



# Newsletter - September 2015

## Chairman's Report.

Welcome to the latest edition of the Parish Newsletter.

At last we have the roads in Rawlinson Lane and Skew Bridge open to traffic, at least for the time being as the road at Skew Bridge will once again be closed between 25th and 28th September for work on the bridge.

This follows on from a delay in the completion of the bridge walls, as the supplier sent the wrong type of stone and that part of the wall that had been built had to be pulled down. The alterations to the two roads and bridges will have taken at least eight months to complete and it may well be worth comparing this amount of time with that taken to complete the Liverpool to Manchester Railway in Victorian times. This stretch of line is 30 miles long and was constructed over some extremely testing areas of land. All in all, this line, including track, stations and signalling, together with a combined total of 68 bridges and tunnels, was completed in just over four and a half years. How times change!

## Anniversary of World War 1 - 1914-1918

At the beginning of the war, on 31st August 1914, 17 young men from Babylon Lane marched to Chorley, led by a bugler, to enlist in the 8th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Only 8 would return home. In all 25 men from Heath Charnock died in the war, 14 from Babylon Lane.

1916 marks the 100th anniversary of the Battle of The Somme in which a number of men from Babylon Lane gave their lives. In memory of this anniversary and to acknowledge the sacrifices made by men from Heath Charnock, the Parish Council are considering the design and purchase of a plaque to be placed at a site within the Parish and here we are requesting your help.

Firstly, where should the plaque be positioned? Should it be on a wall, embedded in a pavement or sited at the side of a road? Next, which part of the Parish is the most suitable for the position of the plaque i.e. Babylon Lane or another area? Finally, what would be the most appropriate wording to be engraved on the plaque?

If you have any suggestions please contact the Clerk, or any other member of the Council.

We would also be very interested in hearing from any parishioner whose relation may have fought in the war and who may have had any memories passed down through the family, and with your permission we could publish these memories in a future edition of the Newsletter.

Thanking you in advance

Ian Oakes, Chairman, Heath Charnock Parish Council

## Going to University this Autumn? Then read on!

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Shaw's Educational Endowment was created, and this 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. To qualify for a grant for textbooks applicants need to have been resident in one of the four parishes for two years, be under 21 years of age and be reading for a first degree.

For an application form please contact:-

Mrs E. Woodrow, 99 Rawlinson Lane, Heath Charnock, Chorley PR7 4DE. Tel: 01257 480515

or email [woodrows@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:woodrows@tinyworld.co.uk)

## Road Closures

For your information we are publishing details of further temporary road closures –

Road closed the length of Chorley Road, Heath Charnock on the railway bridge (Skew Bridge). An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:-A673 Chorley Road – B6227 Railway Road – A6 Church Street – A6 Westthoughton Road – A673 Chorley Road and vice versa.

The temporary closure is necessary to allow bridge works to be carried out. Closed from 2300 hours on Friday 25th September until 0500 hours on Monday 28th September 2015 or 2300 hours on Friday 2nd October 2015 until 0500 hours on Monday 5th October 2015, or until completion of the works within this period.

## Why should we re-cycle?

Every year the cost of sending waste to landfill sites increases, and will continue to increase. Re-cycling conserves resources, saves energy, helps protect the environment and reduces the need for expensive landfill. So where does our waste go?

Once collected from our homes, it is taken to a state-of-the-art waste recovery park at Farington, Leyland. Some residents object to separating their waste because they believe it just all goes to landfill; they do not realise how much effort is put into sorting the waste and separating it at that site, so that it can be re-cycled.

Paper and cardboard is made into newsprint, new cardboard packaging, tissue & board. Plastic bottles can be reprocessed and used as flakes to produce everything from fleece jackets, plastic pipes, outdoor furniture, fencing, new packaging and toys. Glass is crushed, cleaned and made into new bottles and jars, or even used in constructing new roads. Tins and cans are reprocessed and used to produce new cans, electrical items and aeroplane and bus components. Garden waste and food is processed to produce compost products which are used as fertiliser and soil improver.

Additionally, Chorley Council will collect bulky household items (there is a charge for this service). They will also collect waste electrical items FREE of charge. Tel 01257 515355. Or visit [chorley.gov.uk/bins](http://chorley.gov.uk/bins)

***PLEASE RE-CYCLE WITH CARE.***

## Heath Charnock Women's Institute

2015 marks the 100th year anniversary of the Women's Institute in Britain. The Movement started in 1915 with the first meeting taking place on 16 September at Llanfairpwll on Anglesey in North Wales. The WI was originally set up in the UK to revitalise rural communities, help women socialise and to encourage them to become more involved in producing food during the First World War.

This year there have been many celebratory events, concerts, fairs, parties etc and Heath Charnock WI is enjoying being involved in them all.

Heath Charnock Women's Institute was established in June 1937 and is an active part of the Anglezarke Group of WI's which includes Belmont and White Coppice. The Women's Institute is proud to be the biggest voluntary women's organisation within the UK and actively enables its members to, amongst a host of other things, develop new skills, learn about different topics, campaign on local and national issues, socialise and meet new friends.

