



GRIMSARGH  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

# Newsletter

*May 2022*



[www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org](http://www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

# HERITAGE CORNER

## The Swinging 1950s & the enigmatic Grimsargh to Whittingham Hospital railway

Primary and anecdotal evidence suggests that the Whittingham Hospital Railway (WHR) emerged as a music hall joke! Indeed, had it been able to grace the music hall stage it would probably have been regarded as a star 'novelty act' for it ranked as one of the most unique Victorian steam railways in the country and even achieved international status. The very last passenger train ran along the line ran from Grimsargh to Whittingham on the 29th June, 1957, and shortly after the track was lifted to remain as a scar on the landscape and legacy to the hospital and its steam railway. Nowadays it seems beyond the bounds of credibility that Grimsargh once had two railway stations on separate lines and even had junction status!

I knew the village of Grimsargh in the 1950s when Preston Road was obstructed twice a day by the white level crossing gates between the two stations. As the main-line good's train prepared to show its true colours in tackling the ascent to Longridge, a quaint little steam engine named James Fryar, with a combination of up to three quirky green passenger carriages was left gently simmering in Grimsargh's second railway station which served Whittingham Hospital. Indeed, the locomotives operating on the Whittingham branch line made the old steam engines on the Longridge branch look like today's equivalent of the Advanced Passenger Train.

The privately managed Grimsargh-to-Whittingham Line was constructed during 1887, for the conveyance of coal and staff and to connect the huge Whittingham Hospital with the nearest railway at Grimsargh. The distance between Grimsargh and Whittingham Stations was almost two miles. Undoubtedly unique, it was the only free railway in the country. Moreover, all they provided at Grimsargh Station was a small shelter next to a waiting room with a welcome roaring coal fire though there was no ticket office and anyone could travel free of charge. It all seemed quite surreal, a bit like the 'Marie Celeste', a ghost station with no station staff. That is until unannounced, beneath considerable smoke emissions, an anachronistic steam engine, dubbed the 'nurses special,' appeared around the curve of the single track line close to Dixon's Farm.

On visits to the station, I witnessed the strange sight of the train arriving and departing. The carriages had been converted from guard's vans by the hospital's joiners and bore an uncanny resemblance to three cattle trucks, notwithstanding the six small windows that allowed passengers to savour the pleasant countryside during the six minute journey to Whittingham. The carriages even had the luxury of wooden seats around the sides and gas central heating provided by a calor gas bottle which was locked away in its carriage compartment.

The entire staff on the railway comprised of the friendly driver and fireman who allowed me on the footplate and showed me their shovel which was placed above the roaring fire to fry bacon and mushrooms for breakfast. "Right we're off," said the driver followed by a blast on the engine's whistle as the train eased off from the platform to trundle back to Whittingham.

It was a bumpy ride at a speed of around 15 miles per hour, which was perhaps as well because the carriages had no brakes. The driver had no need to worry about signals because on this prehistoric railway they did not exist

and, on occasions, the opportunity arose to gather a few more mushrooms or collect wild flowers growing profusely in the cutting next to the line. The railway symbolised the epitome of the rural railways of by-gone Lancashire and on this line there were no intermediate stations, only a few unscheduled stops. In this haven of rural bliss it was a tradition for the driver to sound his whistle on setting off from Grimsargh Station, but if a regular missed the train the driver would reverse back into the platform and pick them up!

The vintage locomotive 'James Fryar' at Grimsargh Station



The oil painting by local artist Joseph O'Donnel shows Barclay side tank 0-4-2 outside the engine shed at Whittingham. The Whittingham Hospital railway was linked to the Longridge line at Grimsargh.

The charm of this particular rural branch line once epitomised an enigmatic railway with quant trains in a vanishing landscape. As a boy I was mesmerized by the whole experience of a ride on the train overtaking tumbling Lapwings and galloping heifers. From the train the familiar water-tower landmark and Whittingham Hospital buildings, came into view at the end of a long curvature of the track where the train entered Whittingham Station. The station was prominent on a high embankment and commanded a good view of the hospital's sewage farm, - not a real show-stopper as tourist attractions go! The engine driver now eased off the regulator as the train clanked into Whittingham station. Many Grimsargh people enjoyed the free rides and reminisce about watching the Christmas pantomimes staged in the Whittingham Hospital ballroom or spending a summer's evening enjoying cricket matches and walking round the lake, whilst having a chat with the friendly patients and staff. Gone but not entirely forgotten.

