



BLACKO NEWS

SPRING 2011

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117 Gisburn Road, Barrowford
619606

YELLOW LINES & 20 MPH? – see inside



BLACKO SET TO BLOG

Parish launches its new website

TEN YEARS ago, when community websites were taking off, Blacko was one of the first parishes to go on-line, thanks to villager, Roy Glover, and he has now completely redesigned the site, incorporating a host of new features. Those include a local history, a photo gallery of local views and occasions and a facility to join up to access such as minutes of parish council meetings and to take part in the forum. Roy has done a



magnificent job, and the site is a credit to Blacko. There are lots of links to provide all residents and visitors need to know, from Pendle Borough Council's website to walks in the area (and even one to the Jimmy Clitheroe website!). Its name's the same—
www.blackovillage.com

SILVER GILT FOR BLACKO IN NWIB

AS REPORTED in the last Blacko News, we were waiting to see what award had been clinched in the North West in Bloom Competition, and at the ceremony in Southport in October, that was revealed as a Silver Gilt in the Village Class. In 2009, we were runners-up, but the system has been changed to fall in line with the Royal Horticultural Society Shows, such as Chelsea and Tatton Park. Silver Gilt is the equivalent to runner-up, so Blacko did very well again, thanks to the magnificent effort and dedication of villagers. We've entered again, along with the Best Kept Village Competition, in its Champion Class, and judging starts for that on 11 June. As always, a big thank-you also to our sponsors –

- A Ashworth & Son*
 - Blacko Events Committee*
 - DIH Designs*
 - The Hoare Family (in memory of Jean)*
 - Institute of Health & Beauty*
 - McParland & Partners*
 - Robinson & Lawlor*
 - Wheatley Financial Services*
- VISIT THE WEBSITE TO VIEW THE NWIB JUDGES' REPORT!

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COULD THE CUTS TURN BACK THE CLOCK FOR BLACKO?
STORY INSIDE

WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE!

<u>Saturday</u> 14.5 Italian Night Rising Sun	<u>Sunday</u> 22.5 "Beating the Bounds"	<u>Wednesday</u> 25.5 Annual Parish Meeting	<u>Thursday</u> 23.6 School Treasure Hunt	<u>Thursday</u> 30.6 "Twelfth Night" Recreation Ground	<u>Saturday</u> 2.7 Blacko Open Gardens	<u>Sunday 4.9</u> Show & Family Fun Day Recreation Ground	MORE DETAILS INSIDE
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END IN SIGHT FOR VITAL LENGTHSMAN SCHEME?

FEW AREAS of the County Council seem to have escaped the coalition government's cuts, and one which could have a devastating impact on Blacko is the highly successful Lengthsman Scheme.

Started about ten years ago, in the grouping together of parishes wishing to take part, it provides not just regular caretaking in the villages and adjoining countryside, but the availability of craftsmen to build and repair fences, wall, stiles and undertake projects, often part-funded through such as the Green Partnership Awards and local authority grants. Our lengthsman, Dave Bridge, has become well-known and liked in Blacko, and from time to time has been helped by his colleague, Phil Hardiman.

Blacko Parish Council, however, could not finance the scheme in its entirety, but contributes £2,500 annually. In 2009/10, over £5,000 was spent on Blacko, the balance coming from Lancashire County Council and Ribbles Valley and Pendle Borough Councils' input to the pot. The County Council has confirmed its commitment to the scheme, and wishes to see others come on stream, but its main support financially will be restricted to the setting up of the new ones.

Under the Big Society banner, central government would like to see parish councils taking on more responsibilities, including some functions undertaken by borough and county councils, such as grass cutting, and here is Blacko's problem. It is unique in the scheme, in that because of the large areas to be cut, such as the verges at the top of the



FROM THIS.....



