



Newsletter - March 2014

Heath Charnock Parish Council Chairman's Report

Welcome to the latest edition of the parish council newsletter and thank you to all those parishioners who have contacted the council to say how much they enjoyed the previous issue.

Precept 2014/2015

The parish council has set a precept which is mindful of the current difficult financial situation. The precept was set at a figure of £7300 meaning that some projects being discussed have had to be postponed. It also means that the new notice board that we hoped to purchase during 2014 has had to be delayed until 2015. Unfortunately reductions have been made to donations to local organisations and to the charities we support. It is worth reminding people that the precept for Heath Charnock is among the lowest of all the local parishes.

Parish Concerns.

From time to time parishioners contact the parish council about a particular aspect of the parish which is causing concern and I would like to remind parishioners just what the procedures are after the concern has been reported. The parish council will initially examine the concern and if possible will deal with it. If, however, we find that we do not have the powers to do so, we refer it to the relevant department at Chorley Borough Council and ask them to investigate the concern and, if possible, resolve the issue. We have to give them time to deal with the problem and make a decision, and if we are unhappy with the result we continue to pursue the matter until a satisfactory conclusion has been reached. One particular problem was first referred to Chorley over 14 months ago, and we are still actively trying to ensure some action is taken by them, and we will continue to do so.

Twinning.

During the coming year we will be considering the possibility of twinning the parish of Heath Charnock with a similar village in Europe. We will be inviting a representative of Croston Parish Council, whose village is already twinned with a similar French village, to a future parish council meeting to tell us all about their experience of twinning. We will keep you informed if we feel that the Parish could benefit from the twinning experience.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Ian Oakes (Chairman)

Is Your Dog on a Lead?

Under Chorley Council's Dog Control Order 2012, it is now an offence for a person in charge of a dog to cause, or permit, a dog to be off the lead in a number of locations which include:

any road or carriageway with a speed limit of 40 mph or less and adjoining footpaths and verges.
adopted, publicly maintained footways, footway links and adjoining verges.

Useful Websites

MARIO

While Mario is a well-known computer game, it is also the name of Lancashire County Council's online mapping service. (Maps And Related Information Online). On the system you can enter your postcode and find out a lot of relevant information. You have the ability to choose what is shown on the map; for instance, you can get it to show public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways), the area of green belt, cycle routes etc.

The link is <http://mario.lancashire.gov.uk/agsmario/>

Fix My Street.

You can report problems with roads, pavements, street lights, fly-tipping, graffiti etc., via the website <http://www.fixmystreet.com/> This will send details to the appropriate council, and you will be able to see if the problem has already been reported. You will receive a follow up e-mail to ask you to report if the problem has been fixed.

Police Matters

Police and Communities Together, known for simplicity as PACT, has become a valuable partnership between Lancashire Police, Parish Councils and residents.

PACT means giving everyone the chance to meet members of their neighbourhood police team in person, and an opportunity for the police to gather community intelligence, and problem-solve localised policing issues, and for the police to communicate with local people and inform them what their neighbourhood police team is doing.

Despite recent resource cuts PACT has been maintained. The meetings are held at Adlington Community Centre alternate months, commencing at 6.30pm. The dates for the forthcoming PACT meetings are Thursday 3rd April and Thursday 5th June.

For other months the PACT meeting will be on-line so members of the public can post any questions they wish on the Chorley Police Twitter and /or Facebook page. Police staff will monitor and answer any concerns raised. Dates and times will be announced. See the police website for details.

Alternatively, if residents are not comfortable with either of these arrangements, and would like to contact our local police the e-mail address is Chorley.npt@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

On a separate note but connected to the cut in police resources, your parish council identified some causes for concern with regard to how the parish and surrounding areas are being policed, and are raising this with the relevant authorities.

Adlington & District In Bloom

Working to improve Adlington, Anderton and Heath Charnock

The Royal Horticultural Society's theme for 2014 is 'Growing for Gold', to mark the 50th anniversary of Britain in Bloom. To coincide with this, and to welcome the beginning of another season, Adlington & District in Bloom planted 10,000 daffodils throughout the area last autumn. Many of these were set into the verge of the A6, Westhoughton Road, and into the tyre planters on the grass. The tyres were kindly donated by Mr Morris, Hall i' th' Wood Farm, Chorley; Mr Jones, Rothwell's Farm, Anderton; Mr Kay, Nightingale's Farm, Haigh, and Adlington Tyre & Autocare. Altogether, eighteen worn and redundant tyres were put to use.

Our projects for 2014 include an enhancement of Idle Bridge, adjacent to Westhoughton Road. Idle Bridge leads only to the Leeds-Liverpool Canal towing path, and so carries no vehicular traffic. Our canal bridges are beautiful stone structures, and with the help of the Scouts we plan to get rid of the weeds, put in perennial pollinators and make a feature of this part of our local heritage.