By Councillor David Hindle

# A look back at the 1950's through the eyes and memories of our residents.....

## *Grimسargh in the 1950s* - Eileen Parker

Many people know Eileen Parker, she is at the heart of the village. She arranges flowers at Church, she is a trustee of the Village Hall; she can always be relied upon to brew tea, make sandwiches and just generally "get stuck in". Wherever, and, whenever, help is needed, Eileen is there. Having lived for most of her life in the village, Eileen looks back nostalgically at life in Grimسargh in the 1950s.



*"I look back at the 1950s in Grimسargh through the eyes of a primary and secondary school pupil. My family moved into the Plough Inn, during the late summer of 1948. One of my earliest memories of village life is my days in the infant class at St. Michael's Parochial School. This was a wooden extension on the old school next to the bridge (now known at The Old School House). There were outside toilets just across the back of the playground. Mrs Barron was my first teacher and very kind to "us youngsters". That is not to say that all our teachers were not very caring to us, but the Headmistress, Miss Carbis, did appear to be formidable to us little ones.*

*I progressed to the Juniors, to the "top class", and well remember listening to the radio school broadcasts for part of the school morning and on fine days, the afternoons were often spent in the school garden, where we were all taught about nature and how to garden. We not only had a flower garden and lawn at the front, but a large vegetable patch to the rear. All needed hand weeding and edging very carefully.*

*By the time it came to moving "up to Longridge" for our secondary education, the system was changed. Two very large secondary modern schools or comprehensives had opened in the area, one in Fulwood and one in Penwortham. I never understood how half my class went to one and the other pupils went to the other. I was sent to Penwortham. We were the first intake to a brand-new school. This meant getting the 8.00am bus to Preston with my friend Margaret Town, then a second "P5" bus across the river. They were long days, as we didn't finish until 4.15pm each day, with still the two bus return trips home.*

*I remember that Yew Tree Avenue and Lynwood Avenue had only recently been occupied and were referred to as the new houses for many years. The new streetlights along the main road were much appreciated, as more traffic was coming on the road, although most homes still relied on the bus service to get about. The level crossing gates stopped traffic twice a day until the mid-1960s.*

*From my point of view, as a child, there were very few facilities in the village for occupying or entertaining us. There were a number of football teams for the lads, but all I remember for the girls was a weekly Girl Guide group run by Miss Ruby and Miss Topping, which I joined as soon as I was eligible, and we enjoyed all that it offered. I think we met in the old United Reformed Church, which was situated near where the dental clinic is today.*

*To celebrate the Coronation in June 1953, a local man, who worked in the whole sale cotton industry in Manchester, provided our guide pack with some material, enough for us to dress up as ladies of court, attending to Queen Elizabeth 1st, and we performed some sort of tableau/play, at a party held on the playing field - now Grimسargh Green. In the days when it was just a playing field, there was a thick hedge all around the perimeter of the field along the main road and Whittingham Lane with a couple of gates to enter the area, which had a football pitch marked out with metal goal posts. There was a single storey brick building used as changing rooms for the players.*

*On the day of the Coronation Party, every child living in the village was given a commemorative cup, saucer and side plate, as a memento of the occasion - I still have mine!*

*I remember that when television came on the scene, my father made sure that we were one of the first families to get one. A 12 inch, black and white, "Ultra" arrived in the corner of our living room, which was situated just behind the bar area. Each day, my brother and I would have several friends sitting on the floor at 5 o'clock, watching children's hour.*

*Outside broadcasts did not often happen, usually sports events. F.A. cup matches and The Boat Race attracted lots of men to come and watch them in the pub. Through those early years of television, every time an older car, without a "suppressor" (whatever that was!) drove past The Plough, the picture on the TV screen suffered from a "snow storm" of flickering white spots falling across it.*



*Great strides were made in outside broadcasting in time for the Coronation in 1953 and I remember it was standing room only in our living room that day - poor mum had a lot to put up with!"*

## Grimsargh Remembered - John Cowell

John Cowell, long-time resident of Grimsargh, farmer and stalwart of Grimsargh St. Michael's Church. **"I haven't moved far"**, he says. Indeed, he hasn't. John has lived in Alston and Grimsargh for ninety years and his memories provide us "incomers" with a refreshing and interesting insight into a Grimsargh long-lost.

