

# MELLOR Parish Council

[www.mellorpc.org.uk](http://www.mellorpc.org.uk)

Local News . . . Local

**Newsletter Issue No 114 May 2018**



Nick Marsden, Vice Chairman, Mellor Parish Council writes

***I would like to ask all the residents of Mellor to become involved in helping to stamp out (not literally) the “Dog Poo” problem In and around the village.***

We all know that the problem is caused by a ***minority of irresponsible dog owners*** who simply do not care about the environmental impact. Nor do they care about the health and well-being of their fellow residents. The aim of this article is to educate ***irresponsible dog owners*** and to inform them why they should always pick up after their dog(s), which will help to reduce the dog poo problem. I am particularly concerned about the mess left on open spaces, especially round the Village Hall, where children regularly play.

***Dog poo has a unique ability to attach itself to our footwear, clothing and, where children are concerned, their bare hands***

*Dog Poo—The Facts is on page 10, please read, then heed it!*

**Snippets from the Minutes!** (If you want to know more, see Mellor Library, Parish website, or come to Parish Council meetings, where you are welcome to join in at the start, when there is a session for the Public)

**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 can and where you live. This means grass cutting, no litter (or Dog Poo!), perhaps planting a tub, planter, window box or border, and will include the school, shops, hotels, churches, War Memorial, as well as houses and gardens.

### **POLICE MATTERS**

Unfortunately, due to financial constraints, our local Police Service is somewhat depleted. However, it should be noted 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**

### **MELLOR PLAY AREA UPDATE (or not much of one, unfortunately)**

**Drainage is a constant issue in Mellor**, it seems. Yet again as we go to press it is raining! Whilst this may be a case of the proverbial “April showers bring forth May flowers” it would be wonderful if the rain could stop for a few weeks! The funding is in place, and the contract was agreed months ago. **What is the hold up, you may reasonably ask.**

Drainage contractors, Philip Dixon Ltd cannot start the work until the ground is drier. This may seem a contradiction in terms, however, as they point out, when the ground is saturated new drains will settle unevenly. Parish Council & residents would not be happy with this & it would be unsuitable for installation of the new equipment.

**Rest assured, as soon as it is feasible, work will commence.**

### **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](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads)**

Alternatively you can email details to **[highways@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@lancashire.gov.uk)**

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

**Parish Council Membership**

Cllr Mr Bernard Murtagh (CHAIRMAN)	68 St Mary's Gardens	01254 813663
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
Cllr. Mrs. Dot Crooks	59 Mellor Brow	01254 812021
Cllr. Mr. Ian Moss	15 Hob Green	01254 813581
Mrs Teresa Taylor (Clerk)	6 Chatburn Avenue, Clitheroe BB7 2AU	01200 422607

**USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS:**

NIGEL EVANS MP

Constituency Address:

9 Railway View, CLITHEROE, BB7 2HA

tel: 01200 425939 fax: 01200 422904

email: [evansn@parliament.uk](mailto:evansn@parliament.uk)web: [www.nigel-evans.org.uk](http://www.nigel-evans.org.uk)**Lancashire County Councillor**

ALAN SCHOFIELD:

email [alan.schofield@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.schofield@lancashire.gov.uk)

mobile: 07876 844262

**Ribble Valley Borough Councillors**NOEL C WALSH: Bench Mark Barn, Elswick Lodge,  
tel: 01254 813365STELLA BRUNSKILL: Oulton, Myerscough Road,  
Mellor Brook, tel: 01254 812694email: [stellabrunskill@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stellabrunskill@hotmail.co.uk)**Parish Council Meetings for the next period**

Thursday 3rd May (Annual Council Meeting)

Thursday 7th June

Thursday 5th July

NO MEETING in August

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](http://www.mellorpc.org.uk) **You can also contact us by email at** [enquiries@mellorpc.org.uk](mailto: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 01200 422607

To view all planning applications for the parish, use the link below and insert Mellor for the location:

