

MELLOR Parish Council

www.mellorpc.org.uk

Local News . . . Local

Newsletter Issue No 112 April 2017



MELLOR PLAY AREA – UPGRADE NEEDED? This takes time!

The Parish Council has been looking into ways to improve the Play Area on St. Mary's Gardens. Firstly drainage is needed, since it is pointless putting in new equipment if the surface is too wet for children to safely use it. There is also the grassed area adjacent which needs to be drained and a fence erected all around with gates to improve safety, meaning children are less likely to dash out in front of vehicles, but also to ensure that no dogs have access and possibly leave a mess.

Consideration has been given to what type of equipment is required—the consensus is that more fun equipment is needed for younger children, and that a picnic area would be useful, with seating for parents and carers to sit whilst watching their little ones.

Drainage plans and play equipment companies are being researched in order to gain ideas and likely costs, as well as preparation of a grant application to Lancashire Environmental Fund, hopefully with match funding from other sources. The Parish Council considered it sensible to build a reserve into the 2017/18 budget to allow for some funding of the improvements and you can read details of the Parish precept as part of the Council Tax on pages 4 & 5 in this newsletter.

Inside this newsletter, you will find a separate flyer where you, as residents, are asked for your views on such improvements. Consultation is a vital part of any grant application and we hope you will respond (the flyer explains how). In time the Parish Council will hold a public meeting when ideas & plans can be shown and developed, but if you have any queries at this stage, please come to Parish Council meetings, or contact any of the Councillors or the Parish Clerk (details can be found on page 3)

Snippets from the Minutes! Parish Council agreed that Mellor Community Association will continue to be able to sell alcohol at up to 12 functions per year.

Have a look at the new website <http://e-voice.org.uk/mellorvillagehall> to find out more

LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE Mellor Parish Council has once more entered this competition, as all take pride in looking after their surroundings, keeping it all tidy. Judging will take place from early June until mid July—Please do your bit where you live. This means grass cutting, no litter, perhaps planting a window box or border, and will include the school, hotels, churches, War Memorial, as well as houses and gardens.

POLICE MATTERS

Did you know there is a new Police Community Support Officer?

PCSO 7143 Caroline Pemberton is based at Clitheroe Police Station, and she covers Wilpshire and Mellor. She is a local lass, so she knows the area and it was a pleasure to meet her at the Annual Parish Meeting on 2nd March. She works alongside PC Lee Forshaw, whose area has moved over somewhat from Mellor, to more of a “response based” system. Caroline explained that for non urgent matters, and to give information, it is better to call **01200 458766** or Email **RibbleValley.NPT@lancashire.pnn.police.uk**.

If a criminal activity is ongoing, ring 101, or for emergency, ring 999

Drainage is a constant issue in Mellor, it seems. From the investigation works previously carried out for Mellor Parish Council there is a concrete pipe exiting from the manhole at the lower corner of the field at Mellor Village Hall which needs repair or possible replacement. This seems to be within the curtilage of private gardens. Unfortunately Parish Councils do not have powers or resources to rectify what may come under riparian land laws. The Parish Council therefore resolved to ask Lancashire County Council to clear the culvert, as they had offered to provide some financial assistance with clearing but no timeframe is currently fixed & formal agreement has not yet been made. This may or may not alleviate the problems from the field above, but will hopefully put another piece in the jigsaw of the Mellor drains. This answer may well be less than residents had hoped for ; perhaps it should be noted that according to an old Minute Book for the Parish Council dated **6 October 2005** "*Drainage problems are causing flooding in even moderate rainfall. ...Flooding occurs regularly on Mellor Lane and the run off reaches the Village Hall & properties as far as Whitcroft Lane*" so it is obviously not a recent issue.

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

Parish Council Membership

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
Cllr. Mr. Michael O'Grady	21 Elswick Gardens	01254 812031
Cllr Mrs Pat Young	The Old Foundry Stanhill Lane, Oswaldtwistle	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

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS:

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 period

Thursday 6th April

Thursday 4th May (Annual Council Meeting)

Thursday 1st June

Thursday 6th July

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

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 War Memorial

Keep an eye out as the bulbs planted last year show again in bloom. Thanks to Ribble Valley Borough Council, the Parish Council obtained a grant to ensure further low maintenance planting is carried out. This work, along with re-pointing of the flagged area, will be starting soon to keep the area spick & span.