John was born in 1932 at Ribble View, at the top of the hill down Alston Lane. It was, and still is, a large, rambling house with a large veranda spanning the front of the house, affording delightful, panoramic views of the River Ribble and surrounding farmland. Built by mill owner, Mr Birtwistle, originally it was constructed as a game farm on Mr Birtwistle's estate.

In 1938 John's family moved to Salisbury Farm at the top of Elston Lane. It was from here that John made the daily journey to St. Michael's School, where the legendary Miss Nellie Carbis was the Head Mistress. John recalls that he regularly received the cane, at a time when corporal punishment was the norm. John added, "I deserved it!" The Reverend Rubie was also remembered by John one particular year for returning from his holidays with a present for Miss Smith - not a stick of Blackpool Rock but a Rosewood cane! "I remember the notches too," added John.

Classes were small, Miss Milnes teaching the Infants in a large wooden cabin attached to the main school, and Miss Smith teaching the Juniors in the main hall. A curtain dissected the main hall, and Miss Carbis had her "room" on the other side of the curtain. During the war, the school received forty-seven evacuees. John

noted that two of the evacuees, Joy and Raymond, billeted in the farm opposite Salisbury Farm, were homesick and asked to be returned home, as they found Grimsargh too quiet - perhaps a little unlikely today.

Lessons were a legacy of the Victorian education system. Children were taught the 3Rs, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. John remembers Miss Carbis being particularly keen on mental arithmetic and at twenty to twelve each morning, she would say, "Books away. Mental arithmetic now." The school day ended at 3.45pm. Most children, including John, left school at fourteen and like John, started work the day after leaving school.

Traffic was not an issue "back in the day," John added, "pre and post war, horses and carts and horses and traps were very common. The roads were very quiet. There was a funeral coach and horses based down Alston Lane and it did a lot of business locally. I remember a family who lived in a farm behind the Village Hall, Bibby's, regularly riding up and down the main road in their horse and trap. There were very few cars even in the 1940s."

Life was much quieter in Grimsargh and much slower.

When asked about the Queen's Coronation, John replied, "I don't recall any street parties because there weren't really any streets. There were houses along the main road, but the only streets were Nook Glade, Nook Crescent and Woodlands Grove. Grimsарgh was mainly farms and fields. There was a market garden opposite the mini-round-a-bout on Preston Road, a few shops, Brett's Yard and Wilkinson's Coal Yard near to the station. The Assembly Rooms were situated between the Club and the Railway. There was the United Reformed Church on the corner of Lindale Avenue and the Plough was still serving pints, but not food."

During the 1940s John noted that the main employers in the area were Whittingham Hospital, Courtaulds and local farms. "My mother worked as a servant girl at Rich's Farm during the 1930s. The farm was sold to Courtaulds and the huge factory was built in 1934, producing rayon. My mother met my father during this time, as my father's family farmed at Roman Road Farm, which was virtually next door to Rich's Farm."

When John married Marlene in 1956, he took over the running of the dairy farm at Salisbury Farm. "We met at the Youth Club and at dances at the Assembly Rooms." John enjoyed a long and happy marriage and the couple brought up three children on the farm.

John's association with Grimsарgh St. Michael's Church goes back to his childhood in the 1930s. In the 1930s John's Aunt Alice collected the pew rents. It was a common practice of churches of the time to rent pews to local people, as a means to raise funds for the Church. John also collected the pew rents. "It was one pound for a long pew and ten shillings for a shorter pew. I think the practice stopped around 1939," said John. In the 1920s, John's father, William Cowell, became the Church Warden. At this time the Church was in debt. By the time William had finished twelve months as Church Warden, John recalls, "The Church was thirty pounds in profit." Not only was John's father an excellent custodian of the Church's finances, he ensured that his farm workers had plenty of time to attend Church, starting the Sunday shift on the farm at five o'clock in the morning, half an hour earlier than during the week. John recalls his father saying, "No man working for me can say that he hasn't got time to go to Church."

