

Mellor Parish Council Newsletter



Hello and welcome to this, the Spring edition of our Parish Council Newsletter including updates from many of the groups and clubs that do so much to make Mellor and Mellor Brook such a vibrant community.

A special thank-you to local resident, Jeff Price, for providing these evocative pictures of Mellor in Spring time to help us all forget storms Dennis, Jorge and whatever else the elements have thrown our way since the start of the year!

Hopefully by the time you're reading this the worst of the spring storms will be behind us and we can really start looking forward to lighter nights and warmer weather. Although we have had a lot of rain and strong winds, our thoughts go out to residents in neighbouring areas who suffered once again this year with flooding to homes and businesses.

As we go to press we have no idea how the Coronavirus outbreak will be impacting on our community. Events like this often bring out the best in communities and we've already seen local shops offering free deliveries to people effected. At the individual level we must do all we can to keep ourselves and our family safe and keep a look out for less able neighbours.

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Stop Press:

The latest Covid19 medical advice is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
 Latest government information available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-update>

Parish Council Annual Report

Once again our Parish Council has had a very busy 12 months especially with 2019 being an election year. Following the Local Elections in May we welcomed 3 new councillors – John Hymas, Dani Murtagh and Mick Venables, all of whom brought much needed skills to the committee and whose input stimulated debate. Sadly at the election we lost the services of Michael O’Grady who was a valuable and committed member of the team with specialist IT and management skills.

During the year, Cllrs Ian Moss, Dani Murtagh and the Chairman Bernard Murtagh resigned. On behalf of my fellow councillors and the residents of Mellor I would like to place on record our thanks for the service they have all given to the community and we wish them well for the future.

These resignations led to the council looking to appoint 3 new members. All positions have been advertised as required by law and I am pleased to confirm that 2 new members of the Council have been appointed. The first is Michael O’Grady. We are delighted to have him back on board. The 2nd is Quentin Colborn who brings a wealth of experience to the Council.

Both Stella Brunskill and Noel Walsh were re-elected as Borough Councillors last May and we congratulate Cllr Brunskill on becoming Mayor, a role which has kept her very busy.

Now, onto other matters. The security cameras at the village hall funded by the parish council have been well monitored and (where appropriate and legal), footage made public on social media and suspicious activity reported to the police. Their introduction has contributed to a reduction in the late night use of the car park for unwelcome activities.

Localised flooding of gardens was addressed although it took longer than we would have liked. The trees and shrubs overhanging the open gully running from the lower end of the village store towards Whitecroft Lane were cut back and the gully cleared. An immediate reduction in flooding higher up the village was noted. The gully is due for clearing again and we are currently requesting quotations.

Last September we held our first Village Meeting. The morning was spent discussing a variety of issues and ideas, including Road

Safety especially speeding; The Environment including dog poo; Volunteer Litter Picking and activities for younger children. The general feeling was that the meeting provided a relaxed setting for residents to air their views and concerns.

Speeding through the village continues to be a major concern to everyone. Despite the speed bumps and road narrowing scheme on Mellor Lane to the east of the village it appears that more cars than ever are using Mellor Lane as a commuter route between Yew Tree Drive/Wilpshire/Great Harwood and BAE systems and beyond towards Preston and the motorway. One of our residents, recently spent over 25 hours recording vehicle movements through the village, mainly between 7.30 and 9.00 in the morning. The figures are staggering with an average of over 200 vehicles per hour using the route during the peak time, many exceeding the speed limit. The council continues to press Lancashire County Council for a solution. Our ongoing concern is that the increase in housing on our boundary will make this situation even worse in future as will increased employment on the BAE site.

In October a Safer Travel Officer from LCC made contact with St Mary’s CE Primary School to discuss their safety concerns. Also during the year the children received a visit from a team from Wincanton Haulage who spent time educating the children on the dangers of HGV’s. On environmental topics, following concerns about the future use of The Rann Woodland, the Parish Council submitted an application to Ribble Valley Borough Council to register the area as an Asset of Community Value. The application was approved in January. This means that the local community will be informed if the “The Rann” is listed for sale within the five year listing period. The community can then enact the Community Right to Bid, which gives them a moratorium period of six months to determine if they can raise the finance to purchase the asset. Cllr John Hymas promoted our application ably supported by the Clerk.

Litter-picking is a hot topic at the moment and volunteers are always welcome. Please look out for voluntary litter picking sessions and help if you can.

