

MELLOR Parish Council

www.mellorpc.org.uk

Local News . . . Local News . . . Local News . . . Local News . . . Local News . . . Local News . . . Local News . . . Local News . . . Local News . . . Local

Newsletter Issue No 111 November 2016



Mrs. Christine Taylor, Retiring Head Teacher from St. Mary's School shown presenting the trophy to Mr. Edmondson at this year's Mellor Show. See results on Page 10

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN MELLOR?

Communication is a two way street. Some residents may feel that they do not see anything being done which they would like. This may be because it is not within the Parish Council's power, e.g. Potholes are the responsibility of Lancashire County Council, but it may be that Parish Council does not know what you, as residents want.

In order to bring about the changes YOU want, Parish Councillors need to know what those wishes are, so please contact any of the Councillors or the Parish Clerk

(details can be found on page 3)

Councillor Margaret Young

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council learned that Cllr Margaret Young passed away last month. On behalf of all the members, the Parish Council wishes to pay tribute and give thanks for the service Margaret gave so generously to the village.

Joining the council over ten years ago, Margaret always took her duties as a Councillor seriously, especially her role as Play Area Officer in looking after the village park, yet she possessed that wonderful quality of never taking herself too seriously.

Margaret's unassuming and approachable nature meant residents would often come to her with their enquiries and ideas which she was quick to follow up on their behalf. Always one of the first to offer her help in community events, Margaret's camaraderie and friendship will be sorely missed by the council and residents alike.

We extend our sympathy to her family to whom she was devoted, her husband Paul and children Daniel, Matthew, Catherine, Martin and Rebecca and the grandchildren.

Snippets from the Minutes! Parish Council agreed that Mellor Community Association will, on a 6 month trial basis, be able to sell alcohol at up to 12 functions per year.

Village Halls are a wonderful community asset, but need funds and volunteers to ensure their survival. They also need people to use the hall, having fun, learning new skills, being entertained, playing sport, socialising and learning too. Why not get involved?

Following guidance sought from Lancashire Association of Local Councils, it has been established that benches can be donated or sponsored by individuals or organisations for the benefit of the community and would not be considered to be a conflict of interest

Mellor Library Lancashire County Council has now decided on the buildings which Cabinet has scheduled for closure. This is a comprehensive list, however at this stage, Mellor Library stays open. Closure decisions were partly based on other uses e.g. Doctor' s Surgery, but also on footfall. Once again, Lancashire County Council are flagging up the need for more cuts and so the future of Mellor Library may not be secured in the long term but all can help it to continue, so

IF YOU DON ' T WANT TO LOSE IT, USE YOUR LIBRARY, IT HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER!

Mellor War Memorial

Remembrance Sunday is with us again, and Parish Council members have had very positive feedback as the spring bulbs planted last year came through. This is part of an ongoing programme to show the village's pride in commemorating those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during two World Wars. Further grass tidying has taken place and the flags are to be re-pointed. Ribble Valley Borough Council has been approached for a grant to enable low level, easy maintenance planting to take place towards the front of the approach, at each side of the steps. The foxgloves, which have flowered so well on the steeper slopes are to be encouraged to self seed.

11th November 2018 will mark the Centenary of Armistice Day, but who were the men who died? Were any of them from YOUR family? It would be appropriate to tell their story, and if you do know about any of them, please contact Parish Clerk, Teresa Taylor E: mellorpc@outlook.com so that we can feature as many of them as possible.

Potholes & Drains

REMEMBER : ALL RESIDENTS / ROAD USERS CAN REPORT DEFECTS, LCC MAY NOT ACT IF THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT A DEFECT—HAVE YOU REPORTED ANY??

There are a number of ways to do so, but please remember to keep the reference log for that defect—you can track it on line for progress & it will help to build up a picture of defects in Mellor.

