



# BLACKO NEWS

SPRING 2013

*"CAN NO-ONE BEAT THIS VILLAGE?"*

Who said that? - See inside!

## When the snow came

**THE AMOUNT** snow could not rival 1963, when Blacko was covered in a white blanket for weeks, but nevertheless the chaos in March was as bad.

High winds caused a lot of drifting from fields, and the road to Gisburn was blocked for several days, as the County Council battled to break through the mountains of snow, not helped by one of its gritters leaving the road at Middop, and having to be hoisted back on to terra firma.

The nature of the parish, with its high and exposed roads, meant that Wheathead Lane and some of the private access roads were particularly affected, for as soon as the snow was cleared, the biting wind blew it back, as our pictures, taken by Neil and Jennifer Hodgson show.

During the closure of Gisburn Road above Blacko Laithe, the yard wall at the chapel was demolished partly by a vehicle (probably a large one from the evidence left at the scene). The chances are that it was attempting to turn round in the mouth of Beverley Road. Not surprisingly, it did not stop.

On a positive note a lot of our children (and grown-ups too) had a great time in the snow, and Blacko School, as always in atrocious



**JENNIFER HODGSON STANDING WHERE SHE HOPES WHEATHEAD LANE MIGHT BE!**



**THE VIEW AT THE TOP OF THE LANE TOWARDS STANG TOP. AS CAN BE SEEN, THERE ISN'T A LOT OF SNOW IN THE FIELDS AT THIS WILD PART OF BLACKO**

weather conditions, remained open.

What we all need now is for a good summer. Spring looks like passing us by, but with the water table so high, warm dry months are needed to dry out the recreation ground in readiness for the Show and Fun Day in September, aligned with the need for the allotments and gardens in the village to dry out to provide produce to show!

And that leads on nicely to last years' Frontage Competition results announced at the village get-together at the Cross Gaits in October.

**LARGE** Winner Mark Howarth, Gisburn Road; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ged & Maureen Ivers Gisburn Road; 3<sup>rd</sup> Peter & Aileen Baldwin, Willaston Avenue  
**MEDIUM** Winner Kathryn & Bob Riley, Gisburn Road; 2<sup>nd</sup> David & Christine Ashworth, Gisburn Road; 3<sup>rd</sup> David & Sandra Phipps, Hollin Fold

**SMALL** Winner Lynn & Steve Halstead, Gisburn Road; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob & Margaret Riley, Gisburn Road; 3<sup>rd</sup> Greg and Ann Wood, Stone Edge View

**COMMERCIAL** Julie Proctor, Barber's shop

**COMMUNITY** Winner Hill View; runner-up Blacko School  
**SPECIAL AWARD** (for hanging baskets) Ian & Alison McDonald, Gisburn Road

## What's on at a glance

<p><u>Friday 17 May</u> SCHOOL PTA CELEBRITY CURRY CLUB, BOMBAY LOUNGE Ring 07709 493042</p>	<p><u>Sunday 19 May</u> "BEATING THE BOUNDS" FAMILY WALK 10am Rising Sun</p>	<p><u>Wednesday 22 May</u> ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7pm School (Beverley Road entrance)</p>	<p><u>Saturday 8 June</u> CARIBBEAN NIGHT Rising Sun Tickets £15 Ring 616562</p>	<p><u>Sun 1 September</u> SHOW &amp; FAMILY FUN DAY All houses will receive a schedule with more details</p>
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# “Can no-one beat this village?”

**THIS IS A QUOTE FROM LANCASHIRE LIFE (and it's not referring to Blacko as the unassailable).**

It is, of course, referring to the fact that Wrea Green won the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition again last year, toppling Blacko from the Champion Village throne. As has been said before in Blacko News, we can have no gripe about our rival on the Fylde; Wrea Green is a pretty village, but it's also always pristine. If Wrea Green beats us, it's fair and square.

