

Mellor Parish Council Newsletter

December 2020

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A Message from Mellor Parish Council Chairman

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of the Parish Newsletter.

Mellor Parish Council (MPC) felt that it was important to keep you informed about what has been happening since March when the coronavirus pandemic started and lockdown impacted on our daily routines.

Most importantly, on behalf of all the residents of the Parish, I would like to thank all those volunteers, neighbours, carers, key workers, local businesses, retailers and others who have gone to extraordinary lengths to support the vulnerable and those at higher risk in the local community. Helping to deliver food, collecting medicines, checking on peoples welfare etc, has proved to be invaluable.

Due to "social distancing" and Govt Regulations, MPC resolved to work under "Emergency Powers" for much of the year. This allowed the Clerk, myself and Cllr Hymas to manage the day-to-day business of the Council. Other Councillors have kept in regular e-mail contact and have been part of any significant decision making process. We also welcomed Anne Mellor as a new councillor.

In August we reported that our friend and fellow Councillor, Noel Walsh, had sadly passed away following a serious illness. Noel was an exceptional individual, completely dedicated to his role representing and supporting the residents of Mellor and the Ribble Valley. He lived in Mellor for 41 years, had been a Parish Councillor for over 25 years and was the longest serving Borough Councillor at RVBC. He will be missed by all who knew him.



Local resident Mr W Thompson
Reading names of "The Mellor Men".
More on page 6

Despite lockdown MPC has completed several projects and planned future village enhancements. I will give a brief insight below into some of the projects we are involved with. More detailed information is provided elsewhere in the Newsletter and on our website found at www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk.

After much discussion the Playground re-opened when we felt its use complied with Govt guidelines. Thank you all for your understanding and patience. My thanks go to Cllr Venables for cleaning the equipment on a regular basis and to Cllr Crooks for keeping a vigil over the area and for checking the safety of the equipment.

We embarked on a project to install electric vehicle charging points. Why? Residents, especially those on Mellor Lane (who do not have off-road parking) are at a disadvantage when it comes to owning a hybrid or fully electric vehicle. Working with MCA, we have identified a suitable location on the village hall car park and hope to have 2 charging points available in the near future. This is possibly the first scheme of its type in Lancashire.

We have worked closely with the Trustees of MCA to maintain the Village Hall. Recently, MPC appointed a Loss Assessor to pursue an insurance claim following flood damage. Following settlement of the claim

we have taken additional measures to prevent this happening again.

A "Flood Relief Grant" has been approved by RVBC and additional site drainage work will commence in the near future.

A local joiner, together with myself and Cllr Hymas, completed a temporary repair to the oak floor and MPC arranged for the storeroom roof to be stripped back, levelled and re-tiled following visible signs of damage and sagging. This practical and financial support package is part of our ongoing commitment to protect this essential village asset.

A special thank you to Janine Foster for all the hard work she put in as Chairman at MCA before retiring at this year's AGM. Paul Wallace has taken up the mantle and we are working closely with him and the Trustees to ensure that the Village Hall will continue to serve the needs of the residents.

A Book of Remembrance containing 101 names of "the fallen" from Mellor, Mellor Brook, Balderstone & Osbaldeston has been researched and produced. This was a fantastic effort by all involved, especially Cllrs Brunskill, Crooks and O'Grady with support from the Clerk. Please read the full article about how this came about. Each of the 4 local churches has received a copy. Cllr O'Grady has created a web link to the PC website and is doing further work dating back to 1921 in connection with the dedication of the War Memorial.

We have agreed to purchase the iconic red telephone kiosk on Mellor Lane....please let the Clerk have any suggestions for its future use.

Several projects are in discussion and I hope to have

more news next year.

I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their dedication and hard work this year.

Finally, the lead up to Christmas should be a joyous occasion, but for some the reality is completely the opposite. I hope we can all help each other at this time of year and bring some festive cheer.