Adlington & District was awarded the silver grade in North West in Bloom 2013, with higher marks than the previous year. Independent research says that plantings in towns and villages bring a feel-good factor to communities which increases pride and respect and reduces crime and antisocial behaviour – and whilst winning awards is very nice, essentially, that is what Adlington & District in Bloom is all about.

The Great War

This year is the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, or as we now know it, World War One, (dubbed 'the War to end all wars').

King George V declared war on Germany at 10.45 am on Tuesday 4 August 1914, after holding council with his ministers at Buckingham Palace. The war would last until Armistice Day, 11 November 1918 at 11am.

Although there had been a great deal of unrest in Europe and many countries were already expanding their naval and military capabilities, the catalyst for war had been the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. On 28 June 1914 Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist, had shot and killed the Archduke and his wife in Bosnia, the capital of Sarajevo. This caused the European powers to take up the causes of their allies. By the 4th August, Austria and Germany were already at war with Russia and France. German troops were invading Luxemburg and Belgium. France was next! The French Government asked for help and Britain responded.

The August Bank Holiday weather that year was glorious and many felt optimistic that the war would be over very quickly now that the British forces were to be involved. It was however apparent by Christmas 1914, that this would not be the case.

It has been estimated that 9 million people died, 7 million were permanently disabled and 15 million seriously injured during the course of the conflict. The war changed Europe forever, and Britain would never be the same again. Every country talked of their 'lost generation'; young men who went to war for a cause they believed in, and never returned.

If you would like more information all our local libraries will be able to help. There will be special events to mark the centenary. The BBC will be broadcasting over 2500 hours of programmes across all media during the 2014-2018 period.

If you have any ideas for future articles, you can contact the editorial team by email at newsletter@heathcharnock.org.uk

Railway Electrification Update

The local councils have asked Network Rail to review its road closure programme, and at a meeting in December it was proposed to rebuild Railway Road, Adlington, first, which would enable the width of the bridge to be increased so that it will be a more suitable diversionary route, with Chorley Road and Rawlinson Lane being closed at the same time at a later date. Network Rail have gone away to consider this.

The advantage of this approach would be that one of the main roads, either Railway Road or Chorley Road, would always be open. The disadvantage is that Chorley Road would be without any bus service, and Network Rail or Lancashire County Council are going to be talking to Stagecoach about that.

There is no possibility of closing only one bridge at a time, as the reconstructions have to tie in with the actual closure of the railway during some of the work. This will be for one or two weekends, when a replacement bus service will operate. During these weekends there will be 24 hour working, but at other times construction will be limited to daylight hours. Lowering the track, which will be carried at Lyons Lane and Brook Street in Chorley, is also not practical at these locations.

The access bridge at Brettors Farm, known as Spencers, is also to be reconstructed, starting in March 2015, for approximately 10 weeks.

The major work at Chorley Tunnel, and the reinstatement of the flying arches, will involve a complete closure of the railway from mid-July 2014 until the end of August 2014. Trains will terminate at Chorley station, with a replacement bus service on to Buckshaw, Leyland and Preston.

Network Rail are holding an 'Electrification Open Day' at Adlington Community Centre, Railway Road, Adlington on Wednesday 12 March between 4pm and 8pm.

Senior Citizen Clubs and Activities

Friends Together

Friends old and new meet each Monday afternoon, between 1.30pm and 3.30pm at the Fairview Youth & Community Centre, Highfield Road North, to enjoy a cup of tea, a get-together and activities.

Everyone is welcome and transport can be provided.

For details, please contact: Wendy Salvage on 01257 481910 or June Makinson on 01257 481281

Adlington & District Senior Citizens

A warm welcome awaits older residents at the Adlington & District Senior Citizens. The club meets at 1.45pm on alternate Thursday afternoons at the United Reformed and Methodist Church on Railway Road, when members enjoy speakers, outings and bingo sessions, among other activities.

Dial-a-Ride is available.

For details, please contact: Marjorie Hayes on 01257 480944

Events for 2014: 27 March, Canal Walk; 10 April, Hot Pot; 24 April, Trip; 8 May, Plants; 22 May, Bingo; 5 June, Musical Afternoon; 19 June, Beetle Drive; 3 July, bingo

Luncheon Club

Meetings take place every Wednesday at the United Reformed and Methodist Church on Railway Road. There is a small charge for each meeting, and a charge for special days out. Meetings commence at 11.45am, sitting for lunch at 12 noon until 1pm.

For details, please contact: Jennifer Rothwell on 01257 451072

Events for 2014: 9 April, Easter Raffle; 21 May, A.G.M.; 18 June, Outing to Windermere; 16 July, Summer Raffle, Quiz and Strawberry Tea; 10 September, Outing to Cleveleys; 29 October, Halloween Raffle; 12 November, Oswaldtwistle Mill Christmas Lunch and Shopping; 3 December, Christmas Raffle and sing-along with Tina; 17 December, Christmas Lunch.

