

# Mellor Parish Council

## Your New Council

Cllr Mr Bernard Murtagh –  
Chair

Cllr Mr Nick Marsden –  
Vice Chair

Cllr Mrs Stella Brunskill

Cllr Mrs Dot Crooks

Cllr Mr John Hymas

Cllr Mrs Margaret Johnson

Cllr Mr Ian Moss

Cllr Ms Dani Murtagh

Cllr Mr Mick Venables

Cllr Mr Noel Walsh

## About Us:

Parish Councils are a vital first tier of