

A Half-century in Babylon Lane - Part 2
By Mrs Phillida Gilbertson

One spring morning, I was awoken by strange snuffling noises in the lane – it was what appeared to be about twenty pigs having an early morning walk from Sinkers. They found their own way home - not so one of the horses, he jumped over the wall and was found on his way to Bolton.

We knew that spring had really arrived when the cows were brought out into the field behind us. Sometimes this was as late as May, depending on the nature of the grass. Their hooves made a scrunching noise on the unmade road of The Spring, and we could hear the rasping of skin as they rubbed against each other and the wall, the low “moo” or a cough when they returned for the evening milking. It was also a delight for me – a former town-dweller – to hear the cock crowing in the morning. Another great pleasure was to take the children over to the farm, especially at milking time. The milking parlour was quite a noisy place; chugging pumps of the milking machines, guttural “moos” and chomping of hay from the cattle, the rattle of chains around their stalls, the odd stamp of their feet, and yet there was such a peaceful atmosphere, and warmth, raised by the splat of dung falling on the stone floor! Not far outside the parlour was the midden, steaming and pungent. The dairy was a low, stone building with a creamy smell. There were stacked crates of freshly washed milk bottles and a walk-in fridge area.

Once the swallows arrived, the barn was always surrounded by them, swooping and twittering and keeping down the many flies, thus providing food for the dozens of their offspring.

Perhaps the best part of late spring was hearing the kestrel chick. There was a lump of mortar missing by a wooden hoist at the back of the mill and the chick would first learn to leave the nest and sit on the bar, and eventually learn to fly from there. One year, somebody had slung a rope over the bar and left quite a length dangling; the young fledgling, being curious, caught its foot in the rope and was hanging pathetically by one leg. We alerted the RSPCA, and with the aid of the Fire Brigade it was freed, and as we had a suitable box, we were allowed to keep it overnight. A reporter arrived, with camera, for the release and “Nemo” flew off to freedom.

With summer on its way, the children could wander safely in the fields. One of our favourite walks was down The Spring, through Rutter’s farm (he had two beautiful shire horses which always came to greet us), along to Lonsdales, over the stile, across the field and into Hobbies Wood, where I once spotted a goldcrest, left turn at Bell’s farm – Sutton House Farm – and along the path where linnets lived and sang. On our right were Mr Bell’s fields; he once grew rape there, but now it is Sutton Fold estate. The back of the mill wall ended that lovely, if sometimes muddy, path and we would continue uphill, with the mill wall on our right, and “our” field on our left, to our cottage at the top of The Spring. Actually “our” field is really named “Great Head”, and according to our house deeds we are entitled to use the well. Where the well is, nobody knows, but I suspect it could have been near the bottom of our field where, until it was drained a few years ago, there was a very marshy bit. The area around this marshy bit was no good for agriculture, but it was an ideal nesting ground for lapwings. In early spring we were delighted to hear the lapwings in their courtship flights; the mewing calls would go on well after dark sometimes, and as weeks passed we could look over our wall and see lapwing chicks running in the fresh grass.

(To be continued)

Cut Your Energy Bills!

Chorley Council has introduced a scheme to help residents cut the cost of their energy bills, by helping them switch suppliers. This is a one-to-one service, and is offered at their Union Street offices every Monday from 9am to 5pm. Booking is however essential, and the hour-long appointments can be made by telephoning 01257 515151 or by emailing contact@chorley.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

Parish Council Meetings - 9 October, 13 November, 8 January 2014, 12 February, 12 March - All are at Adlington Community Centre and start at 7.30 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Canal Towpath Cleanup - Thursday 16 October, 9.00 am. Meet at the layby on the A6 by Idle Bridge.

Community Skip - Saturday 18 October 9 am to 2pm at the White Horse car park on Rawlinson Lane.

Remembrance Day - Sunday 9 November. A torchlight procession will take place to St Paul’s Church on the evening of Tuesday 11 November.



Newsletter - October 2014

Heath Charnock Parish Council Chairman's Report

Welcome to the latest edition of the parish newsletter. I hope you find it both interesting and informative.

I must admit that I was finding it difficult to find items of interest to bring to your attention, as all those that came to mind were being covered later in the newsletter, until an incident happened just a few days ago which I think is worth mentioning.