WHAT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL DO??

This question seems to be asked quite a lot, but do those who ask it come to a Parish Council meeting or read the Minutes in order to find out?

There can be misunderstandings about what the Parish Council can and cannot do. There are legal requirements, as well as duties, but there are also constraints. For example churchyards are in villages where the residents may be buried and therefore Parish Councils have powers to help support their upkeep. Many people feel that Parish Councils decide on planning applications, but this is the role of the Borough Council (or in some cases the County Council) both of whom will ask Parish Councils for their views, based on the local knowledge they have, but any objection may only be considered on *planning grounds*.

Some of the powers which a Parish Council may have would not be achievable within the resources they have, for example Public Health Act 1936 section 221 allows the power to provide public baths, but not many Parish Councils could fund this! But the new benches have been provided, via grant funds!

Mellor Parish Council works hard to try to improve the Parish—many have admired the War Memorial and the planting—more will be done with this soon, and the flags will be re-pointed in the dry weather—a fitting tribute as the Centenary of the end of World War One looms.

Potholes and blocked drains and gullies are constantly reported & followed up with Lancashire County Council Highways Department. In between, one or two Parish Councillors keep an eagle eye & clear where they can.

Parish Council as a body fights hard to retain Mellor Library, a most useful resource, and supported County Councillor Alan Schofield to ensure the Bus Service continues to provide a lifeline for residents.

Grass cutting, litter picking, cleaning the War Memorial are all carried out by Ribble Valley Borough Council, but paid for by the Parish Council on your behalf.

So, how is all of this paid for? The Parish Council calculates a budget each year to decide on requirements, then factor in what may be wanted, such as the Play Area improvements you will read about on the cover, and the enclosed flyer. These calculations then form the Precept Order which goes to Ribble Valley and becomes part of Council Tax. Mellor Parish Council meets monthly (except January) and discusses how to wisely spend your money.

2017–18 Parish Precept

Mellor Parish Council has set the precept for the coming year at £22,076

(In 2016.17 it was set at £14,300)

From a tax base of 1000 houses and it is based upon all domestic properties, payable from 1st April 2017. These amounts are then consolidated into the combined Council Tax bill, and collected on the Parish Council's behalf by Ribble Valley Borough Council.

Business rates are set by the Government and dealt with separately.

What does this mean for you, as residents of Mellor? The table below shows the Mellor Parish Precept element of the Council Tax for two years:

Property Band	2016.17	2017.18
	£	£
A	8.62	14.72
B	11.22	17.17
C	12.83	20.63
D	14.43	22.08
E	17.64	26.99
F	20.84	31.79
G	24.05	36.80
H	28.86	44.16

As you will see, this shows an increase in the parish element for each property.

However, it actually demonstrates that, in order to do more within the Parish, residents are asked to pay an extra amount of up to 35 pence per week per household, which may be considered to be good value for money.

When the Parish Council met to finalise the precept order (to include expenditure up to 31st March 2018) two major factors were in their minds: the advice was that Parish Councils might well be capped (the advice on this has since changed) and that a number of residents have requested improvements within the Parish, which will need to be funded. Hopefully most of the Play Area improvements can be achieved through grant funding, in which case there will be reserves in the kitty which can be used for further improvements in future, or, should residents desire, the following year's precept can be lowered.

MELLOR VILLAGE SHOW REPORT & NEWS

Planning is already underway for the 2017 Show, which will be held on Sunday 3 September and all of the members of the committee are looking forward to ensuring that the 2017 Show is even more successful than previous years.

The show is an opportunity for the whole village to come together and celebrate local produce, arts and crafts. There are classes to cater for a huge variety of interests, from flower arranging to photography, home produce to children's crafts and garden produce.

Show schedules and entry forms will be available at Mellor Library and local shops, including Sanderson's Bakery and Britannia Gallery, from early summer. (See a copy of the schedule to follow in this newsletter). Entries are welcomed from residents of Mellor and District and their families and friends, together with those who belong to the various organisations in and around Mellor and also from children who attend the three local schools.