There are no weekly meetings on the following dates – 23 & 30 April, 23 & 30 July, and 24 & 31 December.

Knowsley Lane

Lancashire County Council is to introduce double yellow lines between the junction with Back Lane and The Street, with two further stretches on the embankment between the two reservoirs to enable cars to pass when there are a number of vehicles parked along this stretch. Please park responsibly.

A Half-century in Babylon Lane - Part 1 By Mrs Phillida Gilbertson

I first came to Adlington in 1954, and was in lodgings next door to Bill Salmon's bakery on Chorley Road. My future husband was in lodgings in Fairview and we met waiting for the bus at the bus stop which was outside the chip shop and opposite to the Farmer's Arms. The pub was demolished to make way for the Daisy Hill estate.

Having heard a rumour, we walked up Babylon Lane one spring evening to enquire of Mrs Mort whether it was true that her cottage was for sale. We were delighted at what we saw and arrangements to purchase were very easily completed. At that time there was no bathroom and only an outside toilet.

Babylon Lane was then a quiet country road, which was re-surfaced with tarmac every two or three years – a noisy and smelly experience, but worth it.

Fifty years ago, we had much harsher winters; snow drifts blocking the lane were the norm, and the icy pavements a hazard. Not only were the pavements frozen, but the window panes had such thick patterns of ice that it was impossible to see outside. Fantastic icicles hung from the washhouse gutter, and snow drifts came half way up the front and back doors.

The silent world of winter was soon forgotten with the frenzy of spring. We were, happily, surrounded by farms – Farmer Bell by Daisy Hill, Greenhalgh Farm, Harry Sinker at Springfield Farm, Jack Rutter at Newhouse Farm behind us, then Lonsdales on the way to Slacks, and of course Hall o' th' Hill. Sometimes spring was late in coming. The severe winter of 1962-3 lasted almost until April. In our garden ice was still thawing, but astonishingly snowdrops had broken through in February. A hundred yards down the lane, front gardens were boasting their daffodils and tulips – we always reckoned to be two weeks later in our flowers than the gardens in Babylon Lane, Adlington.

With the milder weather there was more activity on the lane and in the surrounding fields as soil was turned and fertiliser sprayed - sometimes the smell was awful, people walked up and down in the evenings and the lapwings would be courting till dusk, and later. Tractors would be chugging, the rag and bone man re-appeared, sometimes the man who sharpened knives and tools, the fish man who came every Friday, and of course the lengthsman, then known as the road sweeper. Several milkmen supplied the residents; one wore brown leather gaiters, cord trousers, a tweed jacket and a 'pork pie' hat, and he sat in his float, the churns behind him, drawn by a smart brown pony. It was a quietly busy lane, and so safe for the children travelling to their various schools.

Good Friday was the busiest day of the year, when people came in droves to join the hundreds on the 'pilgrimage' to the Pike. It was a noisy procession up the hill, but a silent, weary one coming down.

At that time of the year it was not uncommon to find frogs on the front doorstep and in the garden. Frogs usually return to the area where they were born in order to breed and this appearance of frogs around our house to me was definitely unusual. We had no pond then, and by the time we managed to make one many years later, the annual visitations had almost ceased, to my great regret.

To Be Continued

Dates for your Diary

Network Rail - Electrification Open Day - Adlington Community Centre, Wednesday 12 March, 4pm - 8pm

European Parliament Elections - Thursday 22 May 2014

Adlington Carnival - July 11, 12 and 13, 2014. Road closures during carnival procession on Saturday 12 July.

Ironman - Sunday July 20 2014. Road closures and parking restrictions. The cycle route is different this year, but stays the same in our area, with only two laps.

Parish Council Meetings - March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12 - All are at Adlington Community Centre and start at 7.30pm.

Annual Parish Meeting - May 8. This precedes the normal parish council meeting and starts at 7.00pm.

<u>Heath Charnock Parish Council</u>	<u>Councillors as at February 2014</u>		
All parish council correspondence should be sent to the parish clerk:	Ian Oakes	49 The Asshawes, Heath Charnock (Chair)	Telephone 480047
	Mrs E Woodrow 99 Rawlinson Lane Heath Charnock Chorley PR7 4DE	Graham Ashworth	4 Springfield Mews, Heath Charnock (Vice Chair) 480338
	Elaine Adams	4 Factory Lane, Heath Charnock.	482311
	Robert Davison	Springfield Farm, Babylon Lane, Heath Charnock	474037
	Judith Hendrickson	99 Rawlinson Lane, Heath Charnock	480515
	Alan Styles	Woodlands, Westthoughton Road, Heath Charnock	482689
	Paul Williams	3 Chorley Road, Heath Charnock	485604

Tel: 01257 480515

Email: Woodrows@tinyworld.co.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend parish council meetings which are held in the Adlington and District Community Centre. See the council notice boards or the web site www.heathcharnock.org.uk for dates and times.