Dog poo on the pavements and grassed areas is something we can well do without. We have

asked the dog warden to increase patrols in the area but, at the end of the day we will have to police this ourselves. If we manage to secure a prosecution then I am sure the problem will disappear. We would like to provide more dog poo bins and have budgeted for them but it seems that RVBC are unwilling to empty them.

On a lighter note our iconic red telephone box received a well-needed lick of paint last May. Our thanks go to BT for supplying the paint and materials and to both John Hymas and Ian Moss for providing the labour. We have to be aware however that this box may well be lost due to underuse. Is it a case of use it or lose it. I understand it still works so perhaps the odd phone call would help. Or should we buy it and turn it into something else?

(Answers on a post card to the clerk please)

The War Memorial continues to benefit from planned ongoing maintenance. The borders and planted areas are inspected on a regular basis and weeded. The stone slabs have been repointed and are cleaned when necessary to prevent them becoming slippery. The Memorial itself has been checked for structural stability despite a few cracks and is regarded as safe. Volunteers swept the area prior to the annual Remembrance Day Service in November.

Unfortunately I was unable to be at the service which was attended by fellow councillors including Stella Brunskill (Mayor of the Ribble Valley). Stella was joined by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mrs. Amanda Parker JP and other local dignitaries and organisations. Local author John Ibbotson recited the names of local men who had fallen during both World Wars. Dani Murtagh kindly stood in for the Chairman and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

The play area has seen its fair share of unacceptable behaviour witnessed by users and local residents however this appears to have abated recently. Some damage was caused to equipment which was repaired. Overall the installation of new equipment has received a positive response with a few concerns expressed over one piece of equipment where children can hide. Recently we invested in an additional picnic table and bench. We now have to consider whether the grassed area above the play area can be developed for community use....for example a garden!

As Councillors, we rely on effective communication with all residents, parishioners

and friends to guide us in our deliberations. Our web-site <https://www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk> provides statutory information as well as updates on policies, finance and news. The village notice boards are updated with information on a regular basis and the Parish Newsletter provides regular updates on all matters of interest. In addition, all Councillors are encouraged to engage with the community wherever possible. At the current time the Parish Council does not use platforms such as Facebook, Twitter "MAD Voices" etc. as a means of communication. However, I have no doubt that the general acceptance of social media as a means of communication may lead to further discussions within the Parish Council on other ways of communicating.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those in our community who have taken the time and trouble to contact the Council. In particular, those who have spoken at the start of meetings. We take all of your comments, good or bad, very seriously, and will always support you where we agree with your point of view and where we are able to assist. We liaise with Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council on a regular basis and have a good working relationship with them.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my fellow councillors for their hard work, input and dedication both in committee and on the various working parties. My thanks also go to Teresa Taylor our Clerk for her hard work and guidance.

Thank you.

Cllr. Nick Marsden
Chairman
Mellor Parish Council

Did you know... recent research by Keep Britain Tidy suggests 15% of dog owners admit to not cleaning up after their dog (and no, cleaning up doesn't mean leaving the poo bag in the nearest hedge or tree!)

To combat the problem they're launching a new campaign to shame errant owners and highlighting facts including that dog poo can blind a child.



Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Do you have smoke and CO2 alarms installed?

Have you checked them recently?

If you've answered "No" to either of these questions you could be putting your life at risk.

Lancashire Fire Service offer a free home safety visits;

- ➔ Advising and fitting alarms where needed including specially adapted ones for the deaf or hard of hearing.
- ➔ Giving advice on electrical appliance and general fire safety
- ➔ Planning with them a good escape route in the event of a fire.

They also fit "Guardian Angel" bracelets for people living with dementia.

To book a free fire safety check call now on 0800 169 1125 or visit the website at www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk



Councillor Spotlight: PCllr Michael O'Grady



I lived most of my early life in Wythenshawe in South

Manchester. I trained as a teacher at Hopwood Hall in Middleton and taught for a while at a technical high school in Ardwick, Manchester. I took up a teaching post in Toronto, Canada in 1966 where I met Bobbie, a Burnley girl whom I married in 1970.

Here I became interested in the use of computers in Education.

We returned to England to start a family, we have 2 daughters, and I started teaching Mathematics at Pleckgate school. We lived in the Blackburn area and eventually moved to Mellor in 2005.

I was responsible for organising Adult Education in Blackburn and Darwen and eventually lead the introduction of the computerised student record system at Blackburn College. My retirement has been filled with memberships of local organisations, a previous brief spell as Parish Councillor and being run ragged by our grandchildren.