We did very well in the Certificate of Merit classes, with the War Memorial, the recreation ground and the barber's shop winning their classes, with the notice boards and Hill View being highly commended (as was the village overall). On top of that, Blacko again secured a Silver Gilt award (one down from Gold) in North West in Bloom.



## BLACKO AND WREA GREEN WAR MEMORIALS HEAD-TO-HEAD



So, there we are; Lancashire Life has thrown down the gauntlet! Our Adopt-a-Spot volunteers and the army of supportive villagers are swinging into action. “Blacko can beat this village!”

Our generous sponsors for the two competitions are

- A Ashworth & Sons
- Blacko Events Committee
- The Caravan Dealers Limited
- Claire Byrne
- The Hoare Family in memory of Jean
- MacParland & Partners
- Peter & Betty Byrne
- Pure Beauty of Barrowford
- Robinson & Lawlor
- Salterforth Garden Centre
- Wheatley Financial Services

and a number of villagers who donate towards the effort.

**EVERY YEAR, VOLUNTEERS KEEP ON TOP OF PAINTING JOBS AROUND THE VILLAGE – COULD YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS WITH A BRUSH? PLEASE RING 616562!**

## BLACKO FROM THE ARCHIVES

The piece in the last Blacko News going back ten years through its pages, has now evolved into “Blacko from the Archives”, drawing also on Blacko Parish Council minutes. We will go back 100, 50 and ten years in each edition.

### 100 years ago

At the Parish Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1913, it was recorded that the clerk was to write to Mr Robinson, Medical Officer of Health, thanking him for his prompt attention to the cases of diphtheria in the village. Also, and just to show nothing changes, the clerk was to write to the Automobile Club, asking them to provide a notice to motorists on approaching the day school.

### 50 years ago

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1963, the question was raised concerning the lack of public garages in the Parish, and the Parish Council instructed its clerk to write to Nelson Co-op to see if they had any land available in the region of their farm land on Beverley Road for the erection of 20 garages. (Two garage sites were built subsequently, but not on Beverley Road.)

### 10 years ago

The Spring edition of *Blacko News* in 2003 reported the on-going conflict with LCC to have the 30 mph limit moved around the bend at Blacko Laithe, Rachel Ormond had taken over as acting headmistress at the school, volunteers had spruced up the play equipment and a grant had enabled the entrance paths to be re-surfaced. Villagers, Jean Brown, Eileen Healey, Lynne Halstead, Dorothy Holt, Katie Riley, Edna Ashworth and Frank Beckett were thanked for donating towards floral displays. The development at the mill was to be named Hollin Fold and Roy Kippax retired as clerk to the Parish Council. On the social side, the Events Committee had held a ceilidh and a Christmas Fair was to be organised. There was also a special feature on one of Blacko's favourite sons, Jimmy Clitheroe, “The Clitheroe Kid”.

## SAFETY MATTERS

**THE ROAD SAFETY measures proposed by the Parish Council are progressing well.**

The yellow lines to improve visibility for vehicles emerging on to the main road have been put down at the junction of Gisburn Road and Beverley Road (but cars are still parking on them), and the proposed similar scheme at the entrance to Malkin Close is going out to public consultation by the County Council.

## THE SOCIAL ROUND

**BLACKO SCHOOL PTA** starts off the summer season of events with its Celebrity Curry Club at the Bombay Lounge in Barrowford on 17 May. Tickets £16 - Ring Jo on 07709 493042

Two days later on Sunday 19 May is the Events Committee's ever-popular “Beating the Bounds” family walk from the Rising Sun at 10am. Next, is another of the Events Committee's theme nights at the Rising Sun on 8 June. This time it's a Caribbean Night. Tickets £15 - Ring 616562 to book. Blacko Show and Family Fun Day is on Sunday 1 September on the recreation ground. All households will receive a schedule.

