

THE Cross Gaits was the venue for 2015's Annual Presentation Evening and village get-together in November, which provides an opportunity to thank all who have left their marks in many ways. It is also the time when the Peter Reed Cup is presented. The cup goes to those who have made the most contribution during the year, and the Parish Council thought it appropriate that it should go to all the Best Kept Village volunteers. It is also the time to announce the Frontage Competition winners: large house – **Mr & Mrs Slater, Willaston Avenue**, runners-up **Mr & Mrs Daley,**

DIDN'T WE DO WELL?



Plenty to smile about!

Hollin Fold; medium – **Mr & Mrs Scott, Malkin Close**, runners-up – **Mr & Mrs MacDonald, Gisburn Road**; small – **Mr & Mrs Pickles, Gisburn Road**, runners-up – **Mr & Mrs Leung, Gisburn Road**. The best commercial/non-residential went to **Mr & Mrs Stone** for their allotment, best hanging basket to **Mr & Mrs Jenkinson, Hollin Fold**, best display of pink flowers to **Mr & Mrs Farnhill, Willaston Avenue**, best innovation to **Mr & Mrs Proctor, the barber's shop**, best estate to **Hollin Fold** and the Chairman's choice to **Hill View**.

SCHOOL'S "PROJECT WEAVE" Headmaster, **Mark Harrison**, updates AT the end of September Blacko Primary School completed the fifteen month long 'Project Weave'. The final part of the project was a trip along the Leeds Liverpool canal to understand how cotton and the final product was transported. The sun was shining and it was the perfect way to complete a very successful project that has seen us working with individuals from the village as well as world famous artists. The pupils, staff and local residents I have spoken to have loved every minute of the project. We have spoken to older residents in the village that have previously had no interaction with the school, spoken with parents that had never told us about their involvement with weaving and become closer to the community as a whole.



The finishing touch to the flagpole at the War Memorial is the plaque, which will be dedicated in Spring. Thanks go to **Christine Ashworth, Ray Proctor** and **Rodney Sumner Junior**, without whose help it would not have been possible.

Some of the artists we have worked with have been inspirational, one especially travelled up from Cambridge for the week, mainly because he was born in this area and has fond memories of visiting the mills as a young person. This transmitted to the children and they were as enthused as I have ever seen them. Their parents were likewise amazed at the standard of artwork that became the finished article.

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The celebration weeks were a wonderful culmination of over a year's work. Relatives of the children made a point of coming to view their work at the Heritage Centre and every single adult that visited was complementary, not only with the work they had produced, but also the process of using their hard earned tax money on a local theme that represents a lasting legacy for so many local people.

Whichever way you look at all the hard work and organization that has been needed to formulate a plan and timetable that fits in with school life, it has been worth it. The community as a whole has really pulled together to create a lasting legacy that will live with many for years.

ANOTHER BUMPER BLACKO CHRISTMAS!

IN the last News, it was reported that the Parish would have to provide its own tree, and that was made possible through the generosity of Richard and Rachel Clowes of Admergill Hall Farm, who in the past have donated a tree for the school. This year, it was agreed that the tree would go on the Rising Sun car park, using the lights donated by Pendle Borough Council. Also donated was the star put on the Chapel by PBC, and that has been fixed to the school wall, a similar one being put on the chapel by John Kay. Volunteer lumberjacks felled the tree, and after battling with gales on two successive week-ends, achieved their objective! The result is Blacko had a tree ready for Carols Around the tree on the Monday before Christmas, two attractive stars and the usual lit growing tree at the War Memorial. Thanks to all those involved in various ways in the Christmas decorations.



The next occasion was the over 70s' Christmas meal at the Moorcock



Organised by the school and Blacko Events Committee, the Christmas season started with the fair



Santa made his usual visit to Carols Around the Tree

UPWARDS AND ONWARDS

from Cllr Neil Hodgson, Chairman of Blacko Parish Council

I think we can safely say that 2015 was another good year for Blacko with success again in both Best Kept Villages and Britain In Bloom. In addition we added the defibrillator and the community book exchange. Many thanks to those hard-working individuals who made contributions to make these things possible. This was also the first year that the parish council were responsible for Christmas decorations.

So what of 2016? We will need to strive even harder if we are to repeat our BKV & BIB successes and it is the intention this year to add a petanque court at the recreation ground with financial support from the Events Committee. This will be to international standards over an area of approximately 17m x 6m and it is hoped that we will be able to arrange matches with other villages. Do we have any villagers with any knowledge of petanque (or boules to give the sport its more common name)? This will be mainly a self-build project, so volunteers will be most welcome. Please contact any of the councillors if you would like to be involved.

On behalf of Blacko Parish Council, Jennifer and me, I wish you all the very best for 2016.