(John) Michael O'Grady

Small changes make a big difference

The volume of household waste recycled could be doubled if every household correctly separated it before putting it in the bin according to a recent report in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph.

The county managed to

recycle just over half of it's rubbish back in 2015/16 but since then the trend has reversed and the figure stood at only 43.7% last year. And Ribble Valley residents come second to bottom of the recycling league table only achieving 30.4%.

William Maxwell, Lancashire's waste service manager says "the biggest challenge is persuading people not to put plastic bags, plastic film or bubble wrap in their recycling. People use plastic bags in their kitchens and then throw the whole lot into the recycling bin".

Thoughtful and effective recycling would not only save money but also help our environment.

As a quick reminder:

Plastics

Plastics with the numbers 1, 2 or 5 within the recycling triangle are recycled. And many supermarkets now provide bag recycling facilities for other packaging.

Currently polystyrene and blended plastics (eg drink cartons) are not recyclable in Lancashire.

Paper and Card

These are mostly recyclable with the main exception being wrapping paper with foil or glitter content.

Metal

Rinsed aluminium and other metal food and drink cans, along with aerosol containers can be recycled. Household waste centres will take other scrap metal.

Councillor Contact Details:

Cllr Mr Nick Marsden - Chair	8 Glendale Drive	814215	Constituency MP Nigel Evans email: evansn@parliament.uk web: nigel-evans.org.uk tel: 01200 425939 Ribble Valley Borough Cllrs Cllr Stella Brunskill email: cllr.brunskill@ribblevalley.gov.uk tel: 812694 Cllr Noel Walsh email: cllr.walsh@ribblevalley.gov.uk tel: See note below Lancashire County Council Cllr Alan Schofield email: alan.schofield@lancashire.gov.uk tel: 07876 844262
Cllr Mrs Stella Brunskill	Oulton, Myerscough Rd, Mellor Brook	812694	
Cllr Mr Quentin Colborn	Saccary House, Saccary Lane	812756	
Cllr Mrs Dot Crooks	59 Mellor Brow	812021	
Cllr Mr John Hymas – Vice Chair	34 Mellor Lane	07928 939228	
Cllr Mrs Margaret Johnson	14 Mellor Brow	813638	
Cllr Mr Michael O'Grady	21 Elswick Gardens	812031	
Cllr Mr Mick Venables	46 St Mary's Gardens	813562	
Cllr Mr Noel Walsh	Bench Mark Barn, Elswick Lodge	See note below	
Mrs Teresa Taylor (Clerk)	6 Chatburn Avenue, Clitheroe, BB7 2AU	01200 422407	

Dates of future Parish Council meetings (these may be subject to change in line with latest Covid-19 advice);Thursday 21st May (Including AGM)Thursday 4th JuneThursday 2nd July

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and are held at Mellor Methodist Church, the public session starts at 7pm. Up to date details as well as other parish information are shown on both the Parish Noticeboards and on the Parish Council website

- ➔ **At the time of going to press Cllr Walsh is ill and not available for contact. Any enquiries intended for Cllr Walsh should be addressed to the Clerk in the first instance.**
- ➔ You can contact the Parish Council by email at; clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk, or visit the Parish Council website at; www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk
- ➔ Your Parish Council has been strengthened with the co-opting of two new and experienced members, Cllrs Michael O'Grady and Quentin Colborn to fill vacancies created by the resignations of Mr Ian Moss and Ms Dani Murtagh.
- ➔ To view planning applications for the parish or across the wider Ribble Valley, visit the RVBC website at; www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/planningapplication/search and then enter the area (eg "Mellor") for which you wish to search.

Parish Information and General Contacts

Sunday Church Services:

St Mary's C of E Parish Church, Church Lane at 09.30am

Mellor Methodist, Mellor Lane at 10.30am

St Mary's RC Parish Church, Osbaldeston at 11.00am

St Leonard's C of E Parish Church, Balderstone at 8.30am & 10.30am

St Leonard the Less C of E Parish Church, Samlesbury at 11.00am

Mellor Library tel: 0300 123 6703

Mellor Doctors' Surgery tel: 617101

Police PC 3798 Duncan Park
tel: 01772 209583
email: duncan.park@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Potholes (LCC) tel: 0300 123 6789 or email: highways@lancashire.gov.uk

