



# Newsletter - March 2015

## Heath Charnock Parish Council Chairman's Report

Welcome to the latest edition of the parish newsletter. I hope you will find plenty to interest you among the various articles.

### Road Closures.

We have now had two months of traffic congestion caused by the closure of the roads at the bridges at Skew Bridge and in Rawlinson Lane.

I think it is fair to say that, after the initial shock, most people have adjusted to the extra time needed to make journeys and have, to some extent, accepted the delays in waiting for traffic lights to change before any progress can be made. However, I still cannot get used to seeing Railway Road completely blocked from top to bottom, and the sight of so many buses involved in the line of traffic.

I can accept that all this disruption is an inevitable consequence of the need to upgrade the railway line and therefore rebuild the bridges, but I do feel that Network Rail have not fully realised the impact of these alterations upon the life of the villages.

Perhaps I can bring one or two points to your attention.

First, the impact upon local shops has been quite dramatic, with at least one business having takings reduced by half. Will there be any compensation available to help to cover these losses?

Next, the impact upon those residents living nearest to Skew Bridge and Rawlinson Lane has been greater than upon others as, not only have they to cope with a greatly reduced bus service, but they have the greatest additional distance to travel if they wish to journey by car towards Chorley. For those with no cars the reduced bus service has caused even greater problems, and I am told that the use of taxi services has increased dramatically in spite of the cost involved.

We have received two letters from Network Rail concerning the railway workings. The first of these informed us of the dates of the road closures and the second informed us of weekend workings and the noise involved, but at no point in either of these letters was there any acknowledgement of any inconvenience caused nor any form of apology for such inconvenience. Perhaps that was too much to hope for.

On the bright side, at least every day that passes is one day closer to a return to normality!

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 14 May at 7pm in the Adlington Community Centre.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for residents of Heath Charnock to get together and discuss any concerns they might have about various aspects of parish life.

The meeting will not involve members of the parish council other than a member being present to introduce proceedings, after which it will be up to you to decide upon the topics to be discussed.

After the meeting any areas of concern will be brought to the attention of the parish council and these will be discussed at a future parish council meeting.

I hope you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity for what, I hope, will be a chance to have your say about parish life.

I would anticipate the meeting lasting until 7.45 pm after which the AGM of the parish council will take place.

Please watch the parish council notice boards for more information about the meeting.

Ian Oakes  
Chairman

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### Loft and Cavity Wall Insulation

Free loft insulation, and free cavity wall insulation for most homes built after 1920, is available through the Cosy Homes in Lancashire initiative. They can also help with boiler replacements and draught proofing. They can be contacted on 0330 606 1488 or email [info@cosylancashire.org.uk](mailto:info@cosylancashire.org.uk)

## **Adlington & District In Bloom**

*Working to improve Adlington, Anderton and Heath Charnock*

Roadside daffodil planting continued throughout the autumn – more than we expected as Cllr Snape's discretionary grant for bulbs was supplemented by several sackfuls from Chorley Council in recognition of its achievement in Britain in Bloom. We received some curious looks as we apparently dug up the grass verges, but it should all become clear in the next few weeks.

Although the In Bloom group has attained the silver grade in North West in Bloom for several years, the group has decided not to enter this year. To make progress in the event by not only maintaining our current commitments, but also coming up with new projects, would have needed more man- and woman-power than we have at present within our team of a dozen or so. Anyone who could spare a little time to help, even on a casual basis, would be made most welcome, but in the meantime we have to scale back somewhat. Another consideration was that the ever-increasing entry fee, together with incidental costs such as producing a portfolio for the judges, were taking a disproportionate amount of our funds, and so it was agreed that this year the money is better targeted towards planting. After all the frustrations, diversions, queues and closures, you will deserve something nice to look at. It will soon be May.

### **Can YOU help?**

Adlington & District in Bloom works in Adlington, Anderton and Heath Charnock, and is responsible for maintaining the grounds at several sites, including the War Memorial, and the Fairclough Memorial Garden, in addition to a number of planters located throughout the district.