I was just coming out of the village "hotspot" i.e. the chemist’s shop, when I quite literally bumped into a lady making her way in. I apologised for my clumsiness when the lady in question asked me if I was still chairman of the parish council, and at this point I have to say that although I recognised the lady, having seen her in the village on several occasions, I did not know her.

She went on to say that she enjoyed reading the information on the notice board and receiving the newsletter, but she had to say that she was disappointed about the level of the parish precept.. Somewhat taken aback I tried to explain that we felt that we had kept the precept to as low a level as we felt able as we had many expenses to cover. The lady then went on to say that I was misunderstanding what she meant. She actually felt that the precept should not have been reduced at all. She had compared her council tax for 2014//2015 with last year’s council tax and found that the difference between the two was only £1.77, and she believed that if this figure was typical then it would have been far better to leave the precept as it was and use the money towards the projects that had to be postponed.

I am quite sure that not everyone thinks this way, but it just shows the difficulties the council faces when making such financial decisions, and this situation will be repeated in January, when similar decisions will be made about next year’s precept after, I am sure, a heated debate.

In fact the parish council increased the precept by £200 this year, however when Chorley calculated the parish council element of the council tax, it resulted in a reduction to each council tax payer, due to changes in the number of properties and other factors.

If you have any views on this subject please contact a member of the parish council or the clerk to the council.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Ian Oakes
Chairman
Heath Charnock Parish Council

Skew Bridge

A number of complaints were received about appearance of the allotments between the canal and Westthoughton Road near Skew Bridge. The parish council and our Chorley councillor, Kim Snape continually raised this matter with Chorley planners, but it was not until the parish council raised it at a liaison meeting with Chorley Council, that action was taken. A notice was served on the owners and tenants specifying improvements to be made.

This order has now been complied with and Chorley Council are looking at further improvements to the site.

Planning

While most planning applications are dealt with by the planning officers, under devolved powers, applications for large or controversial projects go before the Development Control Committee. Until recently parish councils had no right to speak at these meetings. Following a representation from Heath Charnock, the rules have been amended so that parish councils can speak in support or opposition of a development if they wish to do so.

Heath Charnock Parish Council

All parish council correspondence should be sent to the parish clerk:

Mrs E Woodrow
99 Rawlinson Lane
Heath Charnock
Chorley
PR7 4DE

Tel: 01257 480515
Email: Woodrows@tinyworld.co.uk

Councillors as at September 2014

		Telephone
Ian Oakes	49 The Asshawes, Heath Charnock (Chair)	480047
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

Police Matters

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, Clive Grunshaw, attended a meeting of Adlington Town Council on Monday 18th of August, and answered questions from the public. Heath Charnock parish councillors raised a number of issues regarding local policing, and he undertook to look into our concerns.

Adlington & District In Bloom

Working to improve Adlington, Anderton and Heath Charnock

On the May Day bank holiday, towards a dozen Scouts and Beavers tackled the weeds on Idle Bridge, see the pictures below, and we would like to thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm.

We entered North West in Bloom again this year, and the judges visited the area on the 8 July. They were interested to see the cold frame designed and built out of plastic bottles by parish councillor Judith Hendrickson. We have been nominated again for an award and will receive this in October.

Thanks to everyone who contacted members of the In Bloom group to say how much they had enjoyed the display of daffodils on the A6 in the spring. We are pleased to tell you that Cllr Kim Snape has very kindly given us a discretionary grant which will allow us to purchase more daffodils this autumn. You may see us out planting around Skew Bridge and Chorley Road from September.



Scouts, cubs and beavers at work on Idle Bridge, and for the work they will gain their Community Action badge.

The Great War

A vigil service was held at St Paul's Church, Adlington, on the 4th of August, and it was attended by around 120 people. The vigil candle used at the service will be kept by the memorial in the church and used on each of the next four Remembrance Sundays.

Remembrance Day this year is on November 9th, and the memorial service in Adlington will be held in the afternoon. Times will be available on the parish council's website nearer the time. On the evening of Tuesday November 11th there will be torchlight processions from local primary schools to St Paul's Church, followed by a service.

Edna Woodrow has researched the local history and writes:

As clerk to the parish council, I have been attending Remembrance Day services for more than 20 years. The first time that I heard read out the names of the fallen of the Great War, I was struck, as I think everyone is, by the sheer number of casualties of that conflict from Adlington, Anderton, Heath Charnock and Rivington.