Waste/Hedgerows/General (RVBC) tel: 01200 425111

Street lighting tel: 0845 053 0011 (when reporting street lighting fault please provide location and, where possible, the lamp number)

Council Tax (RVBC) tel: 01200 414450 or email: ctax@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Dog Warden tel: 01200 414464

Highways Flooding
www.lancashire.gov.uk/flooding

Sewerage/Water Leaks United Utilities tel: 0345 672 3723

Bus Timetables website

www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/public-transport.aspx

Plan your journey using the Journey Planner at www.traveline.info or call 0871 200 2233 (NB there is **not** a freephone number)

Groups and Organisations:

Mellor Babies and Toddlers (term-time only):
Thur 1-3pm at Mellor Methodist Church
Helen Bottle E: kelvinandhelen@gmail.com

Little Angels: Rita Gorman 812566 / Margaret Baldwin 812360

Beavers / Cubs / Scouts: Susan Middlemass 812642

Rainbows: Lynn Fish 813591

Brownies: Michelle Venn 812711

Guides: Helen
email: helendentith@btinternet.com

Mellor Juniors Football Club: Christine Taylor or Richard Lucas 01254 580658

Singing For Fun Every Tuesday 7pm to 8.30pm at Mellor Village Hall

Balderstone Brass Band Monday evenings at Mellor Village Hall. Contact Alaistair on 07761 307291

Mellor Allotments: Meryl Rishton 245460

Mellor Bowling Club: Gordon Livesey 812140

Mellor Connections: Carolyne Hymas 813282

Mellor Village Show: Marjorie Nicholson 814121 or Dot Crooks 812021

Mellor Village Hall: Janine Foster 07561 538314 or email: mellorvh@gmail.com

Luncheon Club: Judith Marr 812741

Mellor St. Mary CE Primary School : 812581
Headteacher Ms. J. Embley-Peers

Women's Institute: Meets the second Tuesday each month at Mellor Brook Community Centre. Contact Carolyne Hymas on 813282

Please let us know if any group has been omitted from this list or if contact details have changed and we will be delighted to amend details in our next newsletter.

Mellor St Mary CE (Aided) Primary School Annual Parish Report

Mellor St Mary CE Primary School continues to be a vibrant, charming and good village school. We were visited by OFSTED on the 13th March 2019 who re-confirmed our 'Good' judgement, which we have worked very hard to maintain. School is now waiting for its SIAMS – Church school inspection where again we are hoping to have a very positive result.

We have over the last 12 months, with the help from our amazing FOSMS, managed to redevelop our neglected pond area and treated infectious plants and shrubbery so that it is now a safe pond dipping space to enhance our science curriculum. Our external fencing and gates have now been replaced which has allowed our school grounds and premises to become more secure – however, not visitor proof!

Over the last few terms we have been taking part in a number of Church and community events as well as supporting a variety of charities as part of our outreach mission as a Christian school.

These have included the Bethany Choir Project, Cancer Research, Night Safe, Children in Need, Save the Children, Blackburn Food Bank, Royal British Legion, Bishops Harvest Appeal 2019 and our own PTA / FOSMS events.

Admissions – We are currently have one place in Year 1 and all other year groups are full. We are in the process of categorising places for September 2020 and are hoping to fill our quota of 20 new EYFS children by September.

Breakfast and After School – continue to thrive in school thanks to the dedicated staff who run these important wrap around care services, Mrs Holroyd for Breakfast Club and Mrs Dewhurst who has taken over the managing of the After school club whilst Mrs Hetherington-Fogg is recovering from a long term illness. All the children and staff wish 'Angela' a speedy recovery and miss her very much.

Sporting Events – Already this year, school has taken part in a number of sporting events through the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Schools Partnership programme. Mrs Pickup our PE lead has planned a number of football, netball, multi sports and cross country competitions for all different year groups to participate in. There are a number of events coming up, including the Ribble Valley Gymnastic competition as well as Multi Skills and tag rugby competitions with further cricket, netball, tennis and athletics events planned for the Summer term.

School, Church and Community Events – We continue to build on our relationship with St Mary Church and have already taken part in a number of special occasion worship, including Education Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas

Nativity both in Church and Blackburn Cathedral and we are planning our Easter Service with Rev Roland on Friday 3rd April. This year we have also been asked to participate in the International Women's Day of Prayer, when the very talented Kiddie Choir, led by Mrs Holroyd and Mrs Baldwin will be performing as part of this service.