John shared his father's dedication to Grimsарgh Church and when Amy and Ivy Rhodes asked John, and his cousin, Philip Cowell, to join the Church Council in the 1950s, they both said "Yes", and, after 65 years, John is still a member of the Parish Church Council. John has devoted so much of his time to the Church over the years, not least in project managing and leading the work on the construction of the Church carpark and the path leading to the school. In recent years, John was instrumental in delivering this project and today many families, with children at the

school, should be grateful to him for his hard work and dedication. When there is work to be done or a project to be completed, John always gets his sleeves rolled up and gets on with the job. He likes to see a job finished, often commenting that, "These days, there is too much red-tape!"

John has seen many changes in Grimsарgh over the years, not least the nature of farming and the reduction in the number of farms down Elston Lane. John said, "There used to be fourteen farms down Elston Lane. Boardman's Farm, Chapel House Farm, Salisbury Farm, Marsh House Farm, Townsend's Farm, Eccleston's Farm, Livesey's Farm, Harry Bamber's Farm, Mason's Farm, Place House Farm, Coars Farm, Utting's Farm and a bungalow and small farm on the corner of Lindale Avenue, where Philip Cowell was born. Townsend's Farm was a seventeen-acre poultry farm and Uttings' Farm, down by the river, was a farm where soldiers returning from the First World War could work on the land as therapy. The farms ranged from a few acres to 140 acres. Now there are only two farms left."

At the top of Elston Lane, where the road forks to go down to Eccleston's Farm, there was once a cabin, sixteen feet by ten feet, where the Home-Guard kept their weapons during the Second World War. I don't think one rifle and one handgun would have been enough to repel the Germans but we were ready! In the 1920s and 1930s, there were also windmills situated at the top of the hill, between Eccleston's Farm and Coar's Farm.

My dad was quite a pioneering farmer. He was the first farmer to produce accredited milk in Lancashire, and, in addition, he supplied Courtaulds with its milk. His milk was produced and distributed from Salisbury House. There was always a big demand for cream at the weekends and my wrists were sore from turning the handle to produce the cream."

The face of farming has changed and so has the face of Grimsарgh. It is with nostalgia that we look back at John's

Grimsарgh, a quiet village of fields and farms, a lost and golden time. By his own admission, he hasn't moved far from Grimsарgh but then again, why would he, when he has enjoyed the best of Grimsарgh's halcyon days?





**GRIMSARGH'S**

# *Picnic on the Park*

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY 5th JUNE**

## **Why not come and join us for our 1950's, themed celebration of the Queen's 70 years of service to our country and Commonwealth?**

You can come dressed as a King, Queen, Prince or Princess. You may prefer to be dressed as a nurse, coalman or any other trades person of the 50's. On the other hand, you may wish to come as your grandma or grandad used to dress in that era - borrow one of their outfits! However, you choose to dress, you can still come and have an enjoyable time. Surprise us!

The afternoon will start at 1.15pm with the Head Girl and Head Boy from Grimsargh St. Michael's School, welcoming you to Grimsargh Green and lighting the Olympic torch replica from the 2012 Olympics; many of these torches will be lit throughout the nation in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

For entertainment, we will be concentrating on the 1950s, with games, music, donkey rides and an old-fashioned horse-drawn carriage-rides. On stage, we will have a good- old jolly sing-a-long, a steel band, a 1950's tribute singer, Sandy Smith, and local drama group, Premier Drama Academy. On the field, there will be old fashioned competitive games - our own mini "Grimsargh Olympics", with medals for the winners, and face painting, as well as plenty of other things to interest and entertain you. There will be a gazebo with plenty of memorabilia from the 1953 Coronation, the 1952 Preston Guild, and Grimsargh in the 1950s. Two of Grimsargh's "legends", Eileen Parker and John Cowell, share their memories of the fifties in this newsletter.



The school children have already been involved in the preparations for the day. The children from St. Michael's School have designed a pin-badge, and every child from Grimsargh St. Michael's School and Alston Lane School will be given a badge as a souvenir of the day. They have also designed the mural to demonstrate the past, present and future of the village. I have already booked my flight on the rocket! The mural will replace the mosaic. A replica of the mosaic can be seen on the rear of the wall. The mural will be unveiled on the day by Councillor Joyce Chessell. The children have also helped with the posters around the village and some of the decorations.