BLACKO EVANGELICAL CHAPEL

is open for worship every Sunday at 10.30

You are always assured of a warm welcome

USEFUL NAMES & ADDRESSES

Highway problems
ring Lancashire County Council on
0845 053 0011

or on line at www.highways.lancashire.gov.uk

Burnley & Pendle Hospice Care, Blacko Committee
Mrs Jean Kippax, The Meadows, Beverley Road, Blacko, BB9 6LX 612264

Blacko Evangelical Chapel
Mr John Kay 447029 or 07812 608784

BLACKO PARISH COUNCIL meets at 7pm in the School (Beverley Road entrance) on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except July), and members of the public are invited cordially to attend

Chairman
Mr Neil Hodgson, 7, Hollin Fold, Blacko, BB9 6LW 692565

Members
Mr John Osborn, Vice Chairman, 258, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LP 613047
Mr Brian Riley, 10, Beverley Road, Blacko, BB9 6LX 612273
Mr Roy Fewster, East Stone Edge Cottage, Barnoldswick Road, Blacko, BB9 6RE 616676

Mr Peter Hesketh, 445, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616562 (Blacko News editor)

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 Keep in touch on [Facebook – Blacko Events](https://www.facebook.com/blackoevents)

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

Borough Councillor
Mr Noel McEvoy, 17 Hollin Fold, Blacko, BB9 6LW 07758 072960

Clerk to the Parish Council
Mrs Kelly Wood, 30, Dryden Street, Padiham, BB12 8TQ 07713 125677

Blacko News is published by Blacko Parish Council, edited and designed by Peter Hesketh and printed by Peter Scott Printers 01282 452221

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BLACKO EVENTS

BLACKO NEWS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2015

Britain in Bloom North West Gold Award winner 2014 & 2015 - Best Kept Village in Lancashire 2011 2013 2014 & ONCE AGAIN IN 2015! See inside

DEFIBRILLATOR "RESCUE READY"!



Kathryn Hopkinson of Pendle Leisure Trust and village resident, undertook cardiac awareness training at the show in September.



The defibrillator was opened officially in November by Pendle MP, Andrew Stephenson, with, left to right, Andy Holden of North West Ambulance, Sadie Merritt, head girl at Blacko School, Helen Scholey, school secretary, Max Brown, head boy, Parish Councillor, John Osborn, Neil Hodgson, Chairman of the Parish Council, and Cllr Noel McEvoy, Pendle Borough Council.

By John Osborn

AFTER almost twelve months of effort by the Blacko Parish Council to raise funds to buy a publicly-accessible Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and the local telephone kiosk, the life saving equipment was declared "Rescue Ready" at the beginning of October. The quest to provide Blacko with the Defibrillator began last year (see the last edition of Blacko News) with Blacko councillors examining sources of potential funding for the equipment from various bodies. At just the right time the Council became aware that the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group under the guise of the Burnley and Pendle Council for Voluntary Services, had money for such projects. A successful application was made for the full cost of the AED.

In discussion with the North West Ambulance Authority it was agreed that the most suitable equipment for the village would be that supplied by Cardiac Sciences; it had the advantage of being totally compatible with the North West

Ambulance Authority's equipment as used in their emergency vehicles. The Blacko village defibrillator is located in the former BT telephone kiosk on Gisburn Road, housed in a bright yellow secure steel case. The kiosk has had new signage fitted to the top of the windows to highlight the defibrillator's location and a step by step procedure for using the equipment in an emergency fitted inside the booth.

In common with most publicly accessible defibrillators, the first action that **MUST** be taken in a cardiac emergency is to ring 999 for the Emergency Services and ask for the Ambulance Service, informing them where the defibrillator kiosk is. The operator will then give the caller the code to open the yellow secure case and get the defibrillator out. The technology within the equipment will automatically guide the user step by step with prompts through all the stages needed to use the AED once it is opened. The AED itself will decide whether or not a shock should be administered. The operator will also arrange for an ambulance to be despatched and a community first responder if one is available in the area. AEDs are

completely safe to use by lay people without training and they cannot cause damage to an individual. Although in an emergency the equipment can be used without training, Blacko Parish Council believes basic cardiac awareness knowledge has got to be useful and has already given basic training to 35 village residents at the recent Blacko Show and Family Fun Day in September. Further familiarisation training has been carried out, and is on-going.

Blacko Parish Council is very grateful to villagers, Norman and Joan Robinson of electricians, Robinson and Lawlor, for installing the equipment. As most villagers are aware, the kiosk doubles as Blacko's Community Book Exchange, and the Parish Council is also very grateful to another villager, Ian Belshaw of Gingerbread Picture Framing, for doing a superb job in building the book shelves. The materials were paid for by the Events Committee (which had agreed to donate, along with the school, towards the cost of the equipment, before the grant bid had been submitted). On 11th November the kiosk was officially opened by our MP, Andrew Stephenson.