The early meetings of Heath Charnock WI were held in Heath Charnock Parish Meeting Hall, sometimes called The Mission Room, on Long Lane, Heath Charnock, near The Bay Horse public house. It stood next to Oakdene House. The building was used for many things in addition to WI meetings, such as dances, auctions, meetings of various societies, and church services, and in the war it was the meeting place for the Home Guard.

The land for the hall was acquired in May 1903. £693 was borrowed from Heath Charnock Glory Lodge of Oddfellows, and the building, wall and yard were built by Leonard Fairclough for £659/10/-. The Hall was opened on 9th June 1904 and was demolished in 1964. Meetings were then held in the Chapel School room (built Nov. 1872), which is now the Chapel Tea room. The 25th Birthday Party was held there in 1962.

The group moved to its present meeting place, Rivington Church Hall on Horrobin Lane, around 1970. The meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday in each month. At meetings we have speakers on a wide range of subjects, often with demonstrations and discussions, always with tea and cake provided.

Every year the group goes on outings, such as to the theatre, local events, exhibitions, walks, and other places of interest. Many members go on a variety of workshops held at Lancashire Federation office in Leyland. Heath Charnock WI also hold their own craft days, book club, Christmas Fair, and social events,

The group take an active role in the local community and each year raise funds for local charities and the WI charity which is ACWW. (Associated County Women of the World).

There is always a warm welcome for visitors coming along to meetings and they are able to attend a couple of meetings before deciding if they would like to join the group. Heath Charnock WI currently has 45 members. Heath Charnock WI can be contacted on 01257 481816. Anyone can take a look at the website <https://sites.google.com/heathcharnockwi/home> and find out about the group and we are on Facebook, search Heath Charnock WI (Women's Institute).

## Adlington and District in Bloom

On behalf of Adlington & District in Bloom, we have planted nine sacks of daffodils which flowered on the roadside and canal towpath in the spring. We sowed wildflower seed at the junction of Bolton Road and Wigan Lane and on the verge of the motorway bridge at the top of Babylon Lane. The term 'wildflower' is something of a misnomer, as the plants are not necessarily native, and more accurately it refers to a prairie style of planting as opposed to formal schemes. As a fun element, we decorated a bike for both the Chorley Grand Prix in April



and Ironman in July, and we have planted up a canoe which is at the junction of the A6 and Rawlinson Lane, and an upturned cart in a meadow at the top of Rawlinson Lane.

The log roll planter at Skew Bridge is maintained by the parish council in memory of former parish council chair, Walter Makin, and the colour scheme this summer of red, white and blue with gold, commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Cllr Makin worked on military aircraft during the war.

## Heath Charnock Parish Council – The first 121 years

Civil parishes and parish councils came into being in December 1894. Heath Charnock Parish Council was formed under the jurisdiction of the Rural District Council for the Chorley area. A meeting of Heath Charnock ratepayers was held at the Bay Horse and it elected seven councillors, chaired by Charles Edward Middleton of Springfield Mill. The first clerk to the council was John Berry, who had already proved his organisational skills as clerk to the trustees of Shaw's Charity, seeing it through registration with the newly-formed Charity Commission. In his day job, or more accurately perhaps his evening job, he was also landlord of the Yew Tree.

In the early days, meetings were held quarterly at the Bay Horse, White Horse or Yew Tree, but very soon it became desirable to have a 'parish room' and in 1904 a smallish building was constructed by Mr Leonard Fairclough on Long Lane, just round the corner from the Bay Horse. The cost was £659/10/- and was funded by a loan from the Heath Charnock Glory Lodge of Oddfellows. Income was derived from hiring out the building at 10/- a time, and over the years the Heath Charnock social calendar was filled with tea parties, political meetings, Girl Guides, Adlington Cricket Club, Church Army, Oddfellows, band rehearsals, badminton, whist drives, Mothers' Union and Girls' Friendly Society, together with wedding receptions, funeral teas and even inquests.

From the first, the Vicar of Adlington had rented a room for Sunday evening services, originally at a charge of 10/6d, to include cleaning, lighting and heating. Over the years, the Rev. Minett petitioned for a reduction in the charge and whittled it down to 8/-. Services appear to have ended in 1913.

During the Second World War, sewing classes, Home Guard dances and meetings of the Springfield ARP were held in the parish room, but during the 1950s and 1960s it was not used as much and began to fall into disrepair. It was sold in 1967 for £298/13/3d, and the council then met variously at Anderton County Primary School, Appenzell, when it was a restaurant and function room, the Adlington Ambulance Hall and then the Community Centre, where it meets now.

Considerations which came before the council in the early days were quite different from today's agendas. In 1896 it was resolved that the houses in Babylon Lane should be numbered, and metal street nameplates fixed. (In those days, the house numbering started again at each parish boundary.) The council paid £6/8/8d for these, an expenditure which was disallowed as illegal by the District Auditor and a surcharge was imposed on Cllrs Middleton and Gillett. An appeal to the Local Government Board confirmed the illegality, but remitted the fine.