FOSMS – Friends Of Mellor St Mary continues to go from strength to strength and have over the last twelve months been able to help school; redevelop the library and pond areas, purchase new books, provide classroom allowances for consumables as well as pay for visiting theatre shows and performances. Successful social and fundraising events include: a school disco, Bonfire Night, two Father Christmas runs, various Film nights, a number of Raffles as well as the first joint school and church Rose Queen Summer Gala which was a fabulous day.

co-op – This year we have been very grateful for the time and financial support provided by the CO-OP, which has allowed four rooms to be painted and made over. Thanks to the volunteer programme which they operate, school had a visit from 12 willing and able volunteers who kindly painted the children's and disabled toilet as well as the Breakfast club room. They have also provided over £5000 in donations to FOSMS, as part of the community action programme, which school has been part since the new CO-OP was opened in Ramsgrave. A huge thank you to Mr Book (parent) for organising this on behalf of school.

School Website – Please continue to look at the school website as we are adding new and interesting information, photos and news about school life weekly at www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk.

Mrs J.Embley-Peers (Headteacher)

Mellor Youth Orchestra

Mellor Youth Orchestra was formed eighteen months ago and since that time it has performed at several village functions.

At Christmas, The service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Church in Mellor was greatly enriched by the talents of its members. along with accompaniment at the Remembrance Service at The War Memorial. Hymns were played and one senior member, Robert Lee, played a haunting rendition of The Last Post, which was very well received. Afterwards, marches and wartime songs were played.

At a time when it seems that teenagers receive little good press, I cannot commend these members highly enough for their reliability and self discipline in practice, not to mention giving up their time. It is an enormous privilege for Margaret

Baldwin and me to work with such a talented and fun group of young people and I feel it is only fitting to name members as a tribute to the input each has given since it was founded.

Kate Schofield -flute

Emilia Dunn – flute

Emily Guilfoyle - clarinet

Lucy Taylor - clarinet

Zara Bedford – Saxophone

Amelia Thompson - Saxophone

Freddie Rouse - Trumpet

Seren Armstrong - Oboe

Beatrice Thompson - Oboe

Robert Lee - Trombone

Tom Lee – Trombone

Ted Lee - Trombone

As is the case with many young people in our parish, when opportunities come their way, they take advantage of them so it is often the case that some members have something else on when there is a performance. We are therefore, always on the look- out for new players of secondary school age and beyond to bolster our numbers.

There is a lot of musical talent within the parish so please encourage any young person expressing an interest, to come along and try us out.

Contact either Julie McGurty; jmcgurty1@gmail.com (tel: 07922 131642)

or Margaret Baldwin;

margaretbaldw10@hotmail.com (tel: 07732 705408)

Balderstone and District Women's Institute

Founded in 1919, Balderstone and District WI celebrated its centenary last year. We marked this unique event with a variety of special events.

We currently have 42 members and meet monthly, when there is a speaker followed by tea, cake and lots of chat!

In addition to the our monthly meetings there are a number of ad hoc activities organised by and for our members; We have a regular walking group, a "craft and natter" group, litter-picking, and social outings including our new cinema group.

Our members have a wide range of interests and talents and there are opportunities to exhibit those talents at the two Women's Institute shows held each year.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Mellor Brook Community Centre at 7.30pm. If you would

like more information please contact me, Carolyne Hymas, on 01254 813282.

Mellor Connections

Another beneficial spin-off from the "Singing for Fun" group that meets every Tuesday evening at Mellor Village Hall, Mellor Connections has now been running for 5 years with about 60 people dipping in and out over the year.

Based on the simple, but often neglected, idea that there is such a thing as community spirit - but only when and if individuals are prepared to make the effort to be involved - we organise a number of different social events throughout the year ranging from wine tastings and themed dinners through to talks on local history.

We also have an occasional walking group and to fortify us for the exercise a cake club with the simple premise of "make a cake, bring it along and share what you and others have made"

We do charge for the events we organise with all surplus revenue going to a mix of local, national and international charities.

To date we have donated £15000 to charities including East Lancs Hospice, Headway Brain Injury Association, Air ambulance, and River Blindness.

For a copy of our events calendar email johnlhymas@aol.com

Mellor Village Show

The Village Show has become a well established village event - 2020 will be the 31st year. The Show was started by the then Mellor Garden Club and organised by a number of their members. The basic format remains similar each year, with minor adjustments.

Please take a look at the back page of this newsletter for this year's schedule - there are categories for all interests; arts & crafts, photography, fruit & vegetables, flower arrangements and home produce.