## COUNTY COUNCIL

**Blacko's County Councillor, Mike Calvert, as retired, and following the elections, our new representative at County Hall is Paul White. Paul's details are on the back page.**

**Do you enjoy Blacko Events Committee's wide-range of functions?**

**Are you interested in helping organise them?**

**Ring Vivienne on 616562 if you fancy joining the team**

## OBITUARIES

**Sadly, since the last edition of *Blacko News* six of our residents have passed away.**

**Frank Bairstow**, along with his late wife, Elsie, was one of the first to move into the then new complex at Hill View in the early 90s. Elise died in 2007. Frank continued to enjoy his strolls around the village, chatting and relaxing on his favourite bench on the recreation ground.

**Ron Burnett**, a Cockney lad in the RAF, came to Blacko just after the war to court Eva Braithwaite, who lived at Spout Houses. The romance blossomed and they married, Ron working for many years at Rolls Royce, but despite all his years in the village, becoming a well-liked character, he never lost his London accent. He was very much involved in the community, being a founder member of Blacko Allotment and Horticultural Society, and for many years was its chairman. Needless to say, he was a very keen gardener, and he and Eva travelled the world in their retirement.

**Ann Helm** and her husband Wilf, came to live in Blacko about ten years ago, moving into one of the cottages above the school. Ann had been a midwife and health visitor in Burnley, and she and Wilf had become involved in village life through attending the chapel and being Adopt-a-Spot volunteers keeping their immediate area clean and tidy. She was a cheery lady, a good neighbour and a founder member of Blacko Luncheon Club.

**Victor Hobson** had lived in Blacko since 1969, when he, Ruth and family had a house built just below the mill. That was very appropriate, as he had textiles in his blood, as the founder of the famous East Lancashire Towel Company in Barrowford. Although a Yorkshireman by birth, he had lived in Barrowford since he was three and started in his chosen trade as a warehouse boy. Victor was a colourful character, well-liked by those who he met, but sadly he had been poorly for many years and he died in Peel Gardens Nursing home.

**Jean Lees**, a popular villager for many years, married to Brian and a loving mother, grandmother and great-grand-mother, was born in Kingston-upon-Hull, and started her working life as a librarian in Burnley. Later she was a receptionist at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. Jean was another of that auspicious group, the Founders of Blacko Allotment and Horticultural Society.

**Peggy Ward**, moved from Elslack with her late husband, Tom and daughters, Heather and Sandra, to New House Farm in 1966. Peggy, a stalwart of the Chapel was a Parish Councillor for many years, retiring in 1998. Tom died in 2008, and Peggy had only just moved from the farm into Hill View when she died. Another popular villager, Peggy was also one of the first Blacko Luncheon Club members.

**Our sympathies are extended to all their relatives and friends.**

## HOSPICE NEWS

**Do you know that it costs over £3.7 million a year to run Pendleside Hospice?**

A grant from the NHS provides 26% of that, but the balance of over £2.7 million is raised locally, through fund-raising, gifts and legacies.

Blacko's hard-working Hospice Committee, chaired by Jean Kippax, works tirelessly, and last autumn a cheque for £5,000 was presented to the hospice. From the T at 3 event, the stall at the Blacko Christmas Fair and the Blacko Clay Pigeon Shoot over £1,000 was raised, and donations amounted to £617.60. After all that, there is over £2,000 in the account, reports Jean. Coming up, there is the ever-popular T at 3 in the Autumn.

**BLACKO CHAPEL extends a cordial welcome to everyone to its Sunday Service at 10.30 and the Tuesday Coffee Club at 2pm**

**CAROLS (NOT) AROUND THE TREE? UNDOUBTEDLY, one of the highlights of Blacko's Christmas festivities is "Carols Around the Tree".**

However, this was all in jeopardy when, a few weeks before Christmas, Pendle Borough Council wrote to the Parish Councils saying that due to a budgeting error, the star on the chapel and the tree, usually provided by them, would have to be paid for by Blacko. The staggering sum of £700 was required before the Borough Council would put them up!