Why not call your neighbour, have a chat (even through a slightly open window), run an errand, donate to charity, give to a food bank. A simple (socially distanced) greeting on the street may bring a little smile. Look out for the elderly, frail or those that need help. Make sure they are ok. My time as chairman has shown me that the people of Mellor and the surrounding area have risen to the challenges presented by Covid-19 and I am sure we will continue to support each other in the coming months.

I hope you all make Christmas special this year. Above all, stay safe and healthy.

Nick Marsden.

EV Charge-points at Village Hall

By the time you're reading this newsletter work should be well underway installing a pair of electric vehicle charging points on the Mellor village hall car park.

The work, a collaboration between the parish council and ChargeMyStreet is, as far as we know, the first locally led

installation in Lancashire.

Initially there will be 2 parking bays given over to the charge points, although given the government's stated commitment to phase out sales of petrol and diesel vehicles there is scope to expand if and as demand increases.

We would hope that the charge points are used by both hall users and residents alike and we see them as a first step in creating the type of green, low carbon, infrastructure we need as a community - and as a planet - going forward.

We're grateful to Paul Wallace and the management trustees at MCA for their co-operation during the lengthy discussions that were needed to bring this project to a successful delivery.

I am also personally grateful to Cllr Colborn and our Clerk for their help in making it happen.

John Hymas

The Village Show that wasn't

In common with communities around the world, this year we have missed many of those milestones that mark out the calendar in our village.

One such was the village show. However, thanks to quite a bit of short notice effort by the organising committee the event was replaced this year with a "socially distanced" treasure hunt around the village.

There were over 50 entrants and three worthy winning teams. Nobody taking part will forget seeing Daisy, Henry and Ruby on a front lawn - life size models of a cow, calf and pig!

Councillor Contact Details:

Cllr Mr Nick Marsden - Chair	8 Glendale Drive	814215	Constituency MP Nigel Evans evansn@parliament.uk 01200 425939 Ribble Valley Borough Cllr Stella Brunskill Cllr.brunskill@ribblevalley.gov.uk 01254 812694 Lancashire County Council Cllr Alan Schofield alan.schofield@lancashire.gov.uk 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 Mrs Anne Mellor	9 Bosburn Drive, Mellor Brook	812976	
Cllr Mr Michael O'Grady	21 Elswick Gardens	812031	
Cllr Mr Mick Venables	46 St Mary's Gardens	813562	
Mrs Teresa Taylor (Clerk) clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk	6 Chatburn Avenue, Clitheroe, BB7 2AU	01200 422407	

It is usual to include dates and venues for future council meetings however due to Covid 19 restrictions this is not possible at the time of going to print.

For the most up to date information please check the village notice boards or visit our website <https://www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk>

Residents will be aware of the sad loss of Cllr Noel Walsh earlier in the year. We were also saddened to learn of the death of Mr Chris Macdonald who many will recall served for several years as Parish Clerk.

Parish Information and General Contacts

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 or online at
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>

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

Groups and Organisations (all group activities are subject to current Covid Restrictions):

Churches: NB most churches are currently holding services via Zoom. (Service details over Christmas not available at time of going to press)

St Mary's C of E Parish Church, Church Lane
Mellor Methodist, Mellor Lane
St Mary's RC Parish Church, Osbaldeston
St Leonard's C of E Parish Church, Balderstone
St Leonard the Less C of E Parish Church, Samlesbury

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: Carolyn Hymas 813282

Mellor Village Show: Marjorie Nicholson 814121 or Dot Crooks 812021

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

For latest Covid 19 information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

What next for Mellor Lane Telephone Kiosk?

Following a review by British Telecom into the usage of public phone kiosks in the area BT have taken the decision to decommission the kiosk on Mellor Lane.

It is standard practice for BT to offer decommissioned kiosks to the local community for a nominal sum and, recognising the iconic nature of the kiosk in the heart of our village the Parish Council made the decision to acquire it for the community.

