



Round the Green is a community newsletter for the Hurst Green area. If you are new to the village or its surroundings - welcome!

Unlike many other local newsletters, we don't carry adverts - it's all news and articles! The editors are grateful to Mary Agnes Cardwell for sponsoring this edition of Round The Green. A sponsor for the next edition has already come forward, but if you would like to sponsor a future edition, please contact the editors, Nancy Bailey (826903) or Agnes Bland (826559).

The Village Hall - The Next Fifty Years

The Memorial Hall is over fifty years old. It was built entirely by volunteers - local people and villagers who did a fantastic job. However, like many people of that age and beyond, it is beginning to show the wear and tear of so many dances, parties, fetes and socials. Over the years, successive Memorial Hall committees have, entirely voluntarily, worked hard to maintain and improve the hall. It is now nearly 20 years since a substantial grant from the Lottery Fund was used to replace flat roofs with gables over the two wings, modernise the toilets and replace the original heating system. With the funds available, a replacement electrical heating system was installed - all are agreed that this was not a success. Despite further fund-raising and recent smaller grants, for example to replace the curtains, the time is coming when substantial amounts of money will need to be raised to secure the future of the Village Hall for another fifty years.

The question is what sort of facilities at the Village Hall will be best for the years to come? Members of both the Memorial Hall committee and the Parish Council felt that this was a good moment to take stock of the needs of the community and look at all options before rushing into major fund-raising and expenditure. As a result, a small working party was set up with three members from each of the Village Hall committee and the Parish Council. It has been considering several different options. One of these was a radical proposal to build a smaller, brand-new hall on a new site. But that was not the only plan considered. The group have also looked at rebuilding on site, and, most particularly, remodelling and revamping the existing hall to make it a warm and welcoming venue for community and social events of all kinds. The group will put its recommendations to both the Memorial Hall committee and the Parish Council in the autumn, following a structural survey.

What will it mean?

Assuming the structural survey does not throw up serious problems, it seems likely that the recommendation will be to do up the existing hall, with a proper heating system, improved access, internal and external repairs, possibly including a new roof, remodelling inside as necessary, and significant improvements to the toilets and kitchen. This should mean a bright future for the Memorial Hall for years to come. Of course, it will also mean that we as a village and parish will need to raise significant amounts of money. Realistically, at least £200,000 will be needed to make the changes needed to the existing hall.

Can you help?

This is going to be a long-term project. The Memorial Hall needs volunteers of all sorts, from those with particular skills such as builders, heating engineers, architects or building surveyors, to people with experience of major fund-raising and applying for grants, to those of us who have some time and goodwill to offer to this exciting project. Can you help in any way? Please contact Niall Macfarlane (07786432360) or David Bland (01254 826559).

A revamped Memorial Hall will be an asset for generations to come. Let's make the Village Hall just as relevant to today's needs and just as great a place as it was fifty years ago.

The Line That Never Was

David Bland looks at the history of 'the cutting'.

Many people will have walked the footpath from Lambing Clough, over the brook and on through the fields to Hey Hurst, Dewhurst House and the De Tabley bridge. As they have come across the ridge between the Dean Brook and Starling Brook, they will have noticed a railway cutting in the field. The cutting ends with short embankments on the edge of Clough Bank Wood on the west side and in the wood above Trough House to the east. Clearly, these would have been the start of abutments for short viaducts across the two deep gills. Yet there are no viaducts, no bridges, and no sign of any track ever having been laid in the cutting.

Why was the cutting made? The answer lies in the Railway Mania of 1846-7. Hundreds of lines were proposed all over the country. There were at least six schemes to link Lancashire and Yorkshire, and our 200-yard cutting owes its existence to one of those.

There was a railway between Longridge and Preston as early as 1839, which carried stone from the quarries above Longridge. In Preston, it had no connection with any other railway. Instead, it had a station at the bottom of Deepdale Road. A year earlier, what was to become the West Coast mainline had opened to Preston from Wigan to the south, and in 1840 the Preston & Wyre Railway connected the town with the new port of Fleetwood. As the Mania took hold, investors piled into railway schemes of every sort. One was called the Fleetwood, Preston & West Riding Junction Railway. It intended to link the Longridge line with the other railways in Preston. This involved tunnelling under north Preston. But that was just the start. It then proposed to use the Longridge line as far as Grimsargh and then build a substantial, double-track route along the north bank of the Ribble to Clitheroe, on to Chatburn and then by Barnoldswick to Elslack on the Skipton to Colne line. This would give it access to Leeds and Bradford. The prospectus was glowing: goods would flow between Fleetwood and the West Riding, and the people of Yorkshire would have a convenient means of getting to the increasingly popular resort of Blackpool.