**IT WOULDN'T BE THE SAME – SANTA AROUND THE TREE AT CHRISTMAS**

Thankfully, the Events Committee donated £350 and County Councillor Mike Calvert came up with the balance from his Member Grant Scheme allocation. Negotiations are underway with Pendle in respect of this year's tree and star, but it looks like Blacko will have to either pay the Borough Council again, or provide its own tree.

## WHERE DO THEY GO AFTER BLACKO?

**Blacko School's Head, Mark Harrison, addresses a thorny subject**

**BECAUSE** the school has such a good reputation parents are thrilled when they receive the news their child has been allocated Blacko. However, it only takes a year or so before they come in to see me and state they are getting nervous about the selection of secondary schools.

There are some local secondary schools that unfortunately parents do not want to send their children to, whatever valid arguments are put forward. The local schools in Pendle that are most popular at the moment are Park High and Fisher More, but the obvious question from many parents is 'is my son/daughter clever enough to get in to a grammar school?'

Each year children from Blacko do gain entry to the local grammar schools, and we are very lucky to have four grammar schools in such a small geographic area. Two years ago we had two boys gain entry to Ermysteds and two girls to Skipton Girls. Last year we had pupils go to Clitheroe and Bacup and Rawtenstall. In this year's cohort three girls will be starting at Skipton Girls School in September.

Over the last few years we are seeing parents move house to places such as Rimington, to ensure they are in the catchment area for schools such as Bowland and Ribblesdale (two very good Ribble Valley secondary schools) and it is such a shame that parents feel (often quite rightly) that they need to do this.

I suppose you never stop worrying about your children but I can assure you that quite a few Blacko children have performed superbly at other Pendle schools such as Pendle Vale in the last couple of years and the transition isn't as scary as you think.

## MADE SAFE

**FOLLOWING** complaints about the former nursery behind the Rising Sun and potential dangers, especially to children who might be tempted to play there, Pendle Borough Council took action, and the dangers have been removed. The site is currently for sale.

*Why not come along to  
BLACKO LUNCHEON CLUB?  
on the third Tuesday of every  
month at the Rising Sun  
Ring 616562 for information  
Excellent food and good  
company!*



REVELLERS AT THE EVENTS COMMITTEE'S DINNER DANCE AT STIRK HOUSE IN JANUARY



EVERY YEAR THE PETER REED CUP IS PRESENTED TO THE PERSON WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED MOST TO THE PARISH. HERE, AT THE ANNUAL PRESENTATION EVENING AT THE CROSS GAITS IN OCTOBER, ROY FEWSTER, CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, PRESENTS THE CUP TO JULIE PROCTOR FOR ALL HER HARD WORK IN TRANSFORMING HER BARBER'S SHOP FROM THE EYESORE IT WAS A FEW YEARS AGO INTO THE AWARD-WINNER IT IS NOW

## OPEN GARDENS

Would you be prepared to open yours? This event is held every two years, and the Events Committee need some willing volunteers! Please ring Vivienne on 616562 for details

**dib**  
**HAIR DESIGN**

**DONNA LOUISE BROWN**  
**STYLE DIRECTOR**

Formerly with  
Paul Smith, Barrowford, Crow Wood and Jayne at HQ, Colne

**NOW ESTABLISHED IN BLACKO**

Lower ground floor, 421 Gisburn Road

**01282 447144**

### 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 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 692565

#### **Blacko Neighbourhood Watch**

Mr Bill Peacock, 386 Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616956

#### **Blacko School PTA**

Ring Blacko School on 616669

#### **Blacko Events Committee**

Mrs Vivienne Hesketh, 445 Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616562

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

#### **County Councillor**

Mr Paul White, 14a Emmott Lane, Laneshaw Bridge, BB8 7JE 07866 684 531

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

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

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

Mrs Helene Nutter, 5 The Orchard, Higherford, BB9 6BN 07852 574653

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