

Newsletter

December 2016

OUR VILLAGE OUR FUTURE



Your Parish Council is leading on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for our village. We have got over the first hurdle - Preston City Council has agreed the designated area for our plan and this is simply the whole of the parish boundary.

We now need your input into our plan so we have organised our first Neighbourhood Forum on Wednesday 18 January 2017 at the Village Hall. You can drop in at any time between 5.30pm-8.30pm to join us for a brew and a bun and tell us what you and your family would like to see in our Neighbourhood Plan. It is Our Village, Our Future and we need your help and ideas.

There'll be a prize draw sponsored by local businesses, and the launch of some fun competitions on the night; so don't miss it!

A Neighbourhood Plan can help the community come together, be stronger and more united. It should be a positive force for change and will give us more control over what happens in our village.

The sorts of things a Neighbourhood Plan can influence and determine are:

- The development of housing; what, where and what types (such as extra care housing); preventing too much of one sort or another. The design of any new buildings.

- Transportation and access - including issues around road, cycling, walking and access for those less able.
- Promotion of renewable energy projects, such as solar energy, wind turbines, combined heat and power units, etc.
- The development of schools, places of worship, health facilities, leisure and entertainment facilities, community and youth centres, etc.
- Protection and creation of open spaces, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks, gardens and the planting of trees.
- Protection of important buildings and historic assets.

Our Plan will cover a period of around 15 years - so it is important to have your say.

Please look at our new, dedicated website and facebook page for more details and to keep up to date with developments.

www.grimsarghneighbourhoodplan.org

www.facebook.com/grimsarghneighbourhoodplan



THIS ISSUE



GOOD NEWS

GRIMSARGH WETLANDS PLANNING APPLICATION APPROVED!

We are delighted to announce that the second submission of the planning application by United Utilities (UU) to Preston City Council Planning Department for the small development fronting Preston Road, was approved. This brings us a big leap closer to gaining ownership of the Wetlands to protect and further develop into a thriving nature reserve and asset for the Village and surrounding area.

That application was an “outline” application – granting permission for the scheme, in principle. UU still needed to sell the land. The site was put up for sale earlier this year and Eccleston Homes succeeded in being the preferred choice for purchasing the site. Representatives from the Parish Council have met with representatives from Eccleston Homes – who are a small and relatively local firm, currently building a scheme of houses at Clayton Le Woods known as “The Hamptons”. We were delighted to learn that they intend to use very much the same details for the properties as on the initial outline proposal. They have now submitted their detailed “Reserved Matters” planning application and it is anticipated that this should be passed without any obstacles.

That being the case the Parish Council should gain ownership of the Wetlands site at around Christmas time.

Then the hard work begins! We have studied the options available for various forms of charitable bodies and settled on the establishment of a “Charitable Incorporated Organisation”, or CIO. This has the advantage of being a combined charity and limited company, offering protection over its Trustees.

We are now starting to recruit the Trustees for the CIO. These will be people who

manage the site, handle the finances and govern the work carried out. We are looking for people who may have previous Trustee experience, although this is not totally essential. We need people who are willing to work together as part of a team, have an interest in wildlife as the Wetlands is a Biological Heritage Site, and you may also have managerial experience and have been involved in applying for funding from other organisations such as the National Lottery. The role is voluntary and unpaid and does involve quite a commitment to the Wetlands. We envisage that initially the Trustees will meet monthly but this should reduce when the contracts are in place for managing the Wetlands. You will probably still need to meet around six times a year.

There is a substantial dowry being paid by UU to the Parish Council, which will provide all the initial funding for essential immediate works and maintenance requirements. There will also be a drive to recruit hands-on volunteers to get involved with improvements activities and whatever exciting things they and the Trustees plan for the future development of Grimsargh Wetlands.

We have had a couple of people step forward already, as volunteers. If you are interested in either joining them in the hands-on work, or feel that you have the enthusiasm and skills required for becoming a Trustee, then please do get in touch with our Clerk, Sue Whittam – contact details on the back of this Newsletter. No hard commitment will be assumed by you just getting in touch for a chat and to find out more. These are exciting times for this fabulous asset and we hope that you are as enthusiastic as we are!

LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2016

We were very pleased to achieve third place in the Large Village category in this year's competition - a big improvement on last year's 6th place. But the real glory this year goes to our three Certificate of Merit winners;

Grimsargh Village Green - judged Best Public Playing Field

Grimsargh Cricket Club - judged Best Cricket Ground and Surrounds

And Grimsargh St Michaels CE School - runners up in the Best School Grounds section for the second year running.

Our picture is taken at the recent annual presentation at The Villa, Wrea Green; (standing) Councillor Joyce Chessell with the Public Playing Field trophy; Peter Croft with the Cricket Ground trophy, and (seated) Councillor Lindsay Philipson with the School trophy. Both Joyce and Peter are members of FOGG (Friends of Grimsargh Green), who do a tremendous job in keeping the Green in prize-winning order.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who helps in any way to keep the village looking its best.



DEFIBRILLATORS FOR THE VILLAGE...



If you've been walking around the village in the last couple of weeks, you may have noticed some bright new features - our new defibrillators have been installed!

There are four in total - **Grimsargh Club, St Michael's School, the Cricket Pavilion on the Village Green, and the Village Hall.** (shown in the picture) . They will all be fully accessible to the public at all times in case of emergency.

We are just waiting for the Ambulance Service to check them over and log the locations and codes onto their system. If you then need to call 999 you will be given the location of your nearest defibrillator and the access code.

Some training will be arranged but the defibrillator will talk you through what to do, as will the Ambulance Service.

We'll let you know once they are operational - please watch our Facebook page for all up to date news!

CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

Each year there is a short service of carols and readings around the crib outside Grimsargh Club. This year it will be on Friday 16 December at 6.00pm. It is followed by tea and mince pies in the Club - everyone is welcome to attend.



VILLAGE PLANTER AWARDS 2016



On 20th August we again had a super afternoon where the winners of the 2016 Grimsargh Planter Competition were presented with their awards by our independent judge Michelle Unsworth of 'So Plants', our local plant centre.

This is open to all 'parents' of the planters around the village, who were invited to tea and cake at The Potting Shed as a small thanks for their efforts in keeping the village looking so wonderful. As well as a gift from the Parish Council all winners receive a gift voucher from Michelle, who also supplies the plants for the planter at The Hills, maintained by Tracey and Katie, aka The Land Girls.

This year's winners were Grimsargh Players who sadly couldn't attend - Councillor Terry Cryer is pictured receiving the trophy on their behalf. Second were Grimsargh Brownies, and third place went to Grimsargh Gardening Club. Highly commended was Tracey Butler who looks after one of the two planters on Old Railway Walk. If you'd like to get involved, the second of the planters on Old Railway Walk is looking for someone to adopt it!



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2016



The annual service was held at Grimsargh St Michael's Church on Sunday 13 November followed by a wreath laying ceremony at our War Memorial led by Rev Chris Halliwell and Father Doyle. It was wonderful to see such a good turn out from the community for what was a very moving ceremony. Our pictures show the memorial and the Army Cadet Band playing - not many a dry eye when they played the Last Post.

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS...

Did you know that Grimsargh Parish Council gives small grants to support worthy causes in the Parish? We are always pleased to hear from local groups that benefit the residents of Grimsargh and we will try and help where we can. If you would like to apply for a grant you can either write or e mail the Clerk, Sue Whittam, or alternatively you can download our small grants guidelines and the application form direct from our website at www.grimsarghparishcouncil.org

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

WHAT A TERRIFIC TRICENTENARY TRIUMPH!