The Act of Parliament for the new railway was passed in 1846, and the first sod was cut in January 1847 close to the site of the old Preston Royal Infirmary. The connecting line in Preston was not completed until 1849 but meanwhile the company pressed on, and, on 23rd August 1847, work started on a 'cutting close to the village of Hurst Green'. And then the bubble burst and the money ran out. By 1848, the line to Clitheroe and beyond was abandoned.

The railway would have kept close to the valley floor, leaving the Longridge line west of Grimsargh, passing just above Ribchester and through Stydd. Then there would have been a succession of bridges and viaducts over the various brooks and deep gills, including the stretch of our cutting, before it crossed first the Hodder and then the Ribble at Mitton. There was also a proposal for a branch from Mitton to Burnley, following the valley of the Calder through Whalley and Padiham. There would have been stations at Ribchester, Hurst Green (possibly below Lambing Clough) and at Mitton.

Why did the contractor choose to start in a field below Bailey Hall, in the middle of the proposed line, rather than at one end? Would the line have prospered? Would the line have survived the Beeching closures? - probably not.

The cutting remains as a tiny footnote in our industrial history and a railway might-have-been.

Would you like to help our Memorial Hall? If the answer is yes, there is a simple way you can by joining our Friends of the Memorial Hall scheme. It costs £20 for a family or £10 for an individual to show their support by becoming a friend of the hall. The scheme has been running for about 6 years now, and membership has grown year on year, providing much needed funds for the hall. Donations to the hall are an invaluable source of income so we hope that you may feel able to support us this year by filling in the form on the right and returning it to Nancy Bailey or any member of the Memorial Hall committee. If you wish to pay by direct debit or bank transfer please contact the treasurer Agnes Bland 01254 826559.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Family / Individual

Please make cheques payable to
Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley
Memorial Hall.

Return to Riversmead, Longridge
Road, Hurst Green.

Many hands ...

The Parish Council pass on their huge thanks to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to improve the look of the village, especially for work around the War Memorial, the tubs in front of the South Africa cross, the banking near the old police house, and on the community garden in front of Bilsberry Cottages.

If you would like to volunteer in any way, please contact Margaret Carrington on 826093.

Bene Merenti for Mary Agnes Cardwell

Sunday 20th November 2016 turned out to be a very special day for Mary Agnes Cardwell. During the weekly 10.00 Mass in the new chapel at St. Joseph's School she was, much to her surprise, presented with the Bene Merenti medal for her many years of service as sacristan to the old St. Joseph's Chapel. This prestigious Papal award, together with a framed certificate, was presented to Mary Agnes by Rev'd Father Peter Griffiths, who spoke of the huge contribution made by her to the life of the chapel and to the Parish.

The presentation coincided with the end of the Year of Mercy which had been celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church throughout 2016. During the presentation, Fr Griffiths spoke of the way in which Mary Agnes, through her many and various acts of kindness in the village over the years, embodied values such as service to the community that the Year of Mercy had sought to engender.

The presentation was followed by a gathering for refreshments in the Bede Room at St. Joseph's, where all were able to congratulate a still shocked Mary Agnes on her well-deserved award.



'Nowt per Hour'

An elderly Hurst Green resident was trying to catch up on her reading recently when she came across this short article in a Dalesman magazine from November 1964:

A reader was passing through the village of Hurst Green near Clitheroe recently, and read the following notice on a small wooden hut:

At the present time, this Hut is your Village Hall. If you want a larger Hall you will have to help to build it. UMPTEEN LABOURERS WANTED. Rate of pay: NOWT per hour. Plenty of overtime at double this rate. Apply site foreman, whose pay is 100% more than yours will be.

The reader noticed a fairly substantial stone building under construction a short distance away from the hut, namely the aforementioned Village Hall.

Over the years there has been a lot of 'Nowt per Hour' at the Memorial Hall. In the future, when plans have been agreed, skilled workers will be employed to do the bulk of the work, but, as the article on the front page says, if you can help in any way, for 'nowt per hour', to secure the future of the Village Hall, get in touch - see front page for details.

All Change for the Parish of St. Peter's and St. Joseph's

The parishioners of St. Peter's and St. Joseph's were saddened to hear that Fr. Peter Griffiths and Fr. John Twist are to leave Stonyhurst at the end of the year.

Fr John Twist has been at Stonyhurst for approximately 12 years, working mainly as Jesuit chaplain to the college. He is also well known to parishioners due to his standing in at times for the parish priest, and his accompanying of the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes on a number of occasions.



Fr. Peter Griffiths came to Stonyhurst in early 2014, and has served as chaplain to St. Mary's Hall and as parish priest. News of his forthcoming departure has been met with dismay by many who have enjoyed his ministry and his friendship over the past three and a half years.