The Show now has a facebook page with several photographs—find us at www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow.

If you would like to help with the 2017 Show, or have any queries, please contact—M. Nicholson on 814121 or D. Crooks on 812021.

SECTION ONE - FLOWERS & PLANTS

Judge: TBA Trophy: Village Show Cup

A Rose

A Vase or Bowl of Roses (Up to 5 blooms)

A Vase of Sweet Peas (Up to 9 blooms)

A Vase of Dahlias (1 - 3 blooms)

A Bowl of Floating Flower Heads

A Vase of mixed flowers without added foliage

Sprigs of Lavender

Container of 3 stems of any one variety,
(not classified above)

A vase of 3 Hydrangea flowers

A Bonsai Tree

A Flowering Plant

A single Cactus or Succulent or
a display of Cacti / Succulents

SECTION TWO - FOLIAGE & FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Judge: TBA Trophy: Turner Trophy

A floral arrangement in a **small**
watering can

A blue themed floral arrangement to
celebrate HM the Queen's
Sapphire Jubilee

A floral arrangement inspired by
classic English Literature

A miniature arrangement

not to exceed:

Height 10cm (4") Width 10cm (4")
Depth 10cm (4")

An arrangement of foliage only

SECTION THREE - FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Judge : TBA

Trophy: Donated by Mr & Mrs H Clarkson

- 3 Tomatoes - any variety
- 3 Potatoes - any variety
- 3 Onions - any variety - not to exceed 225g (8oz) each
- 3 Onions - any variety - each over 225g (8oz)
- 3 Root Vegetables - tops to be left on
- A collection of fruit and / or vegetables -
4 kinds (3 of each)
- Any other vegetable (not covered by classes 18-23)
up to 3 of one variety
- Longest Runner Bean
- 4 Different Herbs (displayed in a vase or jar)

SECTION FOUR - HOME PRODUCE

Judge: TBA Trophy: Guardian Products Shield

- A Jar of Home-made Chutney (See Rule 14)
- A Jar of Home-made Jam or Jelly (See Rule 14)
- A Jar of Home-made Lemon Curd (See Rule 14)
- A Soda Bread Loaf
- A Quiche made with own pastry & filling of your choice
- 4 Fruit Scones
- 4 Butterfly Cakes
- A Traditional Victoria Sponge
- 4 Pieces of Millionaires Shortbread

SECTION FIVE - PHOTOGRAPHY

Judge: TBA Trophy: Shield Donated by D Johnson

Maximum 18cms x 13cms (7" x 5") unmounted

- Subject: Flower(s)
- Subject: Texture(s)
- Subject: Reflection(s)
- Subject: Dog(s)

Note: Photographs must be brought to the Village Hall on the day of the show and not with the entry forms.

SECTION SIX - CRAFTS (ASSORTED)

Judge: TBA Trophy: Sanderson Trophy

- An exhibit of tapestry, hand embroidery or cross stitch
- Any item made from paper and/or card
- A hand knitted or crocheted item
- An item of jewellery
- A small item made of wood
- You've Made It - Let's See It!
- Items previously exhibited in the Village Show are **not** eligible for entry

SECTION SEVEN - CHILDREN'S SECTION

Judge: TBA Trophy: Clarkson Trophy

- A Lego Model
- Any item made from paper and/or card
- A decorated gingerbread person(s)
- An imaginary animal made from fruit and/or vegetables
- You've Made It - Let's See It!
- Age Groups: (4-6 years) (7-9 years) (10-2 years)

Putting together a show like this takes a great deal of time, effort, skill and commitment and the Show Committee are to be congratulated and thanked for all they do.

Why not go along, show your support, maybe put in an entry of your own, but at least see what's going on whilst enjoying tea & cake. You never know, YOU might win a trophy!

There were no entries in the Junior Quiz in Issue 110, or in 111 so the Editor has decided to give the quiz a rest for a while. *Let us know what you think.*

Contacts and information

Sunday Services PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

St Marys CE Parish Church, Church Lane @ 9.30am **ONLY**
 Mellor Methodist, Mellor Lane @ 10.30am
 St Mary's RC Parish Church, Osbaldeston @ 10.00am
 St Leonards CE Parish Church, Balderstone @ 9.30am **ONLY**
 St Leonard the Less CE Parish Church, Samlesbury @
 11.00am

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.