Entry forms will be available in local shops, library etc from early June.

We look forward to welcoming new and previous entrants and visitors to the show - this year the show will be held on Sunday 6th September.

If you would like to help with this year's show, or have any queries, please contact M Nicholson on 814121 or D Crooks on 812021.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for their

support in including the show schedule in this newsletter.

Find us on Facebook at;
www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow

Mellor Allotment Association

2019 turned out to be challenging, starting with a very warm spring (remember February temperatures of 15c ?) This was followed by a reasonable summer (our 5, 1000 litre, water butts did run out).

Crops produced have been wide ranging. From the standard potatoes, peas and beans to corn on the cob, fennel and celeriac.

Then since the beginning of December the weather has made it impossible to get onto the land to prepare it.

2019 saw three new plot holders taking up the challenge, so at present there are 13 plot holders. 3 have full plots and 10 have half plots. At the time of writing we have no one on the waiting list.

Expenditure and work will be needed on the perimeter fence this year, and we now hope for an improvement in the present weather conditions as sowing and planting time is getting closer.

Mrs Meryl Rishton
 Chairperson
 01254 245 460

Mellor Junior Football Club

An excellent year for Mellor Junior Football Club who have 140 registered players from 6 to 18 years of age. The increase is due to parents stepping up as managers and coaches, a second team playing in the Under 10 age group and more girls in the Under 14 team. The eight teams play in three leagues in East Lancashire plus the Under 6s train at Mellor Village Hall on Thursday evenings.

All our teams have played well this year and the commitment of the players, managers and parents in some very wet weather has been tremendous. It must be noted that the Under 18s have played as a team from being youngsters and the same manager has coached them throughout.

Social events have included an 80/90s disco in March and a Presentation Evening and Family Night will be held on Friday 15th May at the Canberra Club. The annual Mellor Football Tournament will be held at the Whinney Lane on the weekend of 20th/21st June and all are welcome to support.

We must thank our sponsors for their generous funding of the team kits. We must also thank Geoff McCann, our Groundsman, for his hard work with the pitches and we thank the trustees of the Whinney Lane site for their continued support of our village football club.

Contact details:

Club Chair: Pete Joyce
 email: peterjoyce42@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Graeme Taylor
 email: taylor.g15@sky.com

Secretary: Chris Taylor
 email: christinetaylor22a@hotmail.com

“Little Angels”

Since the group started in 1998 (22 years ago) we have continued to meet at 2.15pm in the Narthex on the last Tuesday of each month during school term time.

All pre school children from birth onwards are welcome to join us each month with whoever is looking after them. The children play together with toys whilst the adults have a chat before we share refreshments.

There is a ‘time together’ when we think about ‘Caring’, ‘Sharing’, ‘Love’, ‘Listening’ or other appropriate topics with the children taking part in associated craft activities. We particularly enjoy the visits by the children from school when they come to sing to us in June and December and are grateful to Mrs Embley-Peers for her support.

We are always most pleased to welcome Sarah, an Early Years Advisor from the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, who comes once every term and we have all benefited from her knowledge, resources and enthusiasm.

Our aim is to provide an opportunity for adults and children to come to church and share each other’s company in a friendly, informal atmosphere.

We are encouraged by the regular attendance and support of our parents and grandparents; also, we are appreciative of the interest shown by our friends in the congregation and the continued practical help given by Hilda, Gillian, Sandra, Barbara B and Joan V.

Margaret Baldwin & Rita Gorman

1st Mellor Guides

2019 was a busy and varied year for 1st Mellor Guides, and so our year is bought to you by the letter “C”.

Cook Out – seven of our guides took part in the County cookout competition. No winners but a great time had by all, and the team of two sisters worked together to great success!

Community Interaction – in May time over 80 friends, family, local community and special guests Mr & Mrs Wensley were entertained by the guides in their first ever Gangshow. Over £200 was raised to buy camping tents – poems, campfire songs, leader interludes, and a solo dance by one the shyest guides certainly brought a lump to the throats of many. We also put up anti dog fouling posters in the village, and we are planning a litter pick in the warmer climes.

Cooking Outdoors – in June the guides built their own fires in Witton Park and cooked sausages, smores, burgers, chocolate bananas and popcorn – no food poisoning reported! The girls not only enjoyed the food but learnt about fire safety.

