



# BLACKO NEWS AUTUMN 2011

Sponsored by  
**THE CROSS GAITS**  
Good food – Fine ales  
  
Beverley Road, Blacko  
616312

***Traveller invasion foiled - full story inside***

## BLACKO IS THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE IN LANCASHIRE! (and a North West in Bloom winner)

IT'S TAKEN ELEVEN YEARS, BUT THE VILLAGE HAS DONE IT! Blacko has won the Champion Village Class in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition, beating West Bradford in the final, judged by the Bishop of Lancaster in August.

Blacko's recent successes in the competition go back to when the Small Village class was won in 2002, putting it in the Champion Class, where it was runner-up one year to a regular winner, Wrea Green. In those days, if nothing was won in that class for five years, you dropped back to whatever class you came from, but it took only a year to win the Small Village again in 2007. So it was back in with the champions. However, a change of rules meant four years was the maximum, and this was Blacko's fourth.

The village has always looked magnificent, thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many villagers, not least the Adopt-a-Spot volunteers, who, along with lengthsman, Dave Bridge, assisted



by Phil Hardiman, Pendle Council's street cleaning team and the County Council's Highways Department, have kept everything looking pristine.

One of the village's much-talked about features is the Barber's Shop, a credit to its owner, Julie Proctor. That was most deservedly runner-up and highly commended in the Shop Category.

The awards ceremony is at Gibbon Bridge in October, in time for the plaque, cup, a specially commissioned water colour of the

village by Lancashire Life's artist, Gordon Wilkinson, and certificate to be shown off at the annual Presentation Evening at the Cross Gaits on Monday 31 October, by which time we will know what we have won in the North West in Bloom Competition. Last year it was a Silver Gilt, one below gold. So, it's fingers crossed!

Of course, we are ever-grateful to those who donate towards the Best Kept Village and North West in Bloom effort, and to our sponsors -

*A Ashworth & Son  
Byzack Limited  
Blacko Events Committee  
DIH Designs  
The Hoare Family  
(in memory of Jean)  
Institute of  
Health & Beauty  
McParland & Partners  
Robinson & Lawlor  
Wheatley Financial Services*

and a thank you to  
*Salterforth Nurseries and Garden Centre*

for its help and support in providing plants and advice.

### WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE!

<u>Sat 8 Oct</u> "World's Biggest Coffee Morning"	<u>Mon 31 Oct</u> Presentation Evening	<u>Sat 5 Nov</u> Cross Gaits Bonfire	<u>Sun 13 Nov</u> Remembrance Sunday	<u>Sun 4 Dec</u> Christmas Fair	<u>Tues 13 Dec</u> Over 70s' Christmas meal
<u>Sun 11 Dec</u> School & Chapel Carol Service	<u>Mon 19 Dec</u> Carols around the tree	<u>Fri 28 Jan</u> Dance at Stirk House	<u>Sat 17 March</u> Dicey Races	<u>Fri-Mon 2-4 June</u> Diamond Jubilee	<b>DETAILS INSIDE</b>

# Blacko fun & frolics (and there's more!)

**THE HOPED FOR GOOD weather for the summer events in Blacko materialised for most of them.**

It was a case of four out of five, which wasn't bad, although the first, "Beating the Bounds" was a wash-out, to say the least. Seven intrepid beaters braved torrential rain, and after a very wet and cold lunch stop, two thirds of the way round, gave up. The remaining three, "Twelfth Night", Open Gardens and Blacko Show and family Fun Day were blessed with glorious weather and were storming successes. The Show, made possible by the band of ever-willing volunteers to assist the Events Committee, had a link with the Shakespeare production, in that Dean Taylor, its producer and Malvolio, performed the official opening ceremony. Of the two other events since the last Blacko News, one, the Italian Night at the Rising Sun wasn't influenced by the weather, and proved to be another very enjoyable theme night at the pub. The other, the school's treasure hunt also saw fine weather for the set-off, at least, and was very well-attended, with £420 being raised for school funds.