To report any routine highways defects including potholes, blocked gullies & broken street lights, let

LCC know via their website: www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads

Alternatively you can email details to highways@lancashire.gov.uk

If you don't have internet access, you can ring 0300 123 6780

Parish Council Membership

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS:

Cllr Mr Bernard Murtagh (CHAIRMAN)	68 St Mary's Gardens	01254 492131
Cllr Mrs Stella Brunskill	Oulton, Myerscough Rd, Mellor Brook	01254 812694
Cllr Mrs Margaret Johnson	14 Mellor Brow	01254 813638
Cllr Mr Nick Marsden	8 Glendale Drive	01254 814215
Cllr Mr Alan Upton	53 Whitecroft Lane	01254 812730
Cllr Mr Noel C Walsh	Bench Mark Barn, Elswick Lodge	01254 813365
VACANCY		
Cllr Mrs Pat Young	The Old Foundry Stanhill Lane, Oswaltdtwistle	01254 351516
Mrs. Dot Crooks	59 Mellor Brow	01254 812021
Mr. Ian Moss	15 Hob Green	01254 813581
Mrs Teresa Taylor (Clerk)	Seed House Farm, Potters Lane, Samlesbury	01772 877248

NIGEL EVANS MP
Constituency Address:
9 Railway View, CLITHEROE, BB7 2HA
tel: 01200 425939 fax: 01200 422904
email: evansn@parliament.uk
web: www.nigel-evans.org.uk

Lancashire County Councillor

ALAN SCHOFIELD:
email alan.schofield@lancashire.gov.uk
mobile: 07876 844262

Ribble Valley Borough Councillors

NOEL C WALSH: Bench Mark Barn, Elswick Lodge,
tel: 01254 813365

STELLA BRUNSKILL: Oulton, Myerscough Road,
Mellor Brook, tel: 01254 812694
email: stellabrunskill@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Meetings for the next quarter:

Thursday 3rd November
Thursday 1st December
No meeting in January
Thursday 2nd February 2017
All are held at 7pm in the Methodist Church, Mellor Lane.
All are welcome to attend the Public Session at the start of each meeting to raise any items of concern

Website: www.mellorpc.org.uk **You can also contact us by email at** enquiries@mellorpc.org.uk

Agendas and Minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be viewed on the website. They are also available in Mellor Library, or by making an appointment with Parish Clerk, Teresa Taylor on 01772 877248

To view all planning applications for the parish, use the link below and insert Mellor for the location:
www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/planningApplication/search

ROUND & ABOUT IN MELLOR

The Boundary Commission for England has issued an initial proposals summary to consider changes to the parliamentary constituencies. Full information is available at www.bce2018.org.uk

What does this mean for Mellor? The proposals include a change from the existing 16 constituencies in Lancashire to just 14. This would mean that the current Ribble Valley constituency would divide, part of it would become North Lancashire Constituency, stretching from Silverdale to Chatburn, and Preesall across to Alston & Hothersall.

However the other part of the existing Ribble Valley constituency would change to become Clitheroe & Colne Constituency, stretching from Bamber Bridge to Wiswell & Pendleton, but also out to include Earby & Boulsworth. Mellor Parish Council has sent in comments objecting, as they feel Mellor is different from Colne.

If you have a view on whether you wish to remain as part of Ribble Valley Constituency, rather than Clitheroe & Colne, you may put forward your views via the website www.bce2018.org.uk or by email to information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

I am instructed, as Parish Clerk, to write to you, following Mellor Parish Council meeting on 6th October 2016.

The Countryside Code has had a re launch, under the theme

“**Respect, Protect, Enjoy**” so it will be there for future generations

Respect other people ; Consider the local community and other people who are also enjoying the outdoors, for example don't block gateways or other paths with your vehicle. When riding a bike, or driving, slow down or stop for horses, walkers and farm animals, giving them plenty of room. By law, cyclists must give way to walkers and horse riders on bridleways. Co-operate with those at work in the countryside, for example, keep out of the way when farm animals are being gathered, follow directions from the farmer. Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available. Use gates, stiles or gaps in field boundaries, because climbing over walls, hedges and fences can cause damage and increase the risk of livestock escaping. Be careful not to disturb ruins and historic sites—our heritage matters to us all.

Protect the natural environment : When out with your dog make sure it is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, horses, wildlife or other people.

Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home. Protecting the natural environment means taking special care not to damage, destroy or remove features such as rocks, plants and trees. These provide food and homes for wildlife. Litter and leftover food doesn't just spoil the countryside, it can be dangerous or could even kill wildlife and livestock. Dumping rubbish, dropping litter and not picking up dog faeces are all criminal offences. Fires can cause devastation to wildlife, as well as to people and property, so be careful with naked flames, as well as cigarettes, any fires and barbecues at any time of year. Some fires on moorland are planned, but if a fire seems to be unattended, call 999.