Grimsargh Parish Council would like to thank the children and their teaching assistants for all their hard work in producing posters and badge designs. We, the residents of Grimsargh, should show our appreciation by turning up on the day and maybe even volunteering to help, in recognition of all the hard work put into this celebration by young and old alike. We deserve a party after the challenging times we have faced and what better way than to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee?

## *Thank you!*



## *Bring your own picnic!*

Why not try jam or spam butties or even bread and dripping? But don't forget the jellies, a rare treat after the war. No burgers, as after the war there were no McDonalds or Starbucks, nor were there any barbeques, so we won't be using any disposable barbeques. What we will have is the "Parched Peas and the Potato Tram", often found on Preston's Town Square and, of course, it wouldn't be a picnic without ice cream (Cuff's Ice Cream).

*Bring your own seating arrangement* - why not try a blanket on the ground? Of course, the weather will be good.



# Programme of Events

## 1.15pm Welcome

We start the afternoon, with a brief summary of the significance of the replica of the Olympic Torch from the 2012 Olympic games held in London and the lighting of the replica Queen's Beacon. The Head Boy and Girl from Grimsargh St Michael's school will present them to the people.

A small gift will be presented to the winner of the "Badge-Pin Design Competition". Other entries have been laminated and are decorating the stage.

The mural will be unveiled in recognition of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations by Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell.

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## Entertainment Programme on Stage

<b>1.30pm - 2pm</b>	<b>Premier Drama Academy</b> - Gemma Louise
<b>2pm - 2.30pm</b>	<b>50's tribute singer</b> - Sandie Smith
<b>2.30pm - 3pm</b>	<b>Children's Games</b>
<b>3pm - 3.30pm</b>	<b>MVS Steel Band</b>
<b>3.30pm - 4pm</b>	<b>50's tribute singer</b> - Sandie Smith
<b>4pm - 4.30pm</b>	<b>MVS Steel Band</b>
<b>4.30pm - 5pm</b>	<b>"Sing-a-long"</b> - "The Inbetweeners"

*There will be an on-going "5-a-side" Children's Football Match on the football pitch.*

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## Park Entertainment

**Donkey Rides** - Dapper Donkeys

**Face Painting** - Katie Mangan

**Children's Olympic Games and medal presentation**  
- Cllr Jayne Woollam

**Carriage Rides** - Ostler

**Children's Football** - Simon Rusling

**Memorabilia Marquee 1950's decade**  
- Cllr David Hindle



**Stage** - Courtesy of E & C Distribution Ltd, Goosnargh  
**Generator** - Courtesy of Anthony Cowell, Grimsargh  
**Qualified First Aid** - Excel Medical Cover

# Loving Yarns & Crafts

**Loving Yarns & Crafts is a Community Group that is run to offer local people affordable crafts and small social group settings. We run currently on a Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Village Hall from 11am till 1pm. However we are looking to extend the sessions to include some holiday projects and some weekend sessions.**

Each session is run to make people feel welcome and is ideal for people who don't like big formal workshops or attending large groups or public settings. This also gives us flexibility to proceed with all courses that have 2+ attendees.

We originally started at Grimsargh Village Hall in 2021 with a monthly Knitter Knatter session however, in 2022 we are running a wider range of craft sessions and at a couple of different venues to make affordable crafting more accessible especially for carers or parents of small children who need that chill out time with no responsibilities, but have limited timeframe in which they can attend. We call it loving Yarns because Yarn is either a form of textile or another word for a story, and in our groups we love to share our stories - where we've been, what we face, how we deal with things. I think that's why the social group has been so welcome after the covid lockdowns.

The sessions are run voluntarily by 4 ladies. Dorota, Margaret, Maria and Mary. Margaret and Maria have been members of the crafting community for many years and have both run classes as part of a previous business enterprise or employment. Dorota and Mary offer hostess support and skill shares on their hobbies and interests. We operate as a non-profit community group and any surplus after hall hire and refreshment costs is ploughed back into the project.