ALL THE FUN OF THE SHOW!

LET'S forget the weather and look back at a glorious summer day and a bumper crowd: perfect ingredients for fantastic Village Show and Family Fun Day on Sunday 7th September.

Organised by Blacko Events Committee and staged with the assistance of the ever-growing band of helpers, the magnificent sum of £1998.81 (far more than double on last year) was raised towards village amenities.



From vegetable to animal! One of several novelty exhibits in the show

The heart of the event was, of course the horticultural and crafts show, show secretary, Catherine Fewster, reporting an increase in entries. What has now become an aspect of it is the competition at Blacko school to design the programme, and this year Poppy MacBeath was the winner. The printing of the programmes was sponsored by a Blacko-related firm, Frazer Durris's Businesswise Solutions. Add on the fun races and the Tower Race, and we have a real traditional country occasion.



The dog show winner of the fancy dress class, Finlay McDevitt with Freddie, as Batman and Robin, being presented with their prize by Julie Holland

A barbeque lunch, afternoon tea and licensed bar added to the ambiance, along with regular favourites such as the coconut shy, the high-tech net-a-duck game (so high tech that its pump gave up the ghost, leaving David Stone to paddle the water around the



They're off! The start of the Tower Race, with winner, Oska Loftus, approaching the finishing line (below) All photos by Janet Matthews



pond all afternoon).

Each year the committee tries to introduce something new, and this time a star attraction was a highly successful Fun Dog Show, organised and sponsored by Claire Taylor of Pendle Walk and Groom, another Blacko firm. There were seven classes, including the best puppy, the dog the judge would like to take home, the waggiest tail (or stump) and a fancy dress competition (dog and handler). Julie Holland judged, and there was further support from Acom Healthy Options Pet Food Store of Colne. Another innovation was an Open the Box game, by courtesy of Barrowford Safe & Lock, adding to the enjoyment.



The "Dads & Lads and Mums & Daughters" three-legged race

The 2016 Show and Family Fun Day will be on Sunday, 4th September

On a serious note, though, was an awareness session on defibrillators, in readiness for the village's machine's arrival (an article on this appears elsewhere in the *News*).

The final exertion was the egg throwing competition, followed by the presentation of prizes by Councillor Neil Hodgson, Chairman of Blacko Parish Council.



Victor Giannandrea eyeing up the array of mouth-watering cakes

After that, the volunteers who had erected the marquees, along with others press-ganged (or persuaded, anyway) descended, and by dusk, all that remained were the frames to be dismantled the following evening. A big thank you to all who, in so many ways, made it such a great day!



The egg-throwing contest at a crucial point!

HOLLYWOOD COMES TO BLACKO!

HARRY AND VICKI Devonport, who live at Higher Briercliffe, were surprised by a call they got from estate agents in Barrowford, informing them that there was some interest in the house, not with a view to a sale, but with a request to use it as a film set for a forthcoming BBC drama. The Location Manager at Liverpool-based LA Productions had been struggling to find a property for filming and passed through Blacko on his way back from a wedding in Barnoldswick. He was taken by the rural setting of Blacko in the Pendleside hills, and looked at properties for sale in that area.



Vicki with actress, Sandra Voe, in the rolling hills of Bala (or Blacko)

The drama, 'REG,' was created by Jimmy McGovern and is based on the true story of Reg Keys whose son, Tom, died in the Iraq War in 2003, and who then stood in the UK's 2005 General Election on an anti-war ticket and opposing Tony Blair. Tim Roth (Pulp Fiction / Reservoir Dogs) plays Reg Keys, and Anna Maxwell Martin, his wife, Philomena.



Vicki "on set" in her lounge amongst the imported period furniture

Although Harry and Vicki needed to leave the house each day whilst filming took place they did get the opportunity to meet the actors on the first day and they also returned each evening.

It is set in Wales, where the family home in Bala has extensive rural views of Snowdonia. Award-winning director, David Blair, felt that the property at Higher Briercliffe provided a perfect setting with its rural location, with rolling hills and sheep in the fields. Filming took place over six days in the middle of September, with a production team of around 60 people, the car park at the picnic site at Barley being used for the unit base and the film stars' Winnebagoes.

Shooting took place both inside and outside the house, and there should be plenty of views of Blacko, including sunrise shots which were filmed on the final day at 5.30am. The house was prepared the week before filming began and this included some furniture being changed to match the year in which the drama was set. Vicki said that she found it hard to see all the sympathy cards on display and the order of service for the funeral. It had made her read more about the original story on-line.



Tom Roth (in wellies) taking directions

Harry said he had been totally taken aback by the scale of the operation and the attention to detail. There is no definite date for when the BBC intend to air the drama, but it is expected to be in the Spring.