VILLAGE GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

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

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

Mellor Allotments: Meryl Rishton 01254 245460

Mellor Bowling Club: Gordon Livesey ????

Mellor Community Association (Village Hall):
 John Hymas 813282

Mellor Connections: Carolyne 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

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)

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

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

ANSWERS TO QUIZ 111:

1. Chicago 2. Al Gore 3. Grover Cleveland 4. Dallas
5. Jade Stanton 6. Ralph Nader 7. New York 8. Ronald
Reagan 9. Gerald Ford 10. Richard Nixon

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Wilson, of Glendale Drive,
WELL DONE AGAIN

The Quiz is taking a well earned rest this edition

MELLOR CONNECTIONS**Parish Update**

Mellor Connections has enjoyed another successful year and we now have around 95 members joining in various activities ranging from cake clubs to walking groups via garden parties and quiz nights. As well as the social side to what we do, Mellor Connections raises funds for a range of charities and good causes. This year we have supported The Northern Cleft Foundation and East Lancs Hospice and have, in total raised over £2500 this year and £8000 since we started in 2014.

The village scarecrow weekend was very successful and this summer we are planning an "Open Gardens" over the weekend of June 17th and 18th.

As well as a wide variety of gardens being open to the public we really hope that this year as many village residents as possible will enter into the spirit of the event by putting up window boxes, hanging baskets, planting out bare patches of ground or even decorating their gate posts with flowers.

We will be printing a map nearer the weekend highlighting participating houses/businesses - taking part is free and if you would like to join in and help make the village more colourful this summer we would love you to take part.

For more information about our open gardens weekend, or to let us know how you would like to be involved please contact **Carolyn Hymas** on 813282 or by email at barneyboobop@aol.com

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!

LITTLE ANGELS

Since the group started in 1998 we have continued to meet at 2.15pm in the Narthex on the last Tuesday of each month during school term time. We always have "time together" when we try to introduce stories from the Bible, say a prayer and sing a song as we think about "Caring", "Sharing", "Love", "Listening" or other appropriate topics. The children play with toys and the adults enjoy a chat with refreshments.

We continue to enjoy visits from the Day School children in July and December and are grateful to Mrs. Embley-Peers and Mrs. McPherson for their support.

Recently we have been pleased to welcome Sarah Earnshaw, the Early Years Advisor from the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education to our meetings. Sarah has injected new life into the group and we have all benefited from her knowledge, resources and enthusiasm.

All pre school children from birth onwards are welcome to join us each month with whoever is looking after them.

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 and help given by our friends in the congregation (especially Mrs. Norah Alcock)

With the invaluable help (in preparing refreshments) of Hilda & Gillian—and also Joan Venables who is always ready to step in to help.

Margaret Baldwin & Rita Gorman

Mellor Juniors Football Club

Currently we have 130 members from Under 7 to Under 18, playing

in East Lancashire Football Alliance, Central Lancashire JFL, Accrington & District JFL, and Lancashire Sunday Football league.

Our Under 6s are currently training in the Village Hall on Thursdays 6-7 pm in readiness to form the Under 7 team going forward next season

The enthusiasm and commitment of our Teams, Managers and Coaches has been rewarded with several teams winning promotion in their divisions and leagues.

For the first time we have a Mellor JFC team playing in the prestigious LFA Youth Cup Final.

Our Under 14s will play at the County Ground Leyland on March 19th, kick off 10.00 am. We hope that as many as possible, Club and local supporters, will be there to cheer them on!

Our Presentation Evening and Family Night will be held at the Camberra Club on Friday 21st April, when every player will receive a trophy, followed by Disco and supper.

The annual Festival of Football will be held on the 17th and 18th June, attended by teams from across the area.

Our Golf Day and Sporting Dinner will be held at Wilpshire Golf Club on Friday 15th September, with guest speaker Steve Daley and comedian Lea Roberts. All are invited to attend the Dinner or enter a team (4) to play on the Golf Day plus Dinner.

Enquiries/tickets available from Martin Smith 07973226645.