## We offer a wide range of skill share sessions:

- ✓ Block printing
- ✓ Cardmaking
- ✓ Easy pottery projects
- ✓ Silk painting
- ✓ Quilling
- ✓ Destress with doodles
- ✓ Crochet
- ✓ Weaving
- ✓ Stamping embossing
- ✓ Fabric wreaths
- ✓ Quick calligraphy
- ✓ Glass painting
- ✓ Creating your own journal
- ✓ Art therapy
- ✓ Knitting
- ✓ Upcycling craft projects

## to name just a few.

These sessions break down into two groups. Structured workshops or social sessions. The structured workshops run for 2 hours and include all the base materials you require to complete the project. Sessions range between £6 to £10 depending on the cost of the resources. For these courses we are limited to 10 spaces so please book in early.

The social sessions work more as a Chat & Craft Sessions. These work on a drop in basis so you can attend the whole session or just nip in for an hour for a coffee and to craft while you chat with like-minded crafters. Please get in touch with us to discuss these sessions. The topics for the Chat & Craft Sessions are currently the Simply Yarn Group, the Giant Friendship Blanket Challenge (currently sewing together new baby blankets for Ukrainian refugees), The Rubber Stamping Library and Charity Makes (we provide materials and instruction on a project, you learn the skill while making the items for our charity of the month). Next session will be wreath making in May & June. These group costs £3.00

so we cover hall hire and refreshments costs.

We are also the hosts of The Giant Friendship Blanket Challenge 2022.

The Giant Friendship Blanket is a way to enjoy yourself in yarn crafts and then to help others by donating to us. The blankets will be sewn together to see how big we can get in the year.

Last year we managed to cover 63m<sup>2</sup> in handcrafted baby blankets thanks to local knitters and crochet technicians. We distributed them through local charity workers. We managed in total to pair up with a soft toy and provide a Christmas gift to 100 displaced children and families in need. This year we would love to get 100m<sup>2</sup> so as you can imagine every granny square counts!



**DONATIONS** - there are a vast range of items that we can use in our projects. If you have any of the following going spare please consider donating to our group:

Wool, Craft resources, old canvas pictures or picture frames, tissue paper (crumpled is fine), ribbons, glass vases, spent or broken candles, card making resources, rubber stamps & printing blocks (wooden or foam), small new unwanted presents for tombola prizes (we prepare and distribute to charities) Hoops - wooden or metal. Coloured glass bottles or ribbed/embossed glass bottles.

Unwanted Christmas decorations, small toys (for Shoebox appeal).

Please email us for dates and more details, more will be added as the year goes on.

**Email:** [lovingyarns@gmail.com](mailto:lovingyarns@gmail.com)

**Tel:** Maria 07702 043183



# Busy Days on the Wetlands

It's been a busy few months at Grimsargh Wetlands.



Volunteers at work clearing embankments on the Wetlands.

Our 2021-22 volunteer sessions have concluded and it is testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of the Wetlands volunteers that, despite some very poor weather conditions during the Winter, all our volunteer days were well attended. No sessions were cancelled and a great deal was accomplished. Our regular volunteers were joined, on several occasions, by teams of enthusiastic and energetic Cadets from the Lancashire Constabulary and we are extremely appreciative of their continued support of the Wetlands. Much of the work undertaken by volunteers, over the Winter, followed on from work done last Autumn, by local contractors (W. J. Wilkinson & Sons, Hothersall), when extensive areas of scrub were cut on the embankments. The Police Cadets did a great job removing unwanted material from the embankments. Willow was cut and bundled, cuttings were raked up and material removed, in order to expose original embankment stonework, was cleared away.

Regular removal of scrub from the embankments is crucial to ensuring the biodiversity of the Wetlands. The accumulation of so much rank vegetation during periods of enforced inactivity over the last two years meant that there was a very real risk that many wildflowers would have been lost. Fortunately, the work carried out over the Autumn and Winter months paid handsome dividends with tremendous displays of primroses (particularly along the south-facing embankments) and early purple orchids this Spring. These were much appreciated by visitors on our Spring Guided Walk that took place on Saturday 12th March. Although a little too early to see orchids in flower, visitors were able to see magnificent displays of primroses, along with coltsfoot, lesser celandine, wood anemones and even some early wild strawberry.