[www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/planningApplication/search](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/planningApplication/search)**ROUND & ABOUT IN MELLOR—****Note—**Parish Clerk has moved house to Clitheroe & there is a new phone number to contact.**A LOCAL RESIDENT IS CONSIDERING SETTING UP A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME—IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT PARISH CLERK FOR DETAILS****Mellor Village Hall has a new website have a look at** <http://e-voice.org.uk/mellorvillagehall> **to find out****Mellor War Memorial as the Centenary of Armistice Day approaches**

Much work has gone into cleaning the War Memorial area in the last year, including repointing the flags. Last spring a grant was sourced to enable planting of bulbs & shrubs. The Parish Council has now agreed a contract with a local landscape gardener to maintain the area, in readiness for commemorations at 11.00am on 11th November 2018 as a very poignant reminder of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Mellor Guides and Hob Nobs

## Jan 2017 – Dec 2017

Overall another busy Guiding year for 1st Mellor Guides and Mellor Hob Nobs .

In July 2017 the existing Guide Leadership team transferred to new leaders. Helen Adams took over from Hilary Wensley for responsibility for leading and running the Guide unit. Helen will be supported by Alice Eccles who is also a Mellor Rainbow leader and Gemma Gill. Hilary Wensley, Judith Gorton, Charlotte Hunt, and Rob Wensley continued with the Mellor Hob Nobs meeting on a fortnightly basis.

At the beginning of Feb Mellor Hob Nobs and Guides went to London!! An early train start to London off to the Science Museum, Natural History Museum before a flight on the London Eye. A quick brush up and out again to a nearby Italian before off to see The Woman in Black! Next day we saw Big Ben, Whitehall War Memorial for Women, and of course a visit into Downing Street and a cluster around the door for a photo, will one of us ever live there? Many other interesting sights to behold whilst in the Capital.

As part of NorthWest England Girlguiding World Thinking Day celebrations, NWE ran a competition for all units to join in the fun, and win an international-themed party! As a group, the girls had to write about Guiding on a global scale, and explore what it means for them to be part of an international organisation. The winners would each win all of the essential party items for their World Thinking Day celebrations. **Mellor Hob Nobs won the North West England Thinking Day Challenge for Senior Section**, so we celebrated World Thinking Day with a Sierra Leone African-themed Jungle party. They went on their very own safari with Mel Price, Assistant Region Chief Commissioner, and had a terrific time with their elephant piñata and trying out some tribal printing on tote bags

During April Mellor Hob Nobs created a Mellor Village Quiz for the Guides to enjoy, baked Cornish Fairings, Auntie Dot's biscuits and planned for a leader's Guiding Hen Party Night. Whilst this was going on the Guides did some basic map reading preparation.

Both Guides and Mellor Hob Nobs enjoyed an evening with Lancashire County Cricket. A chance to see if cricket is for you

May saw the long planned "Hen night" for one of the leaders who was getting married later in 2017. The key feature of the evening was really "the dress" and several designers were consulted to create a stunning selection of haute couture for the bride to choose from. We all also enjoyed a drumming evening with St Bartholomew's Guides.

**Baden Powell Challenge Awards 2017** : Several of our Guides successfully completed their BPs  
 Congratulations to: (and we all went out to celebrate !)

**Emily Snape, Tilly Daly, LeighAnna Mills, Felicity Woodward, Seren Armstrong, Jemima Markham**

**Bake Off** We held two bake off evenings. With the theme 'Today...' the Rangers decorated a cake to celebrate Svetlana Savitskaya in 1984 becoming The First Woman To Walk in Space, and the 951<sup>st</sup> anniversary of William of Normandy setting sail for the Battle of Hastings!

**In November** We had a pamper evening, face masks, pedicures, manicure, make up and hand massages. To find out how to do it properly we had a Body Shop visit afterwards.

Not wanting to do things by halves we also decided that a karaoke evening would be fun. For some it was OK, but for others definitely not their thing at all, too loud and flat was the verdict, no need to audition for The Voice!

### December

With the festive season we returned to a Bake Off! theme. Half of us baked Christmas cakes whilst the rest did some Christmas craft. Next meeting we all decorated the Christmas cakes. Some chose to stick with our Bake Off! theme of 'Today...', whilst others dreamt up... *Palestinian Penguins?*  
 Everyone had a good time, the cakes looked impressive and were even better to eat!