ARTICLE BY JAYNE WOOLLAM



After over a year of preparations, the villagers of Grimsargh enjoyed a wonderful week of walks, talks and performances, as St. Michael's Church enjoyed its Tricentenary celebrations, marking 300 years of a church being in existence in the village. The week began with many local groups decorating the Church with colourful community displays; during the course of the morning, villagers were even filmed by the local television station, "That's Lancashire" and the clip can be viewed on YouTube. Jayne Woollam said, "We were delighted that so many organisations, including Grimsargh Pre-School, Weight Watchers, The WI, Grimsargh Guides, Grimsargh St. Michael's School, The Mothers' Union, Friends of Grimsargh Green, The Jigsaw Club, Grimsargh Coffee Club, The Gardening Club, and The Young at Heart Club, worked together to bring the Village community into the Church community, and we want to express our gratitude to the various clubs and organisations who supported our celebrations. We had over 200 visitors to the Church during the course of the week, as well as the children of Grimsargh St. Michael's School and Grimsargh Pre-School, and we were delighted that so many people commented on the beauty of the displays and the warmth of the welcome they had received. A special thank you must also be given to The Tricentenary Committee, whose members worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that the week of celebrations was such a huge success."

The week commenced with a special "Churches Together Service", conducted by The Archdeacon of Lancaster, Michael Everitt. Highlights of the week included, a guided historical walk, headed by David Hindle, a fantastic "Lancashire Evening", organised by The Mothers' Union, a fascinating talk on "The Oils of the Bible", by Theresa Swan, and David Hindle's excellent talk on the history of the village. The rafters were raised on Saturday evening, as over 130 people enjoyed a family Ceilidh at the Village Hall, when young and old took to the dance floor and dosey doed to the strains of Ceilidh Band, "Change of Key". During the course of the evening, several original water colour paintings of the Church, by local artist Heidi Berry, were successfully auctioned.

The climax of the week was the service held on Sunday 18th September, when The Bishop of Blackburn, The Rt. Rev.

Julian Henderson, inspired a packed congregation with his words of encouragement and wisdom. During this very special service, a beautiful new Mothers' Union banner was dedicated. The service was followed by a delicious lunch in the school hall, when friends, new and old, gathered together in a convivial atmosphere of friendship. Former vicars of St. Michael's Church, The Rev. Haslam and his wife, Eleanor, The Rev. Geoffrey Loxham and his wife Sandra attended the special service and lunch, as well as, Duncan and Jean Burr, Headteacher, Mrs Ward and her husband, The Mayor of Preston, Councillor Tom Davies, The Chairman of Grimsargh Parish Council, Lindsay Phillipson and Lord Horam of Grimsargh. After the lunch, The Bishop of Blackburn was asked to cut a lovely birthday cake, kindly donated by Janet Wallbank, as "Happy Birthday Grimsargh Church" spontaneously and joyously erupted around the school hall.

"Grimsargh St. Michael's - This is Your Life" was the final event of the week, when local parishioners took to the stage to tell the story of the Church's life in music and drama. After the interval, Lord Horam of Grimsargh regaled the audience with anecdotes about his early life in Grimsargh during the 1930s, his life as an MP in The House of Commons and latterly his work in The House of Lords. Peggy Braid, a Grimsargh resident, enjoyed talking to Lord Horam, as she recalled him growing up in the village during the 1930s, when he lived on Preston Road and his family owned the local garage. What a fascinating story he had to tell, as he eloquently mixed tales of Grimsargh life, with stories of his life on the world stage, having worked with many of the political giants of the twentieth century, including Harold Wilson, Margaret Thatcher, Shirley Williams, John Major, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. From Grimsargh to The House of Lords - what a privilege to hear his story and what a fabulous conclusion to a most memorable week!

The Reverend Chris Halliwell added "Grimsargh as a community is growing and we are delighted that Grimsargh folk have marked the Church as part of their community, acknowledging 300 years of a church being on this site."

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR IAN LIPTROT

Debbie and I, only recently married, moved to Grimsargh almost 20 years ago to our new home in The Pastures. Our three children, Charlotte, Alex and Olivia were born here and all have gone to school locally and taken part in village life with the Brownies, Guides and Scouts, Field Day etc. Over the years, the family has also included an assortment of cats and dogs – I’m sure you will have seen me around the village, being taken for one of many walks by our two spaniels!

I’m now semi retired after a career of almost 40 years in Local Government with Lancashire County Council. For the majority of that time I was heavily involved in the Council’s statutory, policy and decision making processes, working closely with elected Councillors at all levels. I hope the knowledge built up over all those years will serve me well as a Parish Councillor. As the “new boy” I have been impressed by the knowledge and commitment of my colleagues in working for the good of the people of Grimsargh and look forward to playing an active part for the future.



NELLIE CARBIS MILLENNIUM WOODLAND - NEW BENCH

Many of you will be aware of the wonderful work that David Leech did in rejuvenating the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland. We were sad to hear of David’s passing last year and we felt that it was only fitting that we should remember David and the time and commitment he gave to the Woodland. We have put a new bench in the Woodland and it is near David’s favourite giant sequoia tree.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BADMINTON CLUB



Grimsargh Badminton Club is a very friendly group that meets in the Village Hall every Thursday evening at 8.00pm throughout the year.

The aim of the club is to play social, but competitive, badminton in a relaxed atmosphere, primarily as a recreational activity. Members pay a modest annual membership fee, plus a weekly court fee, set at a level which covers the running costs of the club.

The group is for adults – over 16’s, but other than that the age and skills range is about as varied as it can get... .. We currently have vacancies for a number of members and would welcome anyone interested in “having a go”. No previous playing experience is necessary and we have racquets available for anyone wishing to give the game a try.

If you are looking for an activity which can be as energetic as you wish to make it, or if you would like to get back into a game you may have played years ago, then get in touch, or just come along!

For more details contact Richard Foster, Tel: 01772 652981, and we will look forward to seeing you.

The picture shows some of the group preparing for a doubles match.

COUNCILLOR TOM DAVIES

We were very sad to hear of the sudden death of one of our Grimsargh City Councillors, Councillor Tom Davies on Saturday 19 November. Tom had been a City Councillor representing Grimsargh for 12 years and he was well known and respected in the village. Before becoming a Councillor, Tom was in the military and then a local policeman and served the community in this role for a number of years. We know a lot of people in Grimsargh remember him from this time.

Away from his City Council work Tom was still greatly involved with the local military community and he was the former Chairman of the Preston & District Veterans Council and was the Secretary and Treasurer of the Preston Branch of the Scots Guard Association. His fellow Ward Councillor, Councillor Neil Cartwright said "You couldn't ask for a better man. He was great with the residents. He was very much a people person, a great bloke." Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson Chairman of Grimsargh Parish Council said "Tom rarely missed a meeting of the Parish Council and was always keen to take up any issues on our behalf. Residents have spoken to me of their shock and sadness at his death and how much they valued his support. He was a very genuine man and a friend to many in the village. We will miss him very much".

Tom was a proud Prestonian and was a father of five and had seven grand children. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time.



GRIMSARGH GOES GLAM FOR THE FIELD DAY BALL!

When it comes to enjoying themselves, the supporters of Grimsargh Field Day, certainly know how to "rock and roll". The posh frocks and smart tuxedos were given an outing last Saturday, 1st October, as party goers sashayed their way around the dance floor.

The New Drop provided the perfect venue for the annual Ball, with revellers enjoying a delicious three course dinner, followed by a raffle, an auction of Heidi Berry paintings, a magic show, photo booth and a disco! Raffle prizes were donated by individuals and local businesses, including a very generous prize donated by the newly opened Houghton Manor. All money raised will go towards making next year's Field Day an even bigger success. Chairman, Keith Middlebrough, appealed to the glamorous crowd to "Get involved" and made an appeal for more floats to take part in next year's procession. Keith said, "We believe that it could be the fiftieth anniversary of the Field Day and we want to ensure that Field Day 2017 is bigger and better than ever." If you would like to get involved, please contact **Keith on tel 07795527429.**



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

MEETINGS

Our meetings are usually held on the first Thursday in every month except for August when we do not meet.

We meet at the Village Hall at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend. There is always an opportunity for anyone to raise any issues or concerns with the Parish Council under the item for public participation. We publish our Agenda and Minutes on our website and our current scheduled meetings for the next few months are listed below:-

Thursday 12 January 2017 *(note change of date)

Thursday 2 February 2017

Thursday 2 March 2017

Thursday 6 April 2017

Thursday 4 May 2017

Thursday 1 June 2017

We would love to see you at our meetings so please come along even if you have no issues to raise.

CONTACT DETAILS

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