BLACKO HOSPICE COMMITTEE NEWS
THE Committee's Chairman, Jean Kippax, is able to report that a cheque for £3,500 was given to the Hospice in May. The stall at the Show raised £290, donations £500 and Tea at 3 £737.50. A big thank you to all!

BLOOMING BEST-KEPT AGAIN

THE judges once again heaped praise on Blacko on winning the Champion Village Class in the Best Kept Village and securing another gold award in Britain in Bloom North West. A wonderful effort by all!

As always, we thank all those who contributed in so many ways. Our official sponsors are:

- A Ashworth & Son**
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- Peter & Betty Byrne**
- Salterforth Garden Centre**
- Blacko Events Committee**
- The Rising Sun**
- Pure of Barrowford**
- Wheatley Financial Services**
- The Caravan Dealers**
- The Hoare family in memory of Jean Robinson & Lawlor**
- Netta Barrow & family in memory of David**

BLACKO FROM THE ARCHIVES

120 years ago

This section usually looks at the summary of Blacko Parish Council minutes 100 years ago, but as explained in the last edition, it jumps from 1914 to 1916. Therefore, so as not to disappoint, we'll take a peep at what was happening in 1895, the year Blacko Parish Council was established. It sprung into action immediately, and one of its first tasks was to establish a committee to investigate the sanitary conditions in Blacko, it reporting back on 12th February that things were in a deplorable state: the ash pit accommodation was insufficient, and the average closet was one to every four houses, some of which were unfit for use. The Clerk was to write to the District Council respectfully desiring that the matter be attended to as early as possible. On 12th March, a note was sent to the Water Committee of Nelson about the difficulties in obtaining water, and on 29th May, a note was sent to Nelson Corporation Gas Committee asking them to consider bringing gas up to Blacko. On 22nd November it was agreed that the Parish Council take steps to obtain plots for allotments.

50 years ago

On 10th August, 1965, it was recorded in the Parish Council minutes that a request for the provision of a footbridge between Wanless and Barnoldswick Road near the Cross Gaits had been approved.

DO YOU KNOW.....

....that the Government's planning rules (adopted by Pendle Borough Council in December) mean that under certain circumstances building will be permitted on the Greenbelt? Any development must abut the boundary of the settlement plan, whereas previously it had to be inside it. Some view this as the green light for building on the Greenbelt. Full details can be found on PBC's website.

AND DO YOU ALSO KNOW ..

....that Lancashire County Council is considering withdrawing its support for tendered bus services, which will include the services through Blacko? The County Council has written to the Parish Council, with its proposals for a Parish-based public transport scheme, whereby parishes operate their own services. The scheme is being considered by the Parish Council. More in the next edition of *Blacko News*.

BLACKO'S COMMUNITY BOOK EXCHANGE is in the former telephone kiosk and it's free!

When returning or donating books, please write the date on the inside covers. This helps in rotating the books

ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

THE petition mentioned in the last edition attracted over 100 signatories, and has now been passed on to MP, Andrew Stephenson, to be forwarded to Lancashire County Council. As yet no decision has been made regarding the extension of the advisory 20 mph speed limit on Beverley Road to a point on the Cross Gaits side of Willaston Avenue. Watch this space!

As readers of Blacko News will know, another problem road in the Parish is Barnoldswick Road, with its ever-growing litter problem. A step in the right direction to ease the problem has been the Parish Council's success in coming to an arrangement with KFC in Colne, whose head office agreed to allow the Council displaying notices at the drive-through asking customers not to throw debris out of car windows when passing through Blacko.

OBITUARIES

Since the last edition of *Blacko News* five of our residents have died. They will be missed greatly, and our condolences are extended to their families and friends

Living at Burnt House Farm, RUTH RIDEHALGH was a very well-liked member of an old Blacko farming family, who had been poorly for some years. Prior to moving to Burnt House, she and her late husband, Harold, and the family had lived at Flaxmoor Farm.

JOYCE WHITWORTH, had lived in Blacko all her married life, and died in a nursing home in Nelson. She was a stalwart of Blacko Chapel, and in later years became a founder member of the

Luncheon Club, and becoming one of its great supporters.

Another farmer, JOHN MITSON, made a name for himself breeding heavy horses at Higher Wanless Farm by the canal off Red Lane, having lived previously on Gisburn Road. Always a cheerful chap, he too had not been in good health.

ERIC HARTLEY, whose wife, Jean's death was reported in the last Blacko News, lived on Beverley Road. He was

well-known as an architect with a dry sense of humour, who until his health declined, enjoyed keeping sheep in the paddock behind his bungalow.

When Blacko held its first Open Gardens Day some years ago, MARNY GUDE of Gaits Cottage was quick to become involved in its organisation and to show off her horticultural skills to great effect. Sadly, in more recent times had become less and less mobile.