As always we wish to thank our sponsors, for their generosity in funding several team kits.

The pitches and grounds at Whinney Lane regularly attract compliments from visiting teams. We are grateful for the untiring effort put in week after week whatever the weather by our Groundsman Geoff McCann. Also thank you to local contractors Philip Dixon who undertake drainage and remedial work on our behalf.

Details of officers and managers are available on our website
www.mellorjuniorsfc.co.uk

Mellor St Mary CE (Aided) Primary School

Mellor St Mary CE Primary School is a vibrant, charming and good village school which I have, since September, had the pleasure of being the Headteacher of. 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, Macmillan Cancer, Blackburn Food Bank, Crohns and Colitis, Comic Relief and our own PTA / FOSMS.

Here is a brief update on life in school:

Admissions – We are currently ‘full’ and have a waiting list for some year groups. We are oversubscribed for September 2017 and have had a number of requests for in year places.

Breakfast / AfterSchool/ Pre 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 Hetherington-Fogg for After School and Pre School care.

Sporting Events – Already this year, School has taken part in a number of sporting events through the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Schools Partnership programme. We were runners up in the Accrington Stanley Football League Kids Cup and received a visit from Blackburn Rovers player Liam Feenay, as a result of taking part in a Blackburn Rovers School Football competition. We have also been successful in reaching the final of the Ribble Valley Gymnastic competition coming 7th out of 26 as well as taking part in Multi Skills and tag rugby competitions. Further cricket, netball, tennis and athletic events are planned for the Summer term.

School, Church and Community Events – We continue to build on our relationship with St Mary’s Church and have already taken part in a number of special occasion worship, including Education Sunday, Harvest, Christmas Nativity both in Church and Blackburn Cathedral, Anniversary Service, Ash Wednesday and Easter. We also open up our worship on Friday mornings to all parents and families who are able to share in this special time with us.

FOSMS – Friends Of Mellor St Mary has a new Chairperson this year and management committee who have already run a number of successful events including two school discos, Bonfire Night, two Father Christmas runs, a number of Raffles as well as supported the Church’s Autumn Fair and are busy planning future events including the Summer Gala and Autumn Ball.

School Website – We now have a new website which is mobile device friendly www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk and is full of interesting information, photos and news about school life.

This concludes the School Report for this year.

Mrs J.Embley-Peers (Headteacher)

Mellor Allotment Association

2016's harvest did reasonably well, some plots doing better than others.

Another growing season is about to commence for the Mellor Plot Holders. The time from mid March through to the beginning of June is the most active for sowing seeds and transplanting. Then, of course, it's a case of keeping the weeds at bay, monitoring the plants' progress and watching out for diseases such as blight and predators such as caterpillars.

Our latest plot holders who started in September 2016 were confronted with a much

neglected area and have worked very hard to clear it all and produce a plot ready for the coming season.

We have had a fairly mild winter, but thankfully we did get some frost which helps to kill off some bugs and breaks up the soil after it has been turned over.

The time is approaching when we will have to do some costly work on the perimeter fence as some of the posts have become rotten at ground level. It would only take a cow to take an interest in some of the produce to force an entry and cause mayhem!

At the time of writing we have a full complement of plots under active production with awaiting list of two, but if anyone would like to have their name added to the list, please contact the

Chairperson, Meryl Rishton

Tel. 01254 245460

INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

At the time of going to press, the only information supplied to The Editor is that a new Secretary (Gordon Livesey) has been appointed. **If you know more, please tell me!**

Mellor Guides & Hob Nobs

January 2016 was dominated by the "**The Musical Event**" participated in by everyone. Mellor Guides and Hob Nobs raised £225:00 for our chosen charities Help for Heroes and Cancer Research UK.

February 2016 We joined with others from the county to go to SPARK in London. The Senior Section Centenary year at Alexandra Palace.

May saw us joining with over 400 other Guides from across the North West for *Guides off the Grid – the ultimate outdoor challenge*. The girls

switched off all technology and were challenged get back to basics through a variety of different activities. The weekend finished with all members taking part in an 'Its-A-Knock-Out' challenge.