*Note from The Editor ; Sadly, due to the constraints of space, the article received from Mellor Guides has needed to be abridged. They are obviously very busy & sincere thanks to the Leaders. Just turning up is not an option—so much preparation & thought, as well as commitment has been done for each event to take place*

### 2018-19 Parish Precept

Mellor Parish Council has set the precept for the coming year at £14,656

(In 2017/18 it was set at £22,076, 2016 /17 it was set at £14,300)

This is therefore a drop in the Parish element of your Council Tax bill. This is because grant funding for the Play Area has been agreed, but following residents expressed wishes for more improvement, the Parish Council held capital reserves in place to achieve this

#### R.I.P. Canon Tony Dorran

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Canon Tony Dorran, who died peacefully on Thursday 22nd March 2018 at the Manor House Nursing Home, Chatburn in his 90th year.

Charles Anthony Dorran was born on 31st May 1928 in Oldham, was educated at St. Patrick's, Oldham, Christian Brothers, Dingle, St. Bede's College, De La Salle College & St. Mary's, Strawberry Hill. He attended All Hallows College Dublin, where he was ordained as a priest on 21st June 1953

He then served as Priest within Salford Diocese from 1953, but at Osbaldeston since 1994.

This gentle priest always cared about those who are lonely, & hopefully he may now Rest In Peace.

### MELLOR SURGERY

**A number of residents are, quite rightly, most concerned about the continued closure of the Surgery. Hopefully this may have been resolved by the time you read this, but the Parish Council shares your concerns & has been investigating.**

**It has been confirmed that the Oakenhurst Practice will continue to hold surgeries in Mellor—they signed a 5 year lease within the last year, proving their commitment. One of the Doctors also explained that as professionals they do not want any residents to miss their important, regular medical checks when medication may need adjustment.**

**The Doctors do understand that some residents are most reluctant to attend surgery in Blackburn, but would urge them to do, for now.**

**However, as residents may be aware, there has been an issue with the external building contractors who were carrying out repairs on behalf of Lancashire County Council (who own the building).**

**This has hopefully now all been sorted and Oakenhurst can get their own contractors on site to finish the internal works as soon as possible.**

#### SILVERLINE—What is it? Have you heard of it?

*The Silver Line operates the only confidential, free helpline for older people across the UK that's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.*

**The helpline number is: 0800 4 70 80 90.** We also offer telephone and letter friendship schemes where we match volunteers with older people based on their interests; facilitated group calls; and help to connect people with local services in their area. Our specially-trained helpline team: offer information, friendship and advice, link callers to local groups and services offer regular friendship calls. protect and support older people who are suffering abuse and neglect

#### **Who can call the helpline?**

We have no strict age limits but the people we speak to are over 55. So, if you think it's for you, **IT IS for you.**

## **MELLOR VILLAGE SHOW REPORT & NEWS**

The Village Show is an annual event held in Mellor Village Hall and is an ideal opportunity for villagers (and family and friends) to come together and celebrate local produce, arts and crafts. The 2017 Show saw many visitors and even more entries - there was a significant increase in the number of art and craft entries - displaying many amazing talents.

Plans are now under way for the 2018 show which will take place on Sunday 2nd September. As usual there will be classes for flower arranging, photography, home produce, garden produce, art and crafts and specific classes for childrens crafts etc.

Show schedules and entry forms will be available at Mellor Library and local shops, including Sanderson's Bakery and the Britannia Gallery, from early summer. (See a copy of the schedule 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.

**If you would like to help with the 2018 show or have any queries please contact -**  
M Nicholson on 814121 or D Crooks on 812021. [www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow](http://www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow)

Thanks to Parish Council for their support in publicising the Village Show

### **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 non-flowering plant
- An arrangement to depict 'Votes for Women' (Purple/White/Green)
- A floral arrangement to depict 100th Anniversary of end of the World War 1
- A miniature arrangement not to exceed: Height 10cm (4") Width 10cm (4") Depth 10cm (4")
- A floral arrangement inspired by Winnie the Pooh