Keep dogs under effective control . Ensure it does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people. This means : keep your dog on a lead, or in sight **at all times**, be confident it will return to you promptly on command, ensure it does not stray off the area you have a right of access. Be aware that dogs are not permitted in some areas. A farmer may legally shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing livestock without being liable to compensate the dog's owner. However, if cattle or horses chase you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead—don't risk injury by trying to protect your dog, which will be safer if allowed to run away from livestock, as will you. Everyone knows how unpleasant dog mess is and it can cause infections ; to livestock causing them to abort, but also to humans, causing blindness. Always **clean up after your dog, bag it and bin it—if there is no bin, take it home, don't dangle a plastic bag of poo on a fence or branch for an animal or bird—they don't want it either!** Make sure your dog is wormed regularly.

Enjoy the outdoors : Plan ahead and be prepared, follow advice and local signs

Consider others : If you get into difficulties or have an accident, others may need to come to your rescue. Many of the rescuers are volunteers and never cause them to be in danger because you have not planned before you set off. Accidents will happen, but it should never be due to thoughtlessness of actions.

When going out, it's best to get the latest information about where and when you can go. For example, your rights to go onto some areas of Open Access land and Coastal land may be restricted in particular places and at particular times of year. Find out as much as you can before setting off, so ensuring you get the most from your visit. Visit www.gov.uk/natural-england or local information centres for advice on specialist activities. www.visitlancashire.com is a further useful source and local walks can be downloaded from the site.

YOU are responsible for your own safety and for others in your care, especially children and so you need to be prepared for natural hazards, changes in weather and other events. Wild animals, horses and farm animals can all behave unpredictably, especially if they're with their young—so give them plenty of space.

Check weather forecasts before you leave.

Conditions can vary rapidly, especially on mountains and along the coast, never be afraid to turn back. When visiting the coast, check for tide times at www.ukho.gov.uk/easytide. Never risk getting cut off by rising tides and take care on slippery rocks & seaweed.

Part of the appeal of the countryside is that you can get away from it all and you may not see anyone for hours, but there are many places without clear mobile phone signals. Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return—at least they will know where to start looking for you, if you should have an accident—we all think accidents only happen to others!

Follow advice and local signs

England has about 190,000 km (118,000 miles) of public rights of way, providing many opportunities to enjoy the natural environment. Get to know the signs and symbols used to show paths and open countryside.

Footpaths – open to walkers ONLY, marked with a yellow arrow

Bridleways –open to walkers, horse riders & cyclists, marked with a blue arrow GET OUT THIS AUTUMN—PLENTY TO ENJOY, FOR ALL AGES!

DO YOU CARE ABOUT MELLOR AREA?

The question seems to have an obvious answer, as most people care about where they live, however the answer may not be so simple.

PARKING –How many houses now have residents who have more than one vehicle, but only have space for one vehicle to park?

If so, where do YOU park? Is it causing an obstruction for others, including wheelchair users, prams, deliveries, bin wagons or emergency vehicles? Think— all need access, not just you!

BINS—Dark nights are with us and some bins are being left out all the time, especially in Mellor Brook area: with no street lights this is a hazard and a traffic accident waiting to happen. Please move them.

VANDALISM—Sadly information has come through that one of the fruit trees at the Village Hall has been broken. Since the broken piece was thrown onto the flat roof, this would seem to have been deliberate. Also gravel was being thrown at the Village Hall windows. The Village Hall is an asset for the whole village & should be supported.

PLAY AREA—Mellor Parish Council is looking at options to improve the Play Area in St. Mary's Gardens. This will of necessity be a long term project due to the considerable costs involved. It has been suggested that more equipment for younger children might be preferred, but the wishes of the whole parish must be considered, including those who do not have children.

Following the regular inspections which are carried out at the Play Area it has become obvious that drainage must be a priority, since to even consider new equipment could be a waste of money unless and until the ground is dry. Contractors have been consulted about the best way and the cost to achieve this. When more is known, the Parish Council plans to hold an Open Meeting for all residents to get involved in any future plans ; what to do, how & when to achieve this and how to pay for it ; through the precept charged as part of Council Tax, or by attracting any possible grant funds.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FUTURE DETAILS & HAVE YOUR SAY!