I wanted to know who those men were – were they related, workmates, neighbours, and, most poignantly, how many families had more than one loss?

The upshot was that for two years I spent an afternoon a week in the Chorley Reference Library, reading the old newspapers on microfilm, and along the way a picture took shape of life in our community a century ago. Extracts from that collation are now on our website (www.heathcharnock.org.uk and click on History), starting in August 1914 and building over the four years of the war.

I must here thank the people who have helped with information and photos, and especially Mrs Sheila Dewhurst, who spent many hours checking censuses for me.

LEST WE FORGET

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

Railway Electrification Update

Work is well under way on rebuilding the bridge on Railway Road in Adlington. This is due for completion by the 7th of November.

A reminder that under current plans the bridge on Chorley Road will be closed from December 2014 to June 2015 (dates to be confirmed), although some oneway working controlled by traffic lights may be possible during the initial stages of reconstruction. Rawlinson Lane bridge will be closed from 5th January to 22nd May 2015. Talks are ongoing about how a bus service can serve Chorley Road.

Going to University this Autumn?

Shaw's Educational Endowment provides a modest grant (the Senior Exhibition) to undergraduates from the four townships of Anderton, Heath Charnock, Rivington and Anglezarke for the purchase of textbooks.

Applicants need to be resident in one of the four parishes for two years, be under 1, and be reading for a first degree.

For an application form please contact
Mrs E. Woodrow, 99 Rawlinson Lane, Heath Charnock, Chorley, PR7 4DE. Telephone: 01257 480515
Email: woodrows@tinyworld.co.uk

Handyman Service

Chorley Borough Council runs a handyperson service in partnership with Preston Care and Repair which covers Heath Charnock

The service is for residents in private sector housing who are either aged 60 plus or who are disabled.

The ethos of the service is to enable customers to access a service which is safe, reliable, trustworthy and affordable. Customers pay £10 an hour for the handyperson service, plus the cost of any materials used.

The following list illustrates the type of work which is carried out: putting up curtain rails, grab rails, stair rails; replacing tap washers; securing loose floor coverings or other trip hazards; carrying out small repairs to windows and doors; fitting security items to windows and doors; replacing gates and doors, moving furniture, and fitting draught excluders.

Customers can access the service by contacting Preston Care & Repair on 01772 204096 or by email agency@prestoncareandrepair.fednet.org.uk

Art in Adlington

Art in Adlington meets every Tuesday during term time at Fairview Youth and Community Centre, Highfield Rd North, Adlington.

We are a tutor-led group catering for all levels of ability, and work in all mediums. Sessions available are 9:00am - 11:00am, 11:00 - 1:00pm and 1:30 - 3:30pm.

The cost per session is £5, using a voucher system. During the summer, and occasionally throughout the year, we invite professional artists and teachers to our group for demonstrations and workshops. Above all we are a friendly group dedicated to the enjoyment of art. The autumn term began on Tuesday, 16th September and we will be using acrylics and/or water-mixable oils.

For further information please contact Hon. Secretary, Gwen Howells, Tel:01257 482825, email: secretary@artinadlington.co.uk www.artinadlington.co.uk

Community Roadwatch

Community Road Watch is a partnership between Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary, and its aim is to work with local communities in order to identify road safety concerns and reduce the number of vehicle collisions and road casualties. Many of these incidents occur when drivers fail to comply with the speed limit.

Speeding and road safety are still a source of concern for the residents of Heath Charnock and the parish council supports initiatives such as Community Road Watch. The scheme has been active in our area recently monitoring drivers who pass through and identifying those who are either exceeding the speed limit, not wearing a seat belt or using a mobile phone whilst driving.

Community Road Watch is partly staffed by volunteers who contribute some of their time towards making our area that little bit safer. Volunteers don't need any qualifications or specific experience and come from all backgrounds. The scheme understands that a volunteer's time is valuable and that there are many and varied reasons for volunteering. Appropriate training will be provided to develop skills. If any resident is interested in becoming a community volunteer and working with the Community Road Watch scheme then please contact

Margaret.Rushton@lancashire.pnn.police.uk or via telephone 01257 246328