### 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, any size
- 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 19-21) up to 3 of one variety
- 3 Seasonal Fruit - same 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 (See Rule 14)
- A Jar of Home-made Citrus Curd (See Rule 14)
- A Cottage Loaf
- A Quiche made with own pastry and filling of your choice
- 4 Cheese Scones
- 4 Chorley Cakes
- A Carrot Cake (Iced)
- 4 Pieces of Rocky Road

### SECTION FIVE - PHOTOGRAPHY

Judge: TBA Trophy: Shield Donated by D Johnson

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

- Subject: Grasses / Reeds / Bullrushes
- Subject: Texture(s)
- Subject: Reflection(s)
- Subject: Bird(s)

**Please 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
- Art (any medium)
- 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

- An imaginary Lego monster (not from a kit)
- Any item made from air dry modelling clay
- 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)(10-12 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!*

The Editor has decided to give the quiz a rest for a while. *Let us know what you think. Do you want it back? If so, please let Parish Council & Clerk know—contact details on page 3*

# Contacts and information

## Sunday Services

St Marys CE Parish Church, Church Lane @ 9.30am  
 Mellor Methodist, Mellor Lane @ 10.30am  
 St Mary's RC Parish Church, Osbaldeston @ 11.00am  
**NOTE NEW TIME**

St Leonards CE Parish Church, Balderstone @ 9.30am  
 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):  
 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

## LOCAL SERVICES

**POTHoles (Lancashire County Council)**  
 tel: 0300 123 6780 email: [highways@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@lancashire.gov.uk)  
**RVBC Emergency Number for nuisance problems, flooding, lost dogs etc. This is out of ours number, so Monday to Friday after 5pm & weekends 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

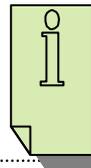
Blackburn branch: Central Library, Town Hall Street, BLACKBURN. Tel: 08442 451 293. email: [info@blackburncab.org.uk](mailto:info@blackburncab.org.uk)  
 Clitheroe branch: 19/21 Wesleyan Row, Parson Lane, CLITHEROE. Tel: 01200 428966. web: [www.ribblevalleycab.com](http://www.ribblevalleycab.com)

## 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:** 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**

tel: 0845 053 0011

### **Council Tax**

tel: 01200 414450

email: [ctax@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:ctax@ribblevalley.gov.uk)

### **The Dog Warden**

tel: 01200 414464

### **Planning**

tel: 01200 414499

email: [planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk)

**Police:** In EMERGENCY dial 999, otherwise 101

## MELLOR ALLOTMENTS

The Mellor Allotment & Gardens Ass. was formed on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1977,

An area of land, which had been purchased by Mellor Methodist Church for an extension to the graveyard, was let to Mellor Parish Council by the trustees of the church on a temporary basis for use as allotments.

The total area is 60ft x 258ft making a total area of 1752 sq yds which provides 8 plots each 60ft x 32ft-3” For the 2018 season there are 12 plot holders made up of 4 full plots and 8 half plots.

2017 was a reasonable year with a great variety of veg planted, some giving a good crop and others not. It’s all about the weather, what is required is, winter frosts, mild springs with some warm sunshine and light showers, lots of sun in the summer ending with dry autumn to allow crops to be lifted or picked and then a dry Nov/Dec to allow the all-important digging over the 195sq. yds. of a plot. (We can only hope)

At the time of writing there is a waiting list of 2, but if anyone would like their name to be put on the waiting list, please contact

**Meryl Rishton (Chairperson) on 01254 245 460**

### Be Scamwise (more on page 11)

Phone scams are on the increase & anyone can become the victim of a scam—they target people of all ages, backgrounds & income levels. However older people might be more susceptible as some scams often target people who live alone, are at home during the day, are willing to talk to the scammers, and might be more likely to have savings & valuables. Certain types of scam might be more targeted at older people ; studies found that 80% of phone scam victims were over 55 & 65% of doorstep scam victim were over 75.