Camp – 1st Mellor guides joined together 4th Fulwood Guides (from Lancashire North West) and set up camp at Guys Farm, Forton, Lancs in July. More cooking outdoors (there's a theme!), a long trek to Scorton was rewarded with an ice cream and a Saturday night mocktail party! We completed 4 interest badges and a skills builder – a badge bonanza.

Curriculum – the guides have carried on enjoying the “new” guide programme. They worked on DIY skills, communicating, vlogging, geocaching, but also more basic skills such as first aid and guiding history.

Continuing in Guiding – we said farewell to one of our guides but delighted to say she has joined the local Ranger unit and looking at the photos it looks like she's enjoying it.

Concert – another activity undertaken with Fulwood Guides, and the rest of the Division, we headed off to the Big Gig in Sheffield. It's a performance just for girl guides, of which there are 10,000 in an arena, with acts singing a couple of their fav songs. The girls wore their finest gear and screamed/sang to their hearts content as each act performed. The leaders even joined in!

Codebreaking – the year ended with a trip to the newly formed Escape room at Waddow Hall, the Girlguiding adventure house near Clitheroe. The guides got off to a great start, stumbled over a couple of mental obstacles but made it out in under an hour and didn't get locked over Christmas! Six of the new guides made their promise (once they broke free!).

Guides are aged between 10-14 and we meet on a

Thursday night at the Village Hall 7:30-9:00. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Helen Adams 07762 917336 or helendentith@btinternet.com
Or visit the main website: www.girlguiding.org.uk

Mellor Community Association

Our year started with the reopening of the main hall following the replacement of the heating system and new floor.

We are grateful for the grant support we have received from Sport England, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Tesco Bags for Life, Co-op Community Fund and various other small grants and donations.

We have our security lights and most cameras in place, which has reduced antisocial behaviour around the site. There is one additional camera to be installed following the Chairman raising over £500 by running The Blackburn 10k in November.

After a long period of significant expenditure we are now concentrating on day to day maintenance issues as well as rebuilding our finances over the next couple of years before deciding on our next project.

The hall continues to be well used with a full schedule of groups including badminton, bowls, singing, line dancing, keep fit classes, guides, brass band, pickle-ball and knitting. More details about the village hall, including a diary showing all the activities taking place can be found on our website <https://e-voice.org.uk/mellorvillagehall>

This year has been challenging with our management committee being reduced to 6 people following the recent resignation of Mr Kevan Dean. Our thanks go to him for all the work he has put in during his time at the hall.

We have put on various fundraising events throughout the year and we must thank Balderstone Brass Band for their performances at Proms Night, Christmas, and movie themes concerts. In addition our “pop-up” cafe on the first Saturday in each month continues to be well supported.

Looking to the future, we are always pleased to get new volunteers and committee members. Our AGM is in July if anyone would like to be involved.

We can be contacted through our Facebook page, by email at mellorvh@gmail.com, or by telephone on 07561 538314

Local Policing

Have you met our designated police officer PC 3798 Duncan Park?

If you have anything to report or discuss with him he's contactable on 01772 209583 or by email at duncan.park@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Keeping your property secure

It's the time of year when we start to think of summer holidays.

Unfortunately this can leave our homes vulnerable.

The Police suggest a number of simple steps householders can take to reduce the risk of burglary:

- ➔ Using timer-switches to turn your lights and radios on and off when it goes dark.
- ➔ Cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries whilst you're away.
- ➔ Use Royal Mail's 'keepsafe' service - they keep your mail for up to 2 months while you're

away. Mail sitting on your doorstep is a sign that you are away.

Trusted neighbours may be able to help you by collecting your post, opening and closing curtains and they could park their car on your driveway.

Avoid discussing holiday plans on public social networking sites - burglars can use any information you post on there to their advantage.

Report any suspicious incidents

Anything suspicious you see should be made known to the

police. You can do this in any one of the following ways:

Dial 999 - to report a **genuine** emergency. However - only an emergency - we must all do our bit not to waste the time of the emergency services by mis-using the 999 service.

Dial 101 and report it that way

Or use the online system to report incidents. For many this is the most convenient. The address for online reporting is; <https://reportitonline.lancashire.police.uk>

You don't have to be an "Eco Warrior" to make a difference

Linked to the article on page 4 of this newsletter, we're delighted to print these suggestions from a Mellor resident, Lesley Foster, for how we can all reduce our footprint.

Lesley writes; "The world is littered with plastic – it's everywhere. Sometimes it feels like we'll never get rid of it. But it's easier than you think to start making a difference. Here's how you can help.