Whilst an electric supply will be maintained the telephone equipment itself will be removed shortly.

It's now up to us as a community to decide how best to use the kiosk.

Across the country there is a wide range of uses that kiosks have been put to from miniature art galleries, through self service coffee shops to "the world's smallest nightclub".

We're keen to get your ideas for our well loved little red box so please let us know.

A big THANKYOU to all our local businesses

Our local community has really come together during the Covid lockdowns.

Our thoughts are with those businesses that have not been able to trade and also all those that have gone the extra mile providing much needed local services.

They have stood by us this year and we need to stand by them going forward. They're all heroes!

Rann Woodland Update

The Rann Woodland was recommended last year by Mellor Parish Council to be listed as an asset of community value for a number of reasons, including it's amenity and ecological value as a woodland free to access by local residents. Having been successful in our application the woodland was so listed in 2019.

An asset of community value places a requirement on the owner of land that if they want to sell them they must contact the council (RVBC) who in turn will notify the community group that nominated the asset. This happened in early November

Local community groups then have the opportunity to register its interest as a potential bidder which triggers a six month moratorium period during which, subject to certain exceptions, the owner can only sell the asset if it is to a community interest group. After the six month moratorium period the owner can sell to whomever they choose.

That moratorium period has been triggered and therefore any interested community group now has until mid May 2021 to raise the funds to acquire the asset. Useful information about what's involved is available at <https://mycommunity.org.uk/community-assets-and-ownership>

If you have any thoughts or suggestions you would be more than welcome to bring them along to one of our Parish Council meetings in person or contact the Clerk email: clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk

A Walk into the Future

As well as fewer vehicles on our roads, one of the plus points to come from the restrictions this year has been the number of people out walking – enjoying the fantastic countryside we're fortunate to live in.

Our parish is literally criss-crossed with public rights of way, many of which are little known and little walked.

Cllr Hymas has suggested we mark this year by creating a circular walk around the parish, exploiting existing footpaths and taking in as many points of interest as possible (eg the old mill workers path, the Roman look-out point and the Rann Millennium woodland to name a few)

A "working title" for the idea is The Mellor 2020 – marking a unique year in the community with a 20km route starting and finishing at the village hall.

Having walked the proposed route himself, John has noted the work needed in various parts – repairing broken stiles, boardwalks over permanently boggy stretches, clearing overgrown paths and better signage.

Recognising the scale of work involved and the very important duty to control expenditure this couldn't be a one year scheme but it would be one that left a permanent benefit.

As we think about this more, the parish council would really welcome your views on the idea; would you like it to happen, would you walk it, do you have an idea for a name for it?

We'd really welcome your thoughts and ideas – email clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk .

Mellor Remembers

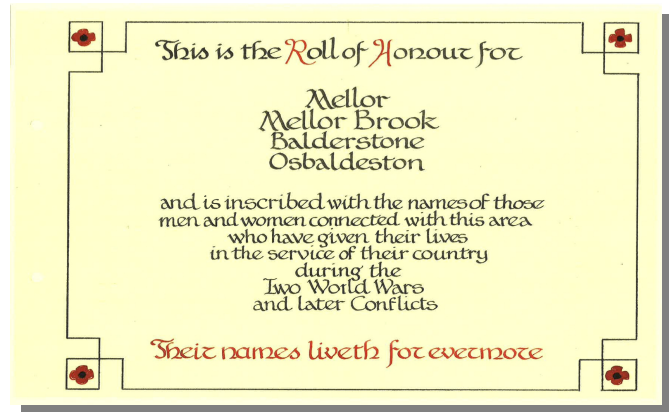
Remembrance Sunday this year was not the usual scene as Covid restrictions required wreath laying to take place under social distancing rules.

Our Chairman Cllr Marsden laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council alongside those presented by Borough Cllr Brunskill on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council, Balderstone Parish, Royal British Legion, Mellor St Mary School and local churches amongst others.