A range of techniques may be used:

**Vishing** (voice fishing) - Caller poses as someone from a reputable organisation e.g. Your bank, asking you for personal details or to hand over money. This may be in the form of a text message to your mobile. **Protect yourself :** Don’t give out personal or financial details. Hang up & ring the organisation yourself—BUT REMEMBER the scammer will pretend to hang up, but keep the line open (using fake dialling tone) so you would still be talking to a scammer. **So, don’t assume a caller is genuine, use a different phone, or wait 20 mins to call the organisation.**

**Missed call scam**— Scammers may use an automated system to dial numbers very briefly, leaving a missed call on your phone. These are often from 070 or 076 numbers, **which are premium rate numbers & you will be charged a high rate if you call them back.** Scammers also send text messages to mobile phones, seemingly from an individual “trying to contact a friend”. **If you call them back, to let them know they have the wrong number, again you will be charged a high rate.**

### PROTECT YOURSELF

Contact the Phone-paid Services Authority if this happens to you **0300 303 0020 psauthority.org.uk**

If you weren’t expecting a call and don’t recognise the number **DON’T RING THEM BACK**

If you think a communication is fraudulent, **DON’T REPLY IN ANY WAY, EVEN TO BE REMOVED FROM A MAILING LIST**

## MELLOR JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

Mellor JFC continues to thrive, with teams playing in two leagues, East Lancashire Football Alliance and Central Lancs Football league, both playing on Sunday. Membership remains steady at around 100 playing members

We offer coaching every Thursday evening 6-7pm in the village hall, for Reception and Year 1 pupils. Basic football skills are taught by qualified coaches, leading to an opportunity to register and play for their village team, Mellor JFC.

Our teams train weekly on Whinney Lane in Summer and at various Astro venues and Sports Halls during the winter months.

At our recent AGM we were delighted to welcome several new faces taking responsibility in various roles. This brings new ideas, enthusiasm and added experience to the Club, which is run entirely by volunteers.

However we are pleased to report that Richard Lucas has remained as Chairman for another year.

Our thanks to team managers and their assistants, to our sponsors, and of course to the parents of the players for their ongoing support.

As always a special mention to our Groundsman Geoff McCann – the pitches and cabins are a credit to Geoff who gives generously of his time and labour to ensure that the pitches are as fit as possible in spite of (often atrocious) weather conditions. Thanks also to contractors Philip Dixon, who undertake remedial work when necessary –

### Social events to look forward to include:

#### Annual Football Tournament

#### Presentation Evening

#### Fund raising Dinner

Details and dates available on our website

[www.mellorjuniorsfc.co.uk](http://www.mellorjuniorsfc.co.uk)

Congratulations to Ribble Valley

Borough Councillor **Stella Brunskill**

(who is also a Mellor Parish Councillor.)

Stella has recently been appointed as Ribble Valley Deputy Mayor 2018 /19 & will therefore be

### Ribble Valley Mayor 2019/20

A great honour for a hard working Councillor

## *DOG POO—The Facts*

Dog poo is *not* a good fertiliser. *It's toxic to your lawn.* The high nutrient concentration in dog poo will burn and discolour grass which will take many months to recover. Pet waste is classified as a *dangerous pollutant* in the same category as toxic chemicals and oil. You may not live near water, but un-scooped poo is carried by overland and underground water flow or is washed into storm drains, ending up in distant river courses and ground water.

Pet waste can spread *parasites* including *hookworms, ringworms, tapeworms.* *It has been linked to Salmonella.* When infected dog poo comes into contact with your lawn, the poo may eventually disappear but *parasitic eggs contained within it can linger for years!* Humans risk infection when they come into contact with the contaminated soil through everyday activities like walking barefoot, gardening, playing, or even taking your shoes off after a walk!

Pet waste is full of *E. Coli* and other harmful bacteria including *faecal coliform bacteria*, capable of causing *serious kidney disorders, intestinal problems, cramps and diarrhoea in humans.* (According to research there may be as many as 23 million faecal coliform bacteria in a single gram of pet waste!)