Additional volunteers are needed to ensure that we can continue our work to improve the local environment. Can you spare any time to assist us in planting flowers and bulbs, weeding, and watering in dry weather? If so please contact Alan Styles on 01257 482689, or email [chair@adlingtonanddistrictinbloom.org.uk](mailto:chair@adlingtonanddistrictinbloom.org.uk)

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## **Progress at Skew Bridge**



21 February



23 February



28 February



8 March

## A Half-century in Babylon Lane - Part 3 By Mrs Phillida Gilbertson

As the children grew older they would help the farmers with the haymaking. Jack Rutter was their favourite; he allowed them to drive the tractor, and when one drove straight through his shed he laughed!

Autumn was a lovely time as well; it was a real pleasure to join other housewives in a field and sit on the hay bales and chat while the children ran wild. Simple pleasures in a sunny relaxing atmosphere and homemade lemonade to drink. Nostalgic. Of course then we had Mr Morris, our street sweeper. He was a lovely man, very gentle and friendly. He used to sweep up the leaves into tidy piles by the entrance to *Appenzell*, light them, and they would gently smoulder for hours until only fine ash remained, and the smell was delicious. He always looked after the children when they needed to cross the road, and was never without a supply of sweets for them. He would have known them from when they were in their prams, and have seen them growing up.

Springfield Mill was a very tall, very dark, very solid building, covering what is now Stonegate Fold. When we first arrived it was partly occupied by the Gaz company as a storage depot. A biscuit and a tea firm also had space there. There was an upper door opposite our side bedroom window, which was opened every now and then for Pin Croft staff to lower rolls of cloth stored in the dry part of the mill. These occupants made little or no impact on any of us in the area. The lane was still quiet, even though there were by now more cars in normal use. The Spring was excellent for off-road parking unless it was very cold with frost and snow, then it was necessary to wrap up the car and dig out the snow.

The motorway has been the downfall of Babylon Lane. One original plan was that the mill should be demolished and the M61 should cross *Appenzell* land and the fields at the back, and come out somewhere in Chorley. It would have cut Babylon Lane in half. On reflection, I wonder would it have been to our advantage? As it is, our once country lane is a rat-run for Chorley.

Once the motorway was built and access to it from our area was easy, calamity struck us. The mill was bought by a metal-finishing firm named Intermetco. Highly inflammable and toxic chemicals were used in the process. There was a large-ish workforce and they all had cars. The residents who had parked peacefully in a quiet area were shocked by a Spring full of workers' cars, both sides of the lane were full of workers' cars, wagons coming and going all day, a fork-lift truck speeding from one end to the other of the mill. On the lane was the constant noise of machinery, loud voices at lunchtime, cars tearing up and down, Radio 1 constantly blaring, the most awful smell of chemicals, and worst of all for us, a skip in The Spring, rarely emptied, and dead rats around it. We had almost constant contact with the Environmental Health people and even had our rates reduced as a consequence.

Eventually, in 1986, with the neighbours' financial support, a friendly solicitor engaged a barrister and we had an official hearing. Because of the unemployment situation at the time we lost, but not for long. Several months after the hearing, Intermetco closed down and moved to Horwich, near the motorway, and with a new name. But the rat-run had been opened and probably will remain so.

In 1986 the mill was sold to a property developer from Manchester and demolition began. It had been magnificently built; we gazed in awe when the slates had been removed and the roof timbers were exposed. The wood was as clean as new and there was not a nail in sight. It was tongue and groove of the highest standard and could be seen from our side bedroom window. A tap of a hammer and the beams were lifted off and light flooded into our house and garden. Once the walls were down we could see all the way down the lane over the roof tops. In some ways we were sorry to see it go; it was a part of the Industrial Revolution that had lived happily in an agricultural area. Some very beautiful trees were lost in the process and a great deal of history. The kestrel won't build there any more; the swallows have lost the mud for nest-building, rabbits their burrows, newts their breeding ground. Also, more houses mean more cars – such is progress

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Mrs Gilbertson's memories of Babylon Lane from the 1950s will be included also in the publication *A Moment in Time*, which is due out soon, and will be distributed to every house in the district..

Phillida Gilbertson was a parish councillor, a trustee of Shaw's Charity and Shaw's Educational Endowment, and was involved in the community for many years.

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We regret to inform you that Phillida died at the end of 2014, and we send our condolences to her family.