BACK TO THIS?

village, those on Beverley Road and the area around the play equipment on the recreation ground (the school looks after the playing area and Dave Bridge strims other parts, such as under the hedges and the large banking at the boundary on Roughlee Road), a contractor is used by LCC within the scheme. There is a regular three-weekly cut, increased to two at the height of the summer, to keep everything looking good.

The restoration of the embankments and verges, along with the laying of the hedges, on Beverley Road, funded by the Parish Council, Green

Partnership Awards and the land-owner has resulted in a feature which the parish can be proud of, not least because of the involvement of volunteers.

Although nothing has been finalised, whilst the parish council might be able to re-charge the County Council for some grass cutting, it is highly unlikely that the frequent cutting now done would be paid for. In the same financial year, Dave Bridge's time came to nearly £3,000. Even before David Cameron was just a twinkle in his father's eye, Blacko was part of his Big Society, with volunteers rolling up their sleeves, and that involved a lot of grass cutting before the Lengthsman Scheme came to the village.

The lengthsman will, hopefully, continue, but in what form, and how much the Parish can afford is another matter. In any event, most villagers would not want to see the many pristine areas of the parish, like Beverley Road, falling into decay.

The Annual Parish Meeting is on Wednesday, 25th May at 7pm in the school. Why not come along and have your say?

One way to ensure Blacko remains such a good place to live is to join those who sponsor the many floral displays around the village or make private donations towards them. Would you like to help that way? If so, please speak to one of the Parish Councillors. It would be very much appreciated.

WITCHES GALORE IN BLACKO?

As part of the successful "Open Gardens" event to be held this year on the 2nd July, Blacko Events Committee is to introduce a competition to decorate your front garden, reports committee member, Catherine Fewster. The theme chosen is the Lancashire witches.

Why the Lancashire Witches?

Next year will be the 400th anniversary of the Lancashire Witches trial, and as part of the commemoration Blacko School are undertaking a project to research the association of the witches with Blacko and maybe even locate the infamous Malkin tower. As we will not be having the Open Gardens next year is has been decided to mark the occasion a year early and we also wanted to support our local school in their project.

What do you have to do?

Just decorate your front garden in any way to represent the Lancashire witches. There are no rules; just let your imagination run riot!

What will happen on the day?

All gardens should be completed by 10am on the morning of Saturday 2nd July. A route plan of the gardens entering will be produced. There will be no entry to any of the gardens by the visitors, and therefore they must be able to be viewed from either the road or the path.

Visitors will nominate their choice of the winning garden and will deposit their tear off slips at the bottom of the Open Gardens programme at any of the open gardens.

There will be prizes of £25 for the 1st, £15 for the 2nd and £10 for the 3rd placed gardens.

In order to ensure that the route plan is available please could you let Catherine Fewster know if you are entering by Friday 1st July 6.30pm (East Stone Edge, Barnoldswick Road, Blacko, Tel. 616676). This will ensure that you don't miss your chance for your garden to be entered into the competition.

Entries can only be accepted from gardens in the village that can be reached on foot as visitors walk around the village

Voting will take place up to 4.00pm and the result will be announced at the final open garden in the evening.

ENTRY IS FREE!

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Come and join us as we know where we want to be!

To find out more go to:
www.selrap.org.uk
or telephone 01282 690411

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BLACKO PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORTS SELRAP

BLACKO SCHOOL THROWS DOWN THE GAUNTLET!

A **VERY PROUD** headmaster, **Mark Harrison**, reports on what he describes as an incredible achievement for Blacko school in the sporting arena.

“As I'm sure many people in the village will know, from the publicity in the local press and even from a live broadcast on Radio Lancashire, this has been an incredible year for sporting achievement from Blacko School.

The incredibly talented group have become Lancashire Aviva Champion small school at Indoor Athletics, winning the competition in Chorley in February.

They followed and even bettered this by becoming Spar Lancashire Tag Rugby winners in Preston in March. The same month the boys' football team represented Burnley FC at the Npower North of England Championship finals in Barnsley. They didn't manage to win this but the same day they rushed back from Barnsley to take part in the Pendle Football Championship. This they duly won, winning six and drawing



The Barnsley winners

the other game. Finally the school entered two teams in the North West of England dry skiing championship at Pendle in April and won this for the second consecutive year.