Kids Korner

This quiz is open to children 12yrs old and under who live in Mellor. Entries as usual to either Parish Clerk, Teresa Taylor or Chairman, Bernard Murtagh (details on page 3,) by **31st DECEMBER PLEASE**

BONFIRE NIGHT QUIZ

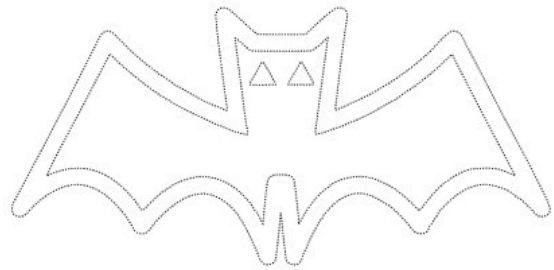
1. What date is Bonfire Night?
2. Who was the man who tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament?
3. What is the name of the firework that spins in a circle?
4. ——— Bobbing is a traditional game played on Bonfire Night?
5. What was the name of the plot to blow up King James 1?
6. What should you never do with fireworks?
7. What animal is often found to be sheltering in bonfires? You should always check a bonfire for wildlife before lighting
8. What is the next line in this famous rhyme
"Remember, remember the fifth of November" ?
9. What should you do with pets on Bonfire Night?
10. In which country did The Gunpowder Plot take place?

Treacle Toffee Recipe—you will need a grown up to help, as hot toffee burns you!

You need : a very well greased tin of about 30cm x 25cm x 2.5cm
Get 2 separate cups ready with cold water in them
125g butter, 110 g sugar, 2 tablespoons treacle

Melt all of this in a large heavy bottomed pan, stirring with a wooden spoon, then bring to the boil. The mixture will rise up a lot in the pan. After about 5 minutes, carefully spot a little into one of the cups. Leave for a minute. It should have sunk to the bottom. Toffee is ready when it is hard on the outside, but soft in the middle. Pour into greased tin, let it go cold then break up using back of a knife. Wrap each piece in greaseproof paper. ENJOY!

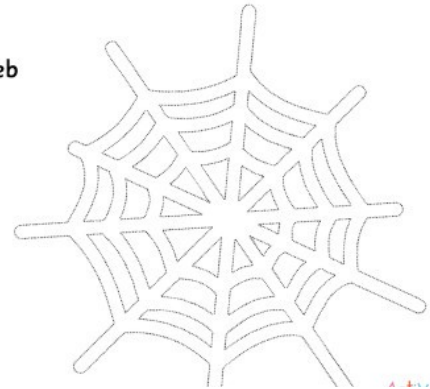
Trace the Bat



© www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Activity Village

Trace the Spider Web

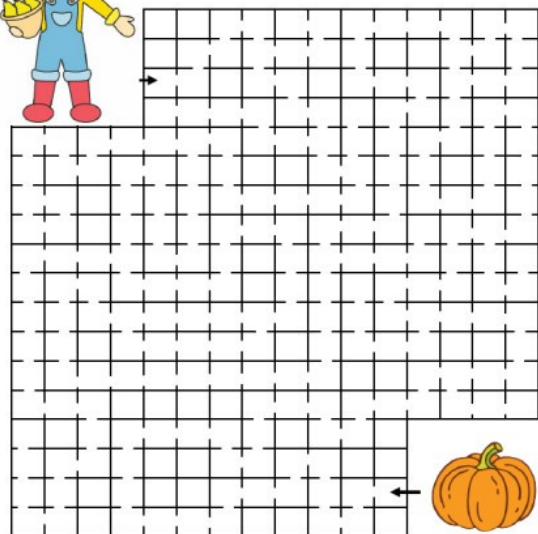


Activity Village

Harvest Maze



This farmer is gathering fruit and vegetables at Harvest time. Can you help her find her way to the pumpkin?



© www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Activity Village

No Winners!

There were no entries in the Junior Quiz in Issue 110, Why not have a go this time? As usual, there is a prize for the winner.