At the end of the nineteenth century, a water scheme was started – up to then the supply was from springs. In 1899 the council was asked to help procure a piped supply to The Street and nearby cottages. The chairman asked for a petition, which was duly produced and signed by residents of The Street, Yew Tree, Waterloo Houses, Knowsley Lodge, Knowsley Cottage, Nabs Farm, Dill Hall, Kays Farm, Wareings Farm, Taylors Farm and Nickleton Brow, and forwarded to the Rural District Council. The completion of the water supply was accelerated by the building of the Heath Charnock

Hospital, Hut Lane, at the turn of the century, but there remained periodic complaints of a poor supply.

In the 1920s the council became quite busy pursuing the new and inexperienced motorists who damaged lamp posts in the parish on a fairly frequent basis, in order to make them pay for repairs. By 1930, motor traffic had increased considerably and requests were made for pedestrian footpaths.

In 1972, a fatal accident at the junction of Westhoughton Road and Rawlinson Lane brought a request for a 'Halt' sign, warning notices of 'accident zone' and a 40mph speed limit. Another fatal accident in 1991 at the same spot prompted the council to ask again for traffic calming on the A6, and during the 1990s the speed restriction was imposed.

The provision of street lighting and maintenance was one of the most important responsibilities of the council, which employed a street lamp attendant for the purpose. Other ongoing matters for the council's attention were the use of the Chorley fire engine, a library service, and bus fares, whilst for many years the Head Postmaster at Chorley wrote formally for permission to suspend the afternoon delivery of mail for one week during Chorley holidays, and on New Year's Day. A curiosity recorded just once followed a circular sent out by the RDC instructing parish councils to nominate one of their body to receive rats' tails and sparrows destroyed in the township and to pay a bounty at the prescribed rate. The unlucky clerk was chosen for this duty and paid out 13/5d for the vermin in 1919.

Planning matters had not come to the fore prior to local government reorganisation in 1974. Although housing developments at The Asshawes, and Lower Hill Drive, and the building of sheltered accommodation at Rawlinson Lane and Heathfields were carried out in the 1960s, and the construction of the M61 came soon after, there is little mention of them in the minute books of the council, although there were attempts recorded to try to stop the opencast mining operation at Ellerbeck.

At local government reorganisation, RDCs ceased to exist and Heath Charnock Parish Council became one of the parish councils of the Borough of Chorley, and its then chairman, Richard Morris, was elected to the borough council for the ward of Anderton, Heath Charnock and Rivington.

The consultative role of parish councils in planning matters became established, and by the 1980s every detail of proposals for the building of Stonegate Fold on the Springfield Mill site, was scrutinised by the council, which was able to arrange meetings between the developers and local residents. The council had hoped that the new estate would be named Middleton's Fold to commemorate the mill-owning family, and C.E. Middleton the first chair of the council, but developers Quorn Homes rejected this in favour of Stonegate Fold.

During the 1990s the council influenced improvements such as street lighting for Wigan Lane, and played an important part in the final decision of the Planning Inspectorate to refuse an application to build a crematorium in Rawlinson Lane. In 2013, Cllr Ashworth secured the right for parish councillors to speak in meetings of the Development Control Committee.

The parish council still comprises seven councillors, as it did in 1894, and there is some very long service recorded, with a number of councillors serving for more than 20 years, and remarkably, Cllr Morris serving from 1940 until his death in 2003. As for the clerks – there have been just three of us over the past 77 years.

## Speeding

One of the most numerous complaints we receive as your Parish Council is speeding within the village. One road constantly in the spotlight is Babylon Lane. So recently we were interested to note the results of a spot-check on Babylon Lane. As the Police were conducting a training exercise, a warning will be issued to offenders, but no further action will be taken on this occasion.

Time of survey - 10:30am - 11:30am

Total of vehicles surveyed – 344 Number of offences - 29

Breakdown of offences – 20 Speeding; 7 Failure to wear a seatbelt; 2 Using mobile phone whilst driving

## A Date for your Diary - Remembrance Sunday – 8th November

### Heath Charnock Parish Council

#### **Councillors September 2015:**

#### **Parish Clerk**

Ian Oakes	49 The Asshawes (Chairman)	Tel: 480047	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
Graham Ashworth	4 Springfield Mews (Vice Chairman)	Tel: 480338	
Elaine Adams	4 Factory Lane	Tel: 482311	
Robert Davison	Springfield Farm, Babylon Lane	Tel: 474037	
Judith Hendrickson	99 Rawlinson Lane	Tel: 480515	
Alan Styles	Woodlands, Westhoughton Road	Tel: 482689	
Paul Williams	3 Chorley Road	Tel: 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 website [www.heathcharnock.org.uk](http://www.heathcharnock.org.uk) for dates and times.