Dog poo often *contains roundworm larvae, which causes blindness.* If a human ingests a roundworm larva, it can migrate through the body causing disease to the brain, lungs, kidneys, liver, heart or eyes. So when **people (especially children) touch soil, dog toys or anything that has been in contact with dog faeces and then touch their mouths, they can become infected.**

Dog poo doesn't just "wash away" or disappear. *So if you're not disposing of your dog's waste, you're putting others, yourself, your family, your dog and your water supply at risk.*

**Do dog owners want to see the following sign?**



SO IF YOUR DOG DOES A POO PLEASE

**BAG IT, TAKE IT HOME**  
**AND BIN IT**

## **Mellor St Mary CE (Aided) Primary School**

Mellor St Mary CE Primary School continues to be a vibrant, charming and good village school. We have over the last 12 months had a re design of our main entrance area which looks very modern and spacious. We also have a new school uniform which has been designed with the help of the school council and staff. Due to external financial pressures we now operate 5 classes of 30 pupils rather than 7 classes of 20. This has not reduced our intake overall, however it has meant that some children are taught in mixed age classes for the full day, rather than just the afternoon as done in previous years.

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 Children in Need, Macmillan Cancer, Blackburn Food Bank, Royal British Legion 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 2018 and have had a number of requests for in year places.

**Breakfast / After School/ 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 7 / 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 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 for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This year Messy Church has taken place in the school hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month. 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: a school disco, Mascaraed Ball, Bon Fire Night, two Father Christmas runs, Film night, a number of Raffles as well as supporting the Church's Autumn Fair . FOSMS are now busy planning future events including the Rose Queen Summer Gala and a Food Fest.

**School Website** – We now have a new website which is mobile device friendly [www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk) and is full of interest-

## Security dos & don'ts

**Door to door** should not be an issue, as Mellor is a “No Cold Calling” area but,

It's important to know if door to door callers are legitimate. They should call you first, (which is not always possible in an emergency situation, but) they will be able to give you a contact number to check they are legitimate & give you a description of themselves, so you have a better idea of expectations.

**ALWAYS** Ask for identification before letting anyone in

Check credentials eg their business address (at [www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company](http://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company)) before purchasing anything

Get personal recommendations when looking for reputable traders or search for one through Trustmark ([www.trustmark.org.uk](http://www.trustmark.org.uk) or 0333 555 1234)

Get at least two quotes from traders for anything like building work, & get a written contract before work begins

Put up a “No Cold Callers” sign to deter people

Consider getting a chain on your door or

fitting a door viewer

Check other entrances are secured BEFORE answering the door, as door to door callers can also try to distract you whilst an accomplice enters your home to burgle you.

### DON'T

Be pressurized into buying anything on the spot—ask for time to consider & shop around to check the price quoted is fair

Pay for any work, such as home maintenance or window cleaning, until its been completed & you are happy with it

Ring a phone number on their ID card to check who they are—look up the company in the phone book instead—fake business cards are only too easy to create nowadays, but they will appear genuine.

*REMEMBER This article is to advise you, not to scare you. If you know what may happen, you will be on your guard*

**Genuine** business people will understand any reluctance you may have to agree to any work without making your own checks. If they don't, perhaps you need to carefully consider why they don't understand.

**The old saying that things can be too cheap is still often the case, as it is that “There's no such thing as a free lunch!”**

## Avoiding & spotting scams

**Tips** One of the best ways to protect yourself is to arm yourself with knowledge of what a scam might look like. They often share common features, which may help you to recognise them. It may be a scam if

**You are contacted out of the blue** for example, you receive an unexpected message from a person or company you've never heard of, or it seems familiar, but you are asked for something unlikely.

### You are told to take action

Tight deadlines & “mind you don't miss out” type language are designed to pile on the pressure & stop you from thinking clearly. Scammers might try to make you panic by suggesting you will be at risk legally or financially if you delay.

**What it says is unlikely** If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. For example, you might be told you've won a prize draw you don't remember entering, or an offer of an investment opportunity with returns that sound improbably good.

**You are told to keep it secret**—be suspicious if you are asked not to tell anyone else, or told not to ring an organisation like your bank to check what you're being told is accurate. This can stop you sharing information with other people who might notice something suspicious.

**The communication is unprofessional** - bad spelling, grammar & overly familiar or odd language are common in scams. This is a deliberate tactic to target the most vulnerable people, who might not notice these errors. Scam communications might use vague or

unlikely contact details, such as a mobile phone number, a PO Box or an email address that's different from what might be expected.