To coincide with the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2 a Book of Remembrance, commemorating the 101 armed services personnel and civilians of Mellor, Mellor Brook, Balderstone & Osbaldeston who gave their lives in the World Wars and subsequently has been commissioned by Mellor Parish Council, with support from Balderstone Parish Council.

Following many hours of painstaking and diligent work by our Clerk, cross checking to ensure no names were missed, hand scripted copies were made and presented to each of the four local churches, (St. Mary's, Mellor, Mellor Methodist, St. Leonard's, Balderstone and St. Mary's R.C., Osbaldeston). A "virtual copy", well worth seeing, is available to view via a link on the Parish Council website.

It had been hoped to have the Books blessed on Remembrance Sunday, but that was not possible.



Clockwise from top:
Title page of the Roll of Honour
Cllr Marsden laying wreath at Mellor Memorial
Mr W Thompson reads names of "The Mellor Men" Churchwarden Mrs B Green outside St Mary's Mellor



In addition to this work, The Clerk and Cllr O'Grady have also been working to record all the details so far known about each of the people commemorated.

This work is accessible online at <https://mpc.mogweb.org> – you might have additional family information and we'd love to hear from you to add to this developing record; photos, family stories and details of where they lived and worked.

If you know of any names missing from the records please let us know at clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk or info@mogweb.org

Exercise your inner Monty Don!



The photograph above shows the area of grassed land north of the children's play area.

Currently the piece of land (hatched area) is a fairly well drained area about 30m wide by 35m long.

The Parish Council has been discussing how best this area could be utilised for the benefit of all residents and we would welcome your thoughts.

It's up to your imagination – the only proviso is that it remains a planted area so no helipads, car parks or swimming pools!

So if you fancy having a go at garden design now's your chance. Sketch out your idea (or ideas) and let us have them. You can email them to clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk or, if pen and paper is more your style we will put a couple of collection boxes out in local shops in the New Year.

We can't guarantee we will be able to use all the ideas but we'll certainly look at them all and it will be great to see what you want (it could also help when we apply for grants to do the work!)

Did you know...

Research by Keep Britain Tidy shows that 15% of dog owners admit they don't bother to clean up after their pet !

In addition to the specific dog waste bins in the village, "poo bags" can be put in general litter bins (tied up **please**)

The parasites living in dog waste can blind a child and lead to birth defects or abortions in livestock.

To that 15%, and to the other **small** minority that feels it's OK to hang poo bags in trees, gates or on walls the message is simple;

Your pet = your responsibility

Please help us keep our shared neighbourhood clean.

Thankyou



We would love to hear from you

If you have any thoughts on how we can work together to improve our community we would love to hear from you.

Come along to one of our PC meetings or drop us line. You can write to the Parish Clerk anytime, contact details on page 3 of this newsletter or speak with any of the parish councillors.

Report it! Crime and Suspicious Incidents

At this time of year many people are away visiting friends and family. That, coupled with the dark evenings means it's more important than ever to be vigilant; both for your own and your neighbour's property.

Anything suspicious you see should be made known to the police. You can do this any one of the following ways:

Dial 999 - to report any 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>

Keep safe this winter

On cold mornings , don't leave your car running unattended – As well as causing pollution, if anything happens to it, your insurance will likely be void

Heat your home well & if you feel cold at night, use a hot water bottle to keep the costs down

Stock up on salt/grit – it's also useful to have a snow shovel, torch, batteries & a first aid kit handy

Eat well and have plenty of fluids, they are vital sources of energy and help to keep your body warm

Keep an eye on friends, relatives and older neighbours who may be vulnerable to the cold weather

Never use a hot water bottle and electric blanket in the same bed together. Check what sort of electric blanket you have as not all are designed to be left on overnight.

Get a free flu jab if you are over 50, pregnant or have a long term health condition. Speak with your GP or pharmacist.