Contacts and information

Sunday Services

St Marys CE Parish Church, Church Lane @ 10.30am and 6..30pm

Mellor Methodist, Mellor Lane @ 10.30am

St Mary's RC Parish Church, Osbaldeston @ 10.00am

St Leonards CE Parish Church, Balderstone @ 8.30am and 10.30am

St Leonard the Less CE Parish Church, Samlesbury @ 11.00am

VILLAGE GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

Mellor Babies and Toddlers (term-time):

(Thur 1-3pm @ Mellor Methodist—weekly):

Fiona Moretta 07946 085 811

Mellor Pre School: Angela Hetherington-Fogg 812875 / Beryl Nugent 812056

Little Angels: Rita Gorman 812566 / Margaret Baldwin 812360

Beavers / Cubs / Scouts: Susan Middlemass 812642

Rainbows: Lynn Fish 813591

Brownies: Michelle Venn 812711

Guides: Hilary Wensley 01254 580819

Vision (Youth Fellowship) : Debbie Chadwick 812091

LOCAL SERVICES

POTHoles (Lancashire County Council)

tel: 0300 123 6780 email: highways@lancashire.gov.uk

RVBC Emergency Number for nuisance problems, flooding, lost dogs etc.

Monday to Friday and weekends after 5pm tel: 01200 444448

Waste and Refuse / Hedgerows and hedges / General

Enquiries to RVBC: tel: 01200 425111

Street Lighting

(need location & street lamp no)

Citizens Advice Bureau

Blackburn branch: Central Library, Town Hall Street, BLACKBURN. Tel: 08442 451 293. email: info@blackburncab.org.uk

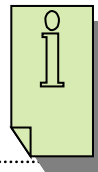
Clitheroe branch: 19/21 Wesleyan Row, Parson Lane, CLITHEROE. Tel: 01200 428966. web: www.ribblevalleycab.com

Mellor Library

tel: 0300 123 6703

Mellor Doctors Surgery

tel: 01254 812810



Please let us know if your contact details have changed from those we have listed here.

If your group or organisation is missing—please get in touch to send in your details.

Mellor Juniors Football Club: Carol Williamson 07974 258 148 or Richard Lucas 01254 580658

Mellor Allotments: Meryl Rishton 01254 245460

Mellor Bowling Club: Chris Walton
cjwalton66@gmail.com

Mellor Community Association (Village Hall): John Hymas 813282

Mellor Connections: John Hymas 813282

Mellor Village Show: Marjorie Nicholson 814121 / Dot Crooks 812021

Luncheon Club: Judith Marr 812741

Mellor St. Mary's CE Primary School : 812581

Headteacher Ms. J. Embley-Peers

tel: 0845 053 0011

Council Tax

tel: 01200 414450

email: ctax@ribblevalley.gov.uk

The Dog Warden

tel: 01200 414464

Planning

tel: 01200 414499

email: planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Police: In EMERGENCY dial 999, otherwise 101

ANSWERS TO QUIZ 110:

- 1. Macduff 2. Hamlet 3. Montague 4. Lear
- 5. Othello 6. Casca 7. The Tempest 8. Shylock
- 9. Richard Third 10. A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 11. Banquo 12. Oberon 13. Hamlet 14. Sir John Falstaff
- 15. The Tempest 16. Twelfth Night 17. Sorry, there was no question!! 18. Calpurnia & Portia 19. Richard Third
- 20. The Winter's Tale

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Wilson, of Glendale Drive, winner of

Issue 110 Quiz (as well as 109 Quiz)

WELL DONE AGAIN

QUIZ 111—LAND OF THE FREE

- 1. 2016 US presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton was born in which US City?
- 2. In November 2000, which Democratic candidate won the popular vote but lost the election to George. W. Bush?
- 3. Elected in November 1884 and 1892, who is the only US President to have served non-consecutive terms?
- 4. In which city was President J.F. Kennedy assassinated in November 1963?
- 5. The 1998 film "Primary Colors" was inspired by the first presidential campaign of which American politician?
- 6. Which anti-war activist ran for US President as a Green or Independent third party nominee in every election from 1992 to 2008?
- 7. What is the home state of 2016 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump?
- 8. Dutch, The Gipper and The Great Communicator are among the nicknames associated with which American President, first elected in November 1980?
- 9. Who is the only man to have carried out the offices of US Vice President and US President although he was never elected to either office?
- 10. Which US President funded his first candidacy from his poker winnings?