It's not just native wildflowers that have benefited from clearing the embankments. Visitors were astounded to see the number of vole burrows along the embankments. Clearly, the relatively mild winter conditions resulted in a bumper vole population which is, of course, good news for the local barn owl often seen hunting the embankments in the late evening. Hunting like this is simply not possible when scrub overwhelms the embankments.

We anticipate holding more guided walks later in the year, so do keep an eye on our website ([www.grimsarghwetlands.org](http://www.grimsarghwetlands.org)) for details of future events. We are also delighted that we can, once again, organise special events for local community groups on the Wetlands and we are extremely pleased that the children of St Michael's Primary School, Grimsargh were the first to benefit from

this when, on 2nd March, year 3 children and teachers visited the site on a rather wet and windy afternoon. The children were enthralled by the Wetlands birdlife; however, it was the discovery of numerous scarlet elf cup fungi that was the highlight of the afternoon for many. It is the intention that every pupil at the school will have the opportunity to take part in an organised visit to the Wetlands during the course of this year.

Like everyone else, we are eagerly looking forward to Grimsargh Field Day (the first since June 2019) and we anticipate being fully involved in both the Field Day (Saturday 25th June) and Longridge Show (Saturday 9th July). These are ideal opportunities for you to come along and talk to trustees and volunteers about the Wetlands and find out how you can become involved in supporting this wonderful community asset. We look forward to seeing you all there.

We are grateful to the Lancashire Environmental Fund for their continuing generous financial support. Thanks also go to our local sponsors, the full list of which can be found on our website and in the 2022 Grimsargh Wetlands Calendar. Finally, a big thank-you to all those of you who have supported Grimsargh Wetlands by signing up to become members or volunteers, donating goods for the Wetlands stall and, of course, to all those of you who have 'clicked and collected' in support of our fundraising efforts.

For more information about the work of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, email [grimsarghwetlandstrust@gmail.com](mailto:grimsarghwetlandstrust@gmail.com).

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is a registered charity: No 1173037.

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LANCASHIRE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
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## Stuart Booth

Grimsargh St Michael's Headteacher



I started my post as headteacher at Grimsargh St Michael's on January 4th 2021 which was the day our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, informed us that our country was in lockdown, for the third time. This was not the start that I had hoped for or imagined but one in which I faced and we, as a school had to react to.

It was important for me to ensure all our children and their families felt supported so this was a focus of ours. I do feel that we provided remote education that all families could access and that we ensured all families were supported.

I looked forward to having all our children back in school and to welcoming all our families back to school. On Monday March 8th, this became a reality when we were informed that schools could re-open to all children! Our message to all was for us to ensure our children felt safe and happy on their return and so this was our focus.

We worked within the continued restrictions during the summer term to ensure educational visits still took place. Our reception and key stage 1 classes visited St Michael's Church and our key stage 2 classes visited Martin Mere (year 5), Ribchester Museum (year 3), Liverpool World Museum (year 4) and our year 6 children enjoyed their residential at Borwick Hall. We also held 7 separate sports days, inviting up to 30 parents/ carers to each and held end of year assemblies, led by Reverend Neil, on our school playground. We also held an end of year 6 leavers' afternoon, on our school field, and enjoyed an evening with our year 6 leavers at Francos. We wanted to ensure, as much as we could, a 'normal' return to education for our children.

We have made improvements to many aspects of school during these past 14 months, including installing a new electronic school signing in/ out system, two new libraries (containing many new books), wall graphics throughout school, a new school hall floor, new wood effect reception class floor, a new school website among others.

We have purchased a new school sports kit, including training tops, which all children, from year 1 to 6 will be able to wear, and have entered all inter-school sporting events, winning many trophies along the way. We have enjoyed welcoming our parents back into school/ St Michael's Church for nativity performances from our reception, year 1 and 2 children.

We have an active PTFA who have organised many school events, raising money for exciting opportunities for our children.

We are excited about what the future holds for our children and families at Grimsargh St Michael's and I look forward to continuing to lead of our staff team to ensure we provide the broadest educational experience possible for all our amazing children.

