bench is dedicated to him just to the right of the Pavillion entrance. A huge honour as his bench sits with the other benches of great contributors to cricket.

His interests were cricket, cricket, cricket, golf and numbers. He was an analytical genius, and he could tell you at any time what the target should be for any team batting second. He just knew! He spoke at international conferences on statistics including invitations to Sri Lanka and Australia.

He is known in the humblest back streets of India to the greatest cricket stages on earth. He made a major change in cricketing which has gone on from 1997 to the present day. It is likely to go on for many more. He died aged 78, far too young. The world lost one of its all-time greats.

His legacy is felt throughout the cricketing world from back-street cricket to the highest international levels. His impact has been incredible and everlasting.”

When we see the eager young cricket players on Grimsargh Green, we may be witnessing another Tony Lewis in the making - a man from a very ordinary background in Grimsargh who went onto have an extraordinary life, leaving a lasting legacy to the world.

By Councillor Jayne Woollam

Funding Success for Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

We are delighted to report that Grimsargh Wetlands Trust has recently had success with grant applications to two different external funding bodies.

The funding is for two very different projects. These are the replacement of the Trust's work boat and the replacement of a significant portion of the old and dilapidated wooden fencing along the public footpath. Regarding the new boat, trustee Geoff Carefoot explains:

We needed a more stable boat to enable volunteers to work safely on the Mere and Island lake. We approached the Harold and Alice Bridges Trust (www.haroldandalicebridgescharity.co.uk), a local charity specifically benefitting local villages, to help us with the cost of a new boat and we are delighted that our application has been successful. The boat will be used to bring in our tern rafts for cleaning and maintenance, to move beach gravel from the Compound to the islands, in order to make the islands more appealing to breeding waders, and to generally help us control some of the waterside vegetation around the Mere.





Trustees Jayne Woollam and Geoff Carefoot with LEF Fund Manager Elizabeth Morgan (right), at the Fund's recent annual meeting at Barton Village Hall.

We are delighted that, after consideration of our application, the LEF awarded the Trust a grant of £11,000 as part-funding for our fencing project. This is fantastic news and we are enormously grateful to the LEF for their continued support. The funding is all the more impressive given the large number of projects submitted in the recent round of applications (there was a significant 'post-covid bulge' in applications) and uncertainty about LEF's future funding levels (a consequence of ever diminishing land-fill activities).

Trustee Jayne Woollam comments:

The LEF has supported Grimsargh Wetlands Trust since its inception in 2017, funding, or part-funding, pathways, fencing, screens and ramps. Without this on-going support from the LEF, Grimsargh Wetlands Trust could not have completed many of the projects on the site. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the LEF, and in particular to Andy Rowett, former LEF Fund Manager, who loyally supported Grimsargh Wetlands Trust over many years and who tragically died earlier this year.

The second project for which we have received funding concerns the replacement of a substantial portion of the wooden fencing along the public footpath together with a number of other vital fencing improvements. Those of you who visit the Wetlands regularly will have noticed that much of the wooden fencing along the public footpath is showing its age. For some time, the Trust has been looking at options for repair or replacement of this fencing. Earlier this year, trustee Jayne Woollam prepared and submitted an application for funding by the Lancashire Environmental Fund (www.lancsenfund.org.uk).

Our thanks go to both the Lancashire Environmental Fund and the Harold and Alice Bridges Fund for their generous support of the Wetlands. We also thank the continued support from Grimsargh Parish Council and all those members of the local community who, along with all our local sponsors, also support our work (a full list of our sponsors can be found on our website). General queries about the work of the Trust can be sent to grimsarghwetlandstrust@gmail.com.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is a registered charity: No 1174037.



Website: grimsarghwetlands.org



@grimsarghwetlands



@GrimsarghWT

Mobile Library Service

“Chitty Chitty, Book Book” is one of Lancashire County Council’s Mobile Library vans that visits a range of rural places across Fylde, Wyre and Ribble Valley every three weeks.