A very big "thank you" is called for to all the events' organisers and helpers, who will be willingly rolling up their sleeves for the forthcoming events in the village. The first is **Macmillan Cancer Support's "World's Biggest Coffee Morning"** in the Sunday School on Saturday, 8 October from 10.30 to 12.30, and next is a great annual favourite, the **Presentation Evening and Get-together** at the Cross Gaits on Monday, 31 October at 7.30, when the Peter Reed Cup, awarded for the person who has contributed most to the parish, will be presented to Colin Ford for all his hard work in keeping a large part of the village in tip-top condition, and the winners of the Frontage Competition will find out exactly what they've won (this year it's been kept under wraps, although they know they've won something!). And, of course, it's an opportunity for everyone to relax after the rigours of Best Kept Village and North West in Bloom. Everyone is most welcome, and a buffet supper, laid on by Andrew and Andrea and paid for by the Events Committee is, as always, free.



Worthy of a mention – the Beating the Bounders (before the deluge)



Dean Taylor waxes lyrical at "Twelfth Night"



Open Gardens Day on the allotments



All the fun of the show!

The Saturday of that week sees another highlight of the calendar, the **Cross Gaits Bonfire**, which starts at 6.30.

Once that's over, it's into the Christmas period, as busy as always, starting with the **Christmas Fair**, organised by the school and the Events Committee on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December from 1 to 5pm. The joint **school and chapel Carol Singing** is in the chapel on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm, and the **Over 70s' Christmas meal** is at the Moorcock on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup>. There's more **Carol singing around the tree** on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm, when Burnley Alliance Silver Band will be in attendance. Mulled wine and mince pies outside will be followed by a pie and pea supper in the Rising Sun.

As last year, the **Events Committee's formal dinner dance** will be in January, this time on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> at Stirik House, Gisburn. Tickets are £30 and there is a coach and accommodation available (see advertisement).

An old favourite returns on Saturday, 17 March, and that's the Events Committee's **"Dicey Races"** at the Moorcock. For the uninitiated, it's a DIY race night with a course along the Blacko Mile (a model one!), and the horses' progress is determined by the throwing of large dice (see advertisement).

The **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** is celebrated in June, and Blacko is having a programme of events on the recreation ground. Starting on Saturday 2 June, there will be a dance in the marquees, followed by a "Big Lunch", put on by Friends of Blacko School, something Her Majesty is encouraging, on the following day and on Monday evening, thanks to John Kay, a beacon will be lit on Blacko Tower. There will be entertainment on the recreation ground and everyone is invited to bring a picnic to watch the lighting and also a firework spectacular. The Events Committee's marquees will remain all week-end, and the committee is keen to see all sections of Blacko's community being able to attend. Therefore, the whole week-end is being subsidised by the Events Committee to off-set the cost of the tickets for the dance and to pay for Monday evening. More details of the week-end will appear in the Spring Blacko News.

# Police praise for Blacko in traveller scare

**PROMPT ACTION by a Blacko resident and the Parish Council's response to an attempted traveller invasion have been commended by the police.**

In July, a vehicle towing a caravan was seen trying to get on to the recreation ground, but its driver was challenged by a local man and encouraged to leave. Only then was it discovered that a convoy of other travellers was lined up on Gisburn Road, in apparent readiness to follow.

They remained in the area for some weeks, moving from one spot to another after the police had served a notice on them under the Public Order Act, and following liaising with the police regarding the possibility of another attempt in the village, Blacko Parish Council swung into action by immediately ordering an up-grade of the security on the recreation ground, and in the interim arranged for a heavy chain, loaned by a local farmer, to be



**The aftermath in Farington**

put around the gate and for a car to be parked across the entrance until work to install two heavy-duty bollards was completed, the cost of which was met from a surplus in Pendle Council's

Barrowford and Western Parishes' budget.

The consequences of travellers managing to get on to the recreation ground are too horrendous to think about. In 2009 Farington Parish Council, near Leyland, was faced with a massive bill of £7,500 for the legal action to remove travellers from its recreation ground and the clean-up operation afterwards. That involved the clearing of 20 tonnes of contaminated waste, including human excrement.