We wish Fr Twist and Fr Griffiths well in the future, wherever it takes them.

The Jesuit chaplaincy of Stonyhurst and St. Mary's Hall and the role of parish priest is to be filled by Fr. Tim Curtis. His roles have included working in Guyana and being Director of Jesuit Missions in London. He is currently parish priest in St. Aloysius' Church, Glasgow.

St Joseph's and Cathy

Nancy Bailey writes:

The usual celebrations at the end of this term at St. Joseph's Primary School have been tinged with sadness due to the departure of Mrs Poloczek, our school bursar. No one can believe that Cathy has been at St. Joseph's for 24 years, and yet in that time she has touched more people's lives than many would do in a lifetime: parents, children, teachers, assistants, lunchtime supervisors, caretakers, cleaners, clergy, governors, inspectors, and trades people. Everyone who comes to St. Joseph's passes by Cathy, most don't get through the door without her say so!

In her time, Cathy has worked alongside three different headteachers. She has seen many alterations to the school curriculum and to the school building. Most importantly she was very much involved in the redesign and opening of the new school chapel last year.

In a small school like St. Joseph's, staff must all take on multiple roles but there are probably no roles in school that Cathy has not substituted in, especially in her earlier days when her own role had not grown to the size it is now. For many years she served as clerk to the governing body. She regularly mops up blood, administers medicines and distributes inhalers as a first aider. As part of the chaplaincy team she types up the mass booklets, arranges the chapel, organises the offertory and runs regular prayer groups. A few years ago, she visited our link school, St. Joseph's in Chisawasha.

Cathy has always had good relationships with the children and they often come to her with their own personal crises – be it a family problem or the loss of a P.E. jacket. Parents, too, regularly queue by her office in a morning as they know Mrs Poloczek is the person most likely to solve their queries.

In celebration of Cathy's service a mass was held in her honour in the school chapel. St. Joseph's will miss Cathy Poloczek but wish her a happy and busy retirement.

Births *Congratulations include:*

Derrick and Jessica Sketchley (nee Macfarlane) on the birth of their daughter Isla Eleanor on November 18th 2016 in British Columbia. A sister for Athena.

Mags and Ed Allanson of Warren Farm on the birth of their son Benjamin Thomas Maxwell on January 1st. A brother for Sophie.

Philip and Alexandra Long (nee Duxbury) on the birth of their daughter Florence May on January 20th in Bangkok, Thailand.

Naomi and Tim Hanley of Smithy Row on the birth of their son William Xavier on June 2nd.

Revd. Brian McConkey, the new vicar of St John's, introduces himself.

It's a delight to write something for Round the Green. For just over three months now I have been the Vicar for 3 glorious churches in the Ribble Valley - Ribchester, Mitton and your good selves!

An early decision was where I should live, and, in the end, I chose Ribchester for a number of reasons. The challenge of being a vicar of a village where you don't reside is one that many clergy in rural ministry have to face. I've been keen to get myself out and about including of course local hostelrys! A couple of family meals in the Bayley Arms have been a real treat!

I am unashamedly an Irishman despite leaving those shores 35 years ago. I am also an Ecuminist! I was baptised a Presbyterian, rediscovered my faith through Methodism and my vocation was within the Anglican Church. I grew up in the Border area of N.Ireland where Catholics and Protestants worked and lived side by side. My family ran a village shop and a small haulage company, and my father employed both sides of the community. We had, however, first-hand experience of those times with our business being blown up by an IRA explosion and my family losing some very dear friends to what became known as 'the troubles'.

Not long after I arrived in England I met a lovely Yorkshire woman and 4 years later we were married at Sedbergh Methodist Church. In 1995 and 1998 our family extended with the arrival of our two daughters, Shannon and Chloe. One graduated last year and the other completed her 1st year. They are the joy of our lives even with all the challenges that parenting brings these days.

Coming to England I trained and worked at a Methodist college called Cliff College. It's motto is "Christ for All and All for Christ", and the challenge of my life so far is to see that we are all made in the image of God, and for me to work on where that image in my own life is not all it could be. A major turning point was getting a lay post at a Church of England church in Lancaster, which is where my vocation began to take shape. After training, I took two posts in Blackburn before a long ministry in Fulwood, Preston.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of the village in the weeks, months and, God willing, years to come.

Andy and Jackie Buxton (nee Nutter) of Newchurch, Rossendale on the birth of their son Daniel John on January 20th. A brother for Molly and Luke.

Chris and Louise Barnes of The Dene on the birth of their daughter Nancy Rose on March 30th. A sister for Stanley.

Isaac and Alexandra Nutter on the birth of their daughter Elsie Victoria Linda on May 25th.

Vinny and Becky Wilkinson on the birth of their daughter Molly Rachel on June 4th. A sister for Stanley.