June 2016 With other Blackburn Guide units we walked the Midsummer Moorhen. Leaving from the visitor's centre at Tockholes, across fields and moorland to Darwen Tower and back: approximately 4.5 miles long and took slightly longer than planned. At each check point we completed a challenge and we **WON** the competition!

Outdoor adventures continue with summer evenings at Witton park, cooking on open fires, preparing our camping skills, and training other Guides in outdoor open fire cooking. We went to Camp in July 2016

Two Hob Nobs spent ten days in August in Armenia helping at an International Camp, seeing the sights and finding out all about the country.

They fundraised over £1500 each, and left behind all their camping equipment (deliberately) for local Guides to use in the future.

(continued on page 12)

Mellor Community Association

We've seen another year of consolidation and incremental development at the Village Hall. Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated committee, and the continued support of a large number of users I'm delighted to say that our finances are now at the point where we can, subject to successful grant applications, start planning for a number of major improvements including new heating, a new main hall floor and enhanced disabled facilities. We are also intending to refit the kitchen, paving the way for a larger flexible meeting space upstairs and work starts shortly on refurbishment of the outside tennis courts.

We are delighted that the hall continues to be one of the most used village halls in the area, hosting events every day except Sundays. We believe that our planned improvements can only broaden our appeal and will go a long way towards future proofing the hall for years to come.

We have welcomed 3 new active members onto our committee this year - Teresa Entwistle, Kevan Dean and Norman Roberts and their input, coupled with the countless hours put in behind the scenes by other committee members is making a real difference.

Mellor Guides (cont'd)

Mellor Baden Powell Guides went on their Baden Powell Adventure weekend to LiveltUp! (A unique Senior Section event in Liverpool.)

The rest of the autumn we were just as busy with

Mission Spectacular -bake 100 cakes for the Macmillan Coffee morning.

Leafleted the village for Defibrillator training courses.

Mini Olympics evening.

Ice Skating with Division.

Went to **The Clothes Show Live** in Birmingham.

Visited **Blackburn Fire Station**. Met one of our **local armed response policemen**. We were all trained as **local responders for the Mellor defibrillator by the ambulance service**.

Hob Nobs assisted as young leaders in our unit on a rota basis, and in other Brownie and Rainbow units. Running full evenings of activities that they had already tried and tested.

Leafleted the Village to advertise the Village Christmas Fayre.

Completed, planned and prepared for Mellor MCA Christmas Fayre Santa's Grotto.

Highlights in the year include the setting up of a thriving facebook presence, a brand new website carrying up to the minute news and information that you can find at <http://e-voice.org.uk/mellorvillagehall> and a series of new events bringing additional visitors to the hall and canvassing opinions and ideas from local residents as we aim to generate new footfall into what is, after all, everyone's village hall.

Our monthly "pop-up" cafe on the first Saturday in every month continues to be popular, our wildflower and native tree area is developing well and last Christmas we reintroduced our free village carol concert with Balderstone Brass Band and the Mellor Singing Group which saw nearly 150 people attend and which I believe will become once again a regular event in our village calendar.

Thanking everyone involved by name would take too long, and I would inevitably miss someone out, but it would be wrong not to thank our treasurer and bookings' secretary, Janine Foster, for all her tireless work and our holding trustees, Arthur Bibby, Arthur Sharp and Walter Thompson for sharing their experience and wise counsel.

John Hymas, Chairman
Mellor Community Association

Mellor Methodist Toddler Group

We meet on Thursday afternoons in term time from 1–3pm in the Methodist Church. You'll find a warm welcome at Toddlers, with children aged 0–5 with their parents, grand parents and carers. We have a range of toys to play with and a different craft to make each week. The children (and grown ups too!) enjoy our messy table with paint and playdoh. A healthy snack is provided each session, followed by singing time. The kettle is always on, it would be lovely to see you.

Mellor Guides (cont'd)

During this year we have also been trying to recruit new volunteers leaders as the current leadership team is retiring in July 2017. These efforts to find new leaders for Guides and Hob Nobs have proved fruitless. At the moment there are no volunteers to take on either Guides or Hob Nobs from September 2017.

If no one can be found then the units will close.

DO YOU WANT THIS TO HAPPEN? . If you would like to discuss this with me please call on 01254 580819