At a recent Parish Council meeting, the police praised the actions by the resident and the council, and supported the actions taken. But, of course, everyone should remain vigilant, and ring the police if anything suspicious is seen.

## **PHEW!**

**A growing number of residents** have complained about the mammoth tractors and trailers moving partly-treated sewage from a United Utilities site through the village. The police share those concerns and are looking into the use of agricultural vehicles for this.

## **More good news from Blacko School**

**Headmaster, Mark Harrison reports-** On Saturday September 3rd the school was awarded with a prestigious Pendle Sports Awards. It was awarded due to the school becoming Champions of Lancashire in the Spar Lancashire Tag Rugby Games played at Preston earlier in the year. The actual award was for Sporting Moment when we scored the winning try with seven seconds remaining before the final hooter.

The venue for the evening was The Ace Centre in Nelson and three members of staff and four of the winning children attended what was a wonderful evening. The evening was made even more special, especially for the children, because villager, Brian Foley, was awarded a well-deserved lifetime achievement award. His speech summed up his attitude to not only sport and rugby in particular, but his sense of fair play and how sport can influence your life in a positive way.

The school also performed very well once again in the Key Stage 2 SATs, results and indeed four of last year's Year 6 are now attending either Skipton Grammar School for



**A well-deserved award!**

Girls or Ermysteds for Boys. At the moment around 56% of children in the school live in either Blacko or Higherford and we will do everything we can to maintain such a high local presence in what is after all, a village school.

*The pool of potential school (and Tower Race) recruits has been swelled by three new arrivals in the village, Martha Michelle Brown of Willaston Avenue, Sebastian Alexander Reid and James Lloyd Hartley of Gisburn Road. Respective proud parents, Mark and Michelle, Chris and Caroline and Jenny and Mark are offered our very warm congratulations!*

## **PETER REED CUP**

### **Colin - a worthy recipient**

Every year, the Peter Reed Cup is awarded to who has contributed most to the parish, and this time it goes to Colin Ford of Gisburn Road. He epitomises the typical caring Blacko resident, who quietly goes about keeping things tidy. However, Colin, besides that, is very proactive, looking for things needing doing. Thank you, Colin!

## **OBITUARY**

**JOAN DZIDEK of Beverley Road died in August. I'd known Joan most of my life, having grown up with her son, Chris, when she and her late husband, Bill, had farmed on the outskirts of Preston. Joan and Bill had retired from farming in Bacup and came to live in the village. She was a lovely lady, who will be missed greatly, and our condolences are extended to her family and friends.**  
*Editor*

**AWARDS EVENING  
& ANNUAL BLACKO  
GET-TOGETHER**  
at the Cross Gaits  
7.30 Monday 31 October

**PRESENTATION OF  
THE PETER REED CUP  
& FRONTAGE  
COMPETITION  
PRIZES**  
Free buffet  
All welcome!

### **BLACKO HOSPICE COMMITTEE**

Chairman, Jean Kippax, reports  
Yet another successful "T at 3"  
raised £576.50, the stall at the Show  
£166.05 and a donation from a Ruby  
Wedding celebration £665, making a  
healthy £3,906 in the bank.

Many thanks to those who have  
contributed and supported us. I have  
some Hospice Christmas cards for  
sale – ring me on 612264.

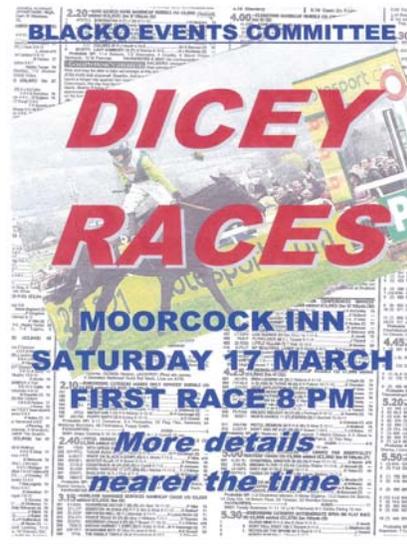
### **BLACKO CHAPEL**

Extends a cordial invitation to  
everyone for its  
Sunday Service  
at 10.30 and the Tuesday Coffee  
Club at 2pm