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**Adlington Senior Citizens** - Contact Marjorie Hayes on 01257 480944

Forthcoming events include: 26 March - Bingo, 23 April - Linda Ball (speaker), 7 May - Trip, 21 May - David Griffiths and the Glee Men, 4 June Bill Blackledge (speaker), 2 July - Bingo.

**Friends Together** - For details, please contact: Wendy Salvage on 01257 481910 or June Makinson on 01257 481281

**Luncheon Club** - For details, please contact: Jennifer Rothwell on 01257 451072

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## The Great War

March 11th marks the centenary of the death of the first local man in the First World War. He was William Farnworth, aged 28, the son of Henry and Esther Farnworth of Babylon Lane. His wife was Amelia Chadwick of Springfield Terrace. William had trained with the St John Ambulance volunteers at Adlington, and although he had moved out of the area, he enlisted with the Adlington volunteers on the 2 August 1914, and was posted to the Royal Naval Haslar Hospital Portsmouth, where he remained until the 23 December.

His next posting was to HMS *Bayano*, an armed merchant cruiser, converted from an Elders and Fyffe banana boat for use on convoy duty. The *Bayano* left Glasgow on the 10 March 1915, and was torpedoed on the morning of the 11 March by u-boat U27 under the command of Kapitanleutnant Bernhard Wenger, 10 miles WNW of Coreswell Point which is at the northern point of the peninsula by Stranraer. It was a calm dark morning and the *Bayano* sank in four minutes. The captain, 14 officers and 181 ratings were drowned, but there were 25 survivors. Many bodies were washed up on the Irish coast.

William Farnworth is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Southsea Common, panel no. 10, The three manning ports, Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth each have an identical memorial obelisk to members of the Royal Navy with no known grave. He is also commemorated on the Adlington War Memorial, the Adlington Parish Church memorial, the Rivington Church memorial, the Bay Horse (Heath Charnock) Bowling Club roll of honour, and the Loyal Heath Charnock Glory Lodge of Oddfellows' roll of honour. He was remembered at the unveiling ceremony of this roll of honour.

U27 was launched on 14 July 1913, and commissioned on 8 May 1914. On the 18 October she torpedoed and sank the British submarine E3, which was the first time that a submarine had been sunk by another. On 31 March she sank the seaplane carrier, HMS *Hermes*, and went on to sink the *Bayano*, another six British merchant ships, two Norwegian ships and one Spanish ship. On 19 August 1915 U27 was sunk by gunfire from the Q-Ship HMS *Baralong*. This incident is known as the Baralong Incident. The surviving German sailors were all shot, and not taken prisoner.

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## Are you 'In the Know'?

The Lancashire Police "In The Know" messaging system offers you the means to receive information from the police and other agencies in the county which suit your preferences for content, locality and means of communication. It is a free service to sign up to and there are no contracts or obligations of any kind.

Registration is quick, simple and completely free. You can register online at [www.stayintheknow.co.uk](http://www.stayintheknow.co.uk)

You can elect to receive messages by email, voice mail or sms text. Members registered to receive only text messages will still receive important information, but not all messages/warnings are circulated on the system.

Personal details will be securely held under the provisions of the Data Protection Act and only the people you want to see your details can see them. They will never be shared with commercial organisations. By registering on the system you can keep in touch with the things that concern you and your community.

There are various interest groups which you can sign up to, but general information, e.g. about cyber crimes is also given.

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## Dates for your Diary

**Network Rail** - Rawlinson Lane closed until May 22 ; Chorley Road closed until June 19.

**Chorley Cycle Race** - Saturday April 4 - Rolling road closures from 8am to 5pm. Route is from Chorley, along Long Lane, New Road, then to Rivington via Horrobin Lane.

**General Election** - Thursday May 7.

**Adlington Carnival** - July 10, 11 and 12. Road closures during carnival procession on Saturday 11 July.

**Ironman** - Sunday July 19. Road closures and parking restrictions.

**Parish Council Meetings** - March 12, April 9 , May 14 - All are at Adlington Community Centre and start at 7.30pm.

**Annual Parish Meeting** - May 14. This precedes the normal parish council meeting and starts at 7.00pm.

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### Heath Charnock Parish Council

### Councillors as at March 2015

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

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](http://www.heathcharnock.org.uk) for dates and times.