For Grimsargh, the van visits on a
THURSDAY MORNING

First stop is at:

THE PLOUGH
10.35am – 11.20am

Second stop is at:

OLD STATION CLOSE
11.25am – 11.40am

Finishing up on:

RIBBLESDALE DRIVE
11.45am – 12 noon



Joining the library couldn’t be easier; no forms or ID are needed. A few questions and I can soon make a library card up for you, and if you have a library card from joining a static library nearby, then that is also valid on the mobile. Once joined, then your library card is valid in all the public libraries in Lancashire, and you can borrow books straightaway. You can mix and match too, borrow from a mobile and then return to a static library – we are all joined together. Your library card also opens access to digital resources available via the Library Service website for you to explore.

For stories, I have a bit of all sorts on the van ranging from recent bestsellers to gritty crime thrillers, historical family stories to prize winning titles on the Booker list. Non-fiction books cover a wide range of topics from economics to politics to health and medical matters, crafts and recipes, plus travel guides, history, and people’s life stories too. If I haven’t got the book you want on board, then it is very easy to request, and I will try and bring it out with me next time. For children there are also a range of books to suit all ages: board books for the very youngest, picture books for sharing at bedtime, short easy readers for those beginning their reading adventure, and chapter story books for more confident readers, while a variety of non-fiction stock is aimed at those youngsters who enjoy finding out information. I also have audiobooks on board, plus large print titles too.

I hope this has whetted your appetite to what the mobile library can offer, and I am really looking forward to seeing you on the mobile library van – this is your library service in your community. Come and have a look inside!

Our next visit to Grimsargh is on **Thursday 19th December**, then **9th and 30th January** in the New Year. If you lose track of the dates that the van visits, just call, text or email for more information.

Glenys Knowles

Mobile Library Officer

Lancashire County Council Library Service

Email: garstang.mobile@lancashire.gov.uk

Tel: **0771 754 3763**





New Residents Welcome Pack

We have devised an online ‘New Residents Welcome Pack’ to the village.

If you are new to the village, or not, the New Residents Welcome Pack, found on the Grimsargh Parish Council website, welcome@grimsarghparishcouncil.org, is a collection of resources and information designed to introduce new residents to their local community and the services available. You will find information about local schools, village services, village venues and much more. You can also scan the QR code on our noticeboards.

It is a valuable tool for helping newcomers to feel welcomed and connected to our community. We hope that you will find it useful.

You Could Help Save a Life



A defibrillator is a device that delivers an electric shock to the heart to help restore a normal heartbeat. It is a crucial tool in emergency situations like sudden cardiac arrest and knowing where they are situated in Grimsargh could help save a life.

In Grimsargh, defibrillators are located at Grimsargh Village Hall, The Club, The Cricket Pavilion and St. Michael’s School. **In an emergency, firstly, call 999.** The call handler will tell you where the nearest defibrillator is situated and give you the code to open the locker which stores the defibrillator. They will then talk you through how to use the device. In an emergency doing something is better than doing nothing - you could help save a life!



Beware of SCAMS

Beware receiving a scam text claiming to be from the ‘Winter Heating Subsidy Office’ alleging that, although the Government has reduced the number of people receiving winter heating bill subsidies, you have obtained the qualification to apply and can do so via the link in the email.

This is a phishing scam seeking personal identity details.

DO NOT CLICK ON THE LINK.

Information regarding eligibility for the Winter Fuel Payment can be found at www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment or by ringing the Winter Fuel Payment Centre on **0800 731 0160**.

Scam texts can be reported, for free, to the National Cyber Security Centre by forwarding it to **7726**.

Fake Universal Credit App

Beware downloading a Universal Credit App claiming to let users manage their accounts. It is understood that no such official government App exists, and users may be at risk of giving away personal information. Only use the DWP Universal Credit Website

Contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 1133**.



Parish Council Meetings 2025

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 9 January 2025

(note change of date)

Thursday 6 February 2025

Thursday 6 March 2025

Thursday 3 April 2025

Thursday 8 May 2025

(note change of date due to Elections)

Thursday 5 June 2025

Thursday 3 July 2025

Thursday 4 September 2025

Thursday 2 October 2025

Thursday 6 November 2025

Thursday 4 December 2025

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

Contact Details

Parish Councillors:

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Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam - **07749 934208**

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To send an email to all of us please use:

all@grimsarghparishcouncil.org



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

www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org