**You're asked to pay money up front**— for example for goods or services that won't materialise, to release a non-existent prize they claim you've won, or to claim a non-existent inheritance.

**You're asked for personal or banking information** for example passwords, bank account information, 4 digit bank card PIN, or National Insurance number.

**A scam doesn't have to be all of these, and be wary as it may look genuine & professional.**

To test your scam spotting skills, try the online quiz [www.independentage.org/scams-quiz](http://www.independentage.org/scams-quiz)—**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER**

## *Mellor Community Association*

Over the course of the previous two years we have had to focus on strengthening our financial position and we are delighted to report that our balance sheet is now in the condition where we are able to start investing in the hall, kicking off a range of new developments and starting to refurbish the infrastructure.

The outdoor tennis court has been rejuvenated with the playing area resurfaced and a new net in place. At the same time a hard surface 5-a-side football pitch was also marked out. We've seen a significant increase in the number of people using the tennis court and the 5-a-side pitch, both of which remain free of charge.

We also built a small boules court and, with the warmer weather on its way, it creates a new addition to the leisure facilities on offer for all age groups at the village hall.

The trees planted in 2016/17 are coming along well, sadly we did have a small amount of damage but hopefully this will prove to be no more than one or two isolated incidents and the area will develop into a pleasant space for people to enjoy. Our "guerrilla gardening" friends have been busy planting native flowers in this area and elsewhere around the hall and our thanks go to them for their generous donations of bulbs, seeds and time.

New fencing has been put up to help control parking as well as improve aesthetics. Less obvious but no less important has been our spend on drains and potholes repair, labours as unremitting in Mellor as those of sisyphus!

We continue to suffer from the same issues that blight other parts of the village, namely litter and especially the small minority of dog owners/walkers who "think" that either

leaving dog mess where it lies or bagging the mess and then dumping the plastic bag on the car park, playing field or general waste bin are sensible or considerate things to do. My sincere thanks go to those who act responsibly and those who help by tidying up in and around the hall and grounds We've seen another year on year increase in both the number of hall users and the range of different events taking place. Our pop-up cafe on the first Saturday in every month has continued to develop and new activities in the year include table tennis, walking netball, an adult drama group, pickleball and archery, full details can be found on our website at

<https://e-voice.org.uk/mellorvillagehall>

Our open day was well attended and resident feedback along with our stronger financial position have provided two of the three key strands in securing 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding for the improvements planned in 2018. Work has started on a new entrance to the sports hall incorporating disabled facilities and, subject to funds, a new semi-sprung floor with air-source underfloor heating is planned for early summer. This programme of improvements will, when complete, also make the hall carbon neutral. My personal thanks go to our committee and especially Kevan Dean and Janine Foster for their untiring efforts in applying for and winning 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding.

Finally, but by no means least, thanks to everyone involved with the village hall either as a user, a committee member or a volunteer. Without each and every one of you Mellor simply wouldn't have this vibrant and popular community facility.

John Hymas

Chairman, Mellor Community Association

### **Mellor indoor Bowling Club**

Very sadly this past year we lost Claire Grimshaw and Barry Baldwin, both of them will be greatly missed. During the course of the year we have gained seven new members: . This has swelled our numbers to the present level of 33.

We continue to have two suppers during the year, in the summer and near Christmas. Both of these events have proved popular and are well attended.

The Club has a few places for new members. If you would like to try indoor bowling, you can attend up to three sessions before deciding to join. The first is without cost. We meet Wednesdays 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm and Fridays from 7.00 pm throughout the year. Please bring along some indoor shoes to change into (to protect a mat's playing surface).

You would be most welcome at Mellor Village Hall to have a go at bowling and partake of some refreshments.

### **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.

### **SPRING HAS SPRUNG**

Time to get on with those gardening jobs Water containers weekly—they do dry out!

Spray roses—water & a dash of detergent will help prevent aphid damage, 1 part milk to 10 parts water helps prevent mildew. Daffodils & tulips will benefit from a tomato fertiliser feed for next year's flowers

Fill in the gaps—perennials, shrubs, alpines, whatever you fancy!

**“The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before.”**

*Vita Sackville West 1892—1962*