To any other school in Lancashire, beat this!”

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN BLACKO!

THE RUN-UP to Christmas saw the Events Committee organising a wine tasting evening at the Rising Sun on 6 November, the night after another successful Bonfire and Firework display at the Cross Gaits.

As always, there was a full Christmas programme – the Fair at the school, the Over 70s' meal at the Moorcock and Carol Singing around the tree and pie & pea supper at the Rising Sun. The formal dinner dance was staged early in the New Year at a new venue for the committee, the Black Bull at Rimington.

Needless to say, there is to be a full and varied programme for 2011 (and beyond, as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be marked by a dinner dance in the marquees on the recreation ground in 2012). As Blacko News went to press, the first event of the season was to be staged on 5th May, a repeat of Mary Ellis's popular Gardeners' Question Time in the Chapel, with the proceeds going to Pendleside Hospice.

The Rising Sun will be the venue for another **THEME NIGHT** on Saturday, 14th May. This time it will be Italian, with a three-course meal. Tickets are £15. A week later, on Sunday, 22nd May is the **“BEATING THE BOUNDS”** family walk around the parish, starting at 10am at the Rising Sun, and Phil Sipocz has devised a new route for this year. Bring a picnic and appropriate clothing. On the evening of Thursday, 23rd June, the school is organising a **TREASURE HUNT**, which will finish off with supper at the Cross Gaits.

For more details about that, contact the school on 616669. June will be rounded off with a first for the village – an open air performance of **SHAKESPEARE'S “TWELFTH NIGHT”**. This is being staged on the recreation ground by courtesy of the Parish Council by Dean Taylor Productions, which tours venues such as Skipton Castle, Whalley Abbey and Samlesbury Hall. Dean lives in Blacko and is a former Blacko School pupil. There will be two performances, a matinee and one in the evening on Thursday, 30th. It will be advertised widely, so watch out for flyers and posters, or visit the Blacko website.



Blacko School choir entertained at the Over 70s' Christmas Dinner

Hot on Shakespeare's heels will be Blacko's bi-annual **OPEN GARDENS DAY** on Saturday, 2nd July. This is always a popular event, taking in a number of gardens and allotments with added attractions at each. **And this time, there's more in the shape of an exciting innovation. To mark the 400th anniversary of the Lancashire Witch trials at Lancaster Castle next year, householders are invited to decorate their front gardens (not to be confused with our Frontage**

HOSPICE NEWS

The Chairman of the Blacko Hospice Committee, Jean Kippax, reports.

There will be a Tea-at-Three towards the end of August, and hopefully a beetle drive in the Autumn, although the dates have not been decided.

With events and donations last year, we have £2,446 in the bank. Pendleside Hospice made over £20,000 profit on the sale of Christmas cards last year, and £103,000 from Light up a Life.

Unfortunately, the Blacko Committee is depleting slowly, and would welcome any new members. Please ring me on 612264 if you are interested.

Finally, many thanks to our loyal supporters for helping to raise money for such a good cause.

Competition, into which each house in the village is entered automatically) and be judged by those visiting on the day. Catherine Fewster has agreed to organise it and donate the prizes – see her piece on the previous page. The Open Gardens programmes will be delivered to each house in the parish.

One of the now annual highlights is the **VILLAGE SHOW & FAMILY FUN DAY** on the recreation Ground on Sunday, 4 September. Schedules will be also delivered in good time. So it's fingers crossed for good weather on no fewer than five days!

EVENTS COMMITTEE RECOGNISED

AS BLACKO NEWS WENT TO PRESS it was announced that Blacko Events Committee has been nominated for the Community Organisation of the Year award in the Mayor of Pendle's Community Volunteer Awards.