If you have a quiz you would like to donate, please send to Teresa Taylor, or E:mellorpc@outlook.com
It will be gratefully received!

This quiz is open to Mellor residents only. Please send your answers BY 31 DECEMBER to:

Teresa Taylor, Seed House Farm, Potter Lane, Samlesbury, Preston PR5 0UE

R	C	E	S	E	N	I	S	S	E	M
M	N	E	E	A	R	T	O	I	S	S
M	D	U	R	B	R	O	I	S	T	E
H	N	R	D	A	L	N	S	Y	H	L
C	A	M	B	R	A	I	S	L	E	L
S	L	N	T	H	E	S	O	M	M	E
N	T	A	N	G	A	Y	N	M	A	M
E	U	C	E	A	E	D	S	O	R	O
I	J	I	A	E	S	S	I	N	N	R
M	L	T	R	E	B	U	T	S	E	F
A	A	Z	A	G	Y	S	E	R	P	Y

NO PRIZE WORDSEARCH

This edition is based on the listed battle sites of the Great War

Hidden in the word search (up, down, across, diagonally back & forth) are the names listed below. *But the unused letters will give you the date never to be forgotten*

AMIENS, ARRAS, ARTOIS, CAMBRAI, CER, ES SINN, FESTUBERT, FROMELLES, GAZA, HANNA, JUTLAND, LIEGE, LOOS, LYS, MESSINES, MONS, SOISSONS, TANGA, THE MARNE, THE SOMME, VERDUN, YPRES
DID YOU KNOW?

In mediaeval times strict Forest Laws

reserved the rights of hunting in the numerous Royal Forests for the ruling class and were hated & resented by the lower classes. Punishments for breaking Mediaeval hunting laws included hanging, castration, blinding or being sewn into a deerskin & then hunted down by ferocious dogs.

Why would that be resented???

Mellor Village Show 2016

The Village Show, now in it's 27th year, was once again a lovely village event bringing people together in the Village Hall in friendly rivalry and displaying many hidden talents.

It was great to see so many visitors to the show, most also enjoying the afternoon tea and cakes available in the café.

The committee would like to thank all those who helped to make the show such a success. To those who took part in the competitions, the stewards, judges and 'behind the scenes' workers, without you there would be no show. Also thank you to Accrington and District Bonsai Society who brought along a selection of their bonsai trees.

A special thank you to Mrs. Christine Taylor who presented the trophies.

TROPHY WINNERS WERE:

Best in Show	H Rackley
Best in Flowers/Plants	V Edmondson
Best Foliage/Flower Arrangement	R Gorman
Best in Fruit & Vegetable Class	V Edmondson
Best Home Produce	R Gorman
Best Photography	D Nicholson
Best Craft	H Rackley
Best in Children's Section	Jim Hogg
Most Enthusiastic Entrant	V Edmondson
Children's Prizes	
Age 4-6 years	Millie Eckersall
Age 7-9 years	Jim Hogg
Age 10-12 years	Tom Swift

Date for your diary -

The show next year will take place on **Sunday 3 September 2017**. If you haven't previously visited the Show come along and have look, there is something for everyone - photography, crafts of all kinds, home produce - in addition to flowers, plants and vegetables. If you would like to enter, show schedules and entry forms are available from early June in local shops.

MELLOR VILLAGE SHOW

NOW HAS A FACEBOOK PRESENCE

www.facebook.com.Mellorvillageshow

It's Time to Combat the Cowboys

Homewise, your local Home Improvement Agency can help anyone who needs to find a good reputable tradesman and most of their advisory services are FREE OF CHARGE to anyone.

They are there to help, advise and provide information on any home maintenance issues. They can give advice on proposed works or

Improvements, help find reputable tradesmen to carry out works as you wish, provide support & advice throughout including advice on

sources of funding

Their offices are at 2/4 Whalley Road,

Accrington.