1. Reduce

You won't need to throw something away if you never buy it in the first place, right?

2. Reuse

Instead of buying, try creating something you need out of things you already have.

Plastic milk bottles become washing powder scoops or soap dishes. Old t-shirts become cleaning rags. Cardboard tubes make pots for starting seedlings.

The possibilities are endless – and thinking of them is great fun.

3. Recycle

If something can't be reused, don't fret. Recycling it will keep it out of landfill.

In Mellor, recycling goes in the blue bins. Check what to recycle here at;

www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/info/200305/bin_and_paper_collection/1204/what_goes_in_my_bins

Plastic pollution is everywhere, but if we all work together, we can make a real difference. Start today: your children will thank you for it."



Be aware of scams

Although times like these bring out the best in many people – our village shops offering to deliver and many residents chipping in to help – they also provide opportunities for bringing out the worst in some. Be on the lookout for, and warn friends and neighbours about, a number of scams going around linked to Covid19, for example;

Bogus door to door sellers

Police have had reports of door to door sales people offering "home Coronavirus testing kits" and hand sanitizer. Such items are fake, no such testing facility is currently available to the public in the UK.

COVID-19 email tax scam

Beware emails alleging to be from HMRC offering a precautionary tax measure due to the coronavirus outbreak 'in co-operation with National Insurance and National Health Services'. HMRC will **never** contact you in this way and **never click on any link or give your personal or financial details.**

A date for your diary!

The annual Mellor Village Show is on Sunday 6th September, look out for entry forms in the village shops nearer the time. Meanwhile, to help you plan your entries here are the categories for this year's event;

FLOWERS & PLANTS		HOME PRODUCE	
1	A Rose	27	Home-made beer, wine or country spirit
2	A Vase or Bowl of Roses (Up to 5 blooms)	28	A Jar of Home-made Jam
3	A Vase of Sweet Peas (Up to 9 blooms)	29	A Jar of Home-made Citrus Curd
4	A Vase of Dahlias (1 - 3 blooms)	30	4 Bread Rolls
5	A Bowl of Floating Flower Heads	31	4 Jam Tarts with Home-made Pastry
6	A Vase of mixed flowers without added foliage	32	4 Sweet Scones
7	A display of 5 Fuchsia heads (mounted)	33	4 Cream Sandwich Biscuits
8	A perfect but lonely flower in a vase	34	4 Butterfly Cakes
9	A Vase of 3 Hydrangea flowers	35	Flour-free Cake
10	A Sunflower (stem must be less than 12" long)	PHOTOGRAPHY	
11	A Flowering Plant	36	A Winter Scene
12	A single Cactus or Succulent or a display of Cacti / Succulents	37	Insect(s)
13	A Non-flowering Plant	38	A Single Tree
FOLIAGE & FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS		39	Reflection(s)
14	A hand-tied posy	ASSORTED CRAFTS	
15	A floral arrangement in a recycled container	(Items previously exhibited in the Village Show are not eligible for entry)	
16	A miniature arrangement not to exceed: Height 10cm (4") Width 10cm (4") Depth 10cm (4")	40	An exhibit of tapestry, hand embroidery or cross stitch
17	A floral arrangement with 'Afternoon Tea' theme	41	Any item made from paper and/or card
FRUIT & VEGETABLES		42	A hand knitted or crocheted item
18	3 Tomatoes - any variety	43	Trash into Treasure (Upcycled)
19	3 Potatoes - any variety	44	You've Made It - Let's See It!
20	3 Onions - any variety, any size	45	Art (any medium)
21	3 Root Vegetables - tops to be left on	CHILDREN'S SECTION	
22	A collection of fruit and / or vegetables - 4 kinds (3 of each)	46	Handwritten poem with decorated border (Halfway Down by A A Milne)
23	Any other vegetable (not covered by classes 19-21) up to 3 of one variety	47	A Potato Head Family
24	3 Seasonal Fruit - same variety	48	4 Decorated Biscuits
25	1 Lettuce (root on)	49	A Garden in a Shoe Box
26	4 Different Herbs (displayed in a vase or jar)	50	You've Made It - Let's See It!
		Age Groups: (4-6 years), (7-9 years), and (10-12 years)	

A huge amount of effort from everyone involved goes into making the Mellor Show such a success, but most of all it needs the support of local residents. We hope you'll be able to take part, put in an entry (or even better several entries!) and go along to Mellor Village Hall on the day.