But the committee will have to wait until the awards ceremony on 11th May to see it it's been successful. In 2009, and in recognition of all the effort in raising money for the new play equipment, the Events Committee won the Play Setting of the Year award in the same competition.

ROAD SAFETY

BLACKO MOVES UP A GEAR

BLACKO PARISH

COUNCIL has written to

County Councillor Tim

Ashton, the cabinet member

for Highways and

Transportation.

That is in response to the County Council's plans to introduce 20 mph speed limits near to schools, something the Parish Council has campaigned about for some years. To its disappointment, though, these will not apply on A-class roads, and the letter to Councillor Ashton reiterated the Parish Council's dismay that Burton-in-Lonsdale in Yorkshire, a village with many parallels to Blacko, not least it being on an A road, is restricted to 20 mph, along with having traffic-calming measures.

Another significant development is the County Council's agreement that double yellow lines at the mouth of the junction of Gisburn Road and Beverley road should be progressed. Despite a programme of education, motorists are still parking there dangerously, and that also applies to Beverley Road's junction with Malkin Close. Yellow lines there are also being considered. The last thing Blacko wants are yellow lines, but there seems to be no alternative. Those, coupled with a 20 mph speed limit on Gisburn Road and Beverley Road (the latter should be eligible under the proposals by LCC) will go a long way to improve road safety. Of course, a

BLACKO CHAPEL

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

THE RISING SUN BLACKO



John and Kelly welcome you to their village community pub still serving Pie & Peas, Stew an' Hard as well as Bar Meals and Snacks daily, together with Moorhouse's award winning ales. Listed in the 2011 Good Beer Guide.

FUN QUIZ NIGHT every Tuesday commencing 17th May at 8.45pm. £1 entry per person includes free supper.

CHIP SHOP FRIDAYS

Enjoy your favourites as a takeaway between 5pm and 8pm every Friday.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY 21st MAY from 9pm

MUSICAL EVENING with Jenny and Eileen performing live with jazz, classics and songs from the forties to the present day. Pie & Pea supper available.

SATURDAY 11th JUNE from 8pm

SEVENTIES NIGHT including 3 course meal, music and quiz. Fancy dress optional! Tickets £15 per person. Raffle in aid of Pendleside Hospice.

SATURDAY 18th JUNE from 8.30pm

FOLK EVENING with local group MALKIN Pie & Pea supper available.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY!

7.5 tonne limit on the A682, as on the Grane Road over to Haslingden from the M65, would be something else worth considering. When that was raised a few years ago, LCC said that the Grane Road would revert to the national speed limit, but it's still 50!

BLACKO ALLOTMENT & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S shop on the allotments is open every Sunday from 10 – 12 noon until 5 June, then 11 – 12 noon until the end of August
New members welcome

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

THERE WAS no Parish Council election in Blacko on 5th May, as there were no nominations other than the sitting councillors.

For a while there had been a vacancy, but that was filled by Neil Hodgson of Hollin Fold, who joins the team at a time when, as reported elsewhere in Blacko News, government is pushing more responsibility down to parishes, which will result, maybe, in more powers being granted to this grass-roots tier of local government.

Does the fact that there were no nominations suggest that everyone is happy with the current team, or is it a touch of apathy? The Council would, of course, like to think it's the first, but one way to judge would be the number of residents attending the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday, 25th May, to have a say on anything affecting the parish.

That is also the day of the annual general meeting of the Parish Council, when, amongst other things, the chairman is elected. Blacko's Standing Orders stipulate that chairmen must stand down after three years, and that spells the end for Peter Hesketh in the Chair!

WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF BLACKO NEWS?

For more information, ring the editor on 616562

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 & Blacko News editor

Mr Peter Hesketh, 445, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616562

Vice-chairman

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

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

Blacko News is published by Blacko Parish Council, edited and designed by Peter Hesketh and printed by Hudson & Pearson Limited 01706 210582

VISIT US AT www.blackovillage.com & DON'T FORGET TO JOIN UP!