## We're Back! Field Day 2022 Saturday 25th June



After waiting three years, Grimsargh Field Day returns on the 25th June this year and, once again, we will be able to welcome people back 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 the 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 riot of colour, taking part in this year's Flowerpot Man/Woman competition, by creating a character that makes you happy. The bunting will be going up a little earlier this year in order to celebrate everything that is happening in June.

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

## Welcome to our new Parish Councillor Agustina Oliver

*I have recently been elected to be part of the Grimсарgh Parish Council. My career has been developed working in different industries like renewal energies, paper manufacturing and the textile industry and I have a Master's degree in Chemistry specializing in Chromatography and fluent in three languages.*

*I am working as a Principal Technical Officer for a textile certification company with offices around the world.*

*In my spare time I like to do scuba diving, crafts, water sports, gardening and spend time with my family. I am very delighted to be able to help and service the community.*



## Goodbye to Councillor Lindsay Philipson

*Sadly, after eight years Lindsay has decided to step down from the Parish Council. Lindsay has been a fantastic member of the Parish Council, hardworking and totally committed to the local community and was the Chairman for over five years. She was responsible for running the increasingly popular Parish Council Facebook page and was often seen around the village delivering new residents packs, sorting out our beautiful and colourful planters and filling up the dog bag dispenser on Old Railway Walk. She will certainly be missed and the Parish Council sends her our best wishes.*

## It's also goodbye to our City Councillor Ron Woollam

*I can't believe how quickly the last five years as your City Councillor have flown by and when I look back there have been so many memorable events which have taken place in Grimсарgh, despite the dreadful pandemic and the way in which our lives have changed over the last two years. I have lived in Grimсарgh with my family for the last 25 years and have seen many changes during that time, but Grimсарgh has always been a flourishing community and a place where everyone has been made to feel welcome. I had the privilege to serve on Grimсарgh Parish Council on two separate occasions and was fortunate to be involved with local issues. My family and I have always enjoyed living in Grimсарgh and being involved in all it has to offer. I believe that it is important to feel part of the community and embrace the wonderful assets which this village has to offer.*

*In May my term as your Councillor on Preston City Council expires and I will not be seeking re-election for Preston Rural East Ward at the elections. I have been honoured to serve the residents of Preston Rural East and have worked hard to ensure that your views have been represented. I will however be continuing as a County Councillor representing Preston North Division on Lancashire County Council.*

**Do you love Grimсарgh and want to be involved in your local community?**

**Would you like to join us on Grimсарgh Parish Council?**

We currently have two vacancies on our Parish Council. If you like to be involved in your local community, then this is your opportunity to put yourself forward without the need to go through a formal election process. If you want to find out more about this important role then please contact Sue Whittam, Clerk to Grimсарgh Parish Council via email at [clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com) or ring Sue for a chat on 01772 863477.

## St Michael's Church Events

### 2nd June

Beacon Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

### 18th June

Garden Party at School

### 17th July

Family Picnic on the Church Grass

### 23rd September

Family Quiz Night

### 7th October

Lancashire Night

### 18th November

Cheese & Wine Evening

### 3rd December

Christmas Fair

## 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 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](http://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](mailto:welcome@grimsarghparishcouncil.org) or send us a message on our Facebook page.

#### Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Sue Whittam - **01772 863477**  
3 Hazelmere Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9UN  
[clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkgrimsarghparishcouncil@gmail.com)

To send an email to all of us please use:  
[all@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:all@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

## Contact Details

### Parish Councillors:

Councillor Peter Burton - **07546 883060**  
[peterh.burton@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:peterh.burton@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

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 Agustina Oliver - **07404 950810**  
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Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam - **07749 934208**  
[jayne.woollam@grimsarghparishcouncil.org](mailto:jayne.woollam@grimsarghparishcouncil.org)

### County /City Councillors:

County Councillor Sue Whittam - **07890 025767**  
[susan.whittam@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:susan.whittam@lancashire.gov.uk)

City Councillor Graham Jolliffe - **01772 860188**  
[cllr.g.jolliffe@preston.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.g.jolliffe@preston.gov.uk)

City Councillor Harry Landless - **07733 528991**  
[cllr.h.landless@preston.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.h.landless@preston.gov.uk)



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