Contact by phone 232249 or email info@homewise.c

Protect Your Home

With the winter months ahead, let's hope for the best, but plan for the worst

WINTER CHECKLIST

Make sure you have plenty of lagging round water pipes, (at least 5cm) but don't insulate under loft tanks (warm air from below will stop it freezing)

If pipes freeze, gradually warm them using a hairdryer. Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air to flow

Leave a warm blanket & shovel in your car.

GUTTERS

Guttering can be weakened by age & lack of maintenance, so may fall in high winds, especially after heavy rain or snow. Repairing minor damage such as small cracks, broken brackets & leaking joints can save further damage to your property & a lot of money in the long run. Blocked valley gutters can allow

rainwater to backflow, resulting in water in the building. Blustery days can cause roof moss, leaves, twigs and even birds nests to block gutters and downpipes, leading to such problems as rotten window sills and damp patches on walls. This is the theme of the proverb :

"A stitch in time saves nine!"

What's Been Happening in Mellor?

THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL!

**A big THANK YOU from
Mellor Connections**

On behalf of all involved in organising the Scarecrow Festival can I say a massive thank you to everyone who took part in and otherwise supported the event.

As well as the 40 or so around the village who made some fantastic scarecrows, the event, as always, depended heavily on the small army of volunteers who baked cakes, served endless cups of tea and coffee at the village hall, washed up in the cafe, donated prizes and sold raffle tickets.

A special thank you to Balderstone Brass Band and The Mellor Brook Ukulele Group for providing wonderful entertainment on the Saturday and Sunday and David Holroyd for running our BBQ.

As I write this, the MCA committee is busy putting the finishing touches to a number of plans for enhancing the look and feel of your village hall and the facilities that we offer.

It is our intention to refurbish the hard-surface tennis court area in time for Spring 2017 with work to the surface itself, new nets and relining and a new area for 5-a-side football.

We will be running a small number of fundraising events to help pay for this work including a Ladies Fashion Show on Saturday 26th November and a Christmas Concert with Balderstone Brass Band Mellor Singing Group on Monday December 12th.

I hope as many people as possible support these events and you can contact me directly for more information or tickets.

We are also in the process of applying for grants to update our heating system, and to provide new entrances to both the sports-hall and the meetings area. We look forward to keeping all members of the association up to date as we move forward with these plans.

The fruit and other native trees that we planted next to the hall are doing well although sadly one tree has been vandalised and will have to be replaced. This act of wilful damage is all the more surprising when, as is the case in Mellor, it happens relatively infrequently.

We have a small team of volunteers working to develop a "wildlife friendly" flower meadow area around the trees and look forward to seeing that develop over the coming years. Meanwhile feel free to use the picnic table that was generously donated by The Traders Arms.

Hall visitors will have seen the new fence and gate which provide a clear boundary between the grass area and car park as well as restricting nefarious vehicle access to the lower car park.

I'm delighted to say that the weekend raised just over £1300 which has gone to support the village hall.

Next year we are ringing the changes with an "**Open Gardens**" weekend over **17th and 18th June**. We are hoping to be able to offer a range of gardens to our visitors, large or small, formal or rambling. There will also be the chance to show off your hanging baskets, window boxes and decorated gateposts!

If you think you would be interested in supporting the Mellor 2017 Open Gardens by opening your garden for that weekend in June 2017 we would love to hear from you. For more information email

Carolyn at barneyboobop@aol.com

JOBS IN THE GARDEN

Now is the time to tidy up, ready for next year

Mellor Community Association Update

Start a compost heap! As well as the obvious benefits for your garden, you'll be creating a welcome habitat for insects, toads & even grass snakes.

Protect any tender plants by bringing them to a sheltered spot. Make sure any pots are propped up to allow drainage. Now is the time for planting bulbs, but put wire mesh over or put the pots in a rabbit run to keep squirrels, mice & foxes off them—or sprinkle Tabasco sauce around each of them!

We have had a complaint from a hall user that car parking spaces adjacent to the hall are increasingly being taken up as public parking. Whenever possible we would kindly ask non-hall users to use the car park area immediately off Mellor Lane, your co-operation would be much appreciated.

I am delighted to say that hall usage continues to grow and the income generated is ploughed back into running and developing what we believe is an important village amenity. We welcome your views on what other facilities we might provide and what we could do better. Feel free to contact me at the email address below.

John Hymas

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We have a small team of volunteers working to develop a "wildlife friendly"