**PARISH COUNCIL SNIPPETS**  
ROY FEWSTER is now the Chairman,  
Peter Hesketh having stepped down after his  
three-year tenure as required in the rules.  
The Parish Council has been successful in its  
annual bid for money from Pendle Council's  
Barrowford and Western Parishes  
Committee's budget. A grant has been  
made to paint the lamp-posts on Gisburn  
Road, normally an LCC responsibility, but  
not in the current budget. The previous  
year's grant had been for walling work  
around the village, and that is nearing  
completion.

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

*The Chairman of the Parish Council  
invites you to join him at the  
War Memorial  
at 10.50 on Sunday 13 November  
for the  
Annual Service of Remembrance*



### **USEFUL NAMES & ADDRESSES**

**Blacko Allotment & Horticultural Society**  
Mr Tony Harulow, 16 Beverley Road, Blacko, BB9 6LX 697765  
**Blacko Independent Methodist Chapel**  
Mrs Katrina Harulow, 16 Beverley Road, Blacko, BB9 6LX 697765  
**Burnley & Pendle Hospice Care, Blacko Committee**  
Mrs Jean Kippax, The Meadows, Beverley Road, Blacko, BB9 6LX  
612264

**Blacko Neighbourhood Watch**  
Mr Bill Peacock, 386 Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616956  
**Friends of Blacko School**  
Ring Blacko School on 616669  
**Blacko Events Committee**  
Mrs Vivienne Hesketh, 445 Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616562

**BLACKO PARISH COUNCIL** meets at 7.30pm in the School (Beverley Road entrance) on the fourth  
Wednesday of every month (except July), and members of the public are invited cordially to attend

#### **Chairman**

Mr Roy Fewster, East Stone Edge Cottage, Barnoldswick Road, Blacko,  
BB9 6RE 616676

#### **Vice-chairman & Blacko News editor**

Mr Peter Hesketh, 445, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616562  
Mr Phil Sipocz, 4, Malkin Close, Blacko, BB9 6LY 619064  
Mr Stephen Barnes, Moorcock Barn, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6NG  
698053  
Mr Neil Hodgson, 7, Hollin Fold, Blacko, BB9 6LW

Mr David Stone, 1, Malkin Close, Blacko, BB9 6LY 612441

#### **County Councillor**

Mr Mike Calvert, 1 Rock Lane, Trawden, BB8 8RR 869036

#### **Borough and Parish Councillor**

Mrs Shelagh Derwent, Flaxmoor Farm, Barnoldswick Road, Blacko,  
BB9 6RE 616064

#### **Clerk to the Parish Council**

Mrs Hazel Dean, 21, Holme Bank Mews, Nelson, BB9 8SX 449979

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### **BLACKO EVENTS COMMITTEE**

invites you to its

## **NEW YEAR BLACK TIE DINNER DANCE**

Saturday  
28 January  
THE STIRK  
HOUSE  
GISBURN

Tickets £30  
Ring 616562

Coach and accommodation  
available



### **Sun and Gaits in the spotlight**

Our pubs play a vital part in parish life and to  
acknowledge that, two of them have had pleasant  
surprises recently. Kelly and John Ingham were  
delighted to see a feature in the Daily Telegraph,  
singing the praises of their beer and food  
(especially the stew and hard) at the Rising Sun,  
whilst the Cross Gaits' mine hosts, Andrew and  
Andrea Duxbury, have been told they're to  
receive a Community Pub Award, sponsored by  
the Parliamentary Beer Group and to be  
presented by MP, Andrew Stephenson. Well  
done!

And speaking of awards, following on from the  
last *Blacko News*, the Events Committee, whilst  
very pleased at being nominated for the Mayor of  
Pendle's Community Organisation of the Year  
Award, didn't win, but was very pleased for the  
worthy winner, Pendle's Talking Newspaper for  
the Blind.

**VISIT US AT [www.blackovillage.com](http://www.blackovillage.com) & DON'T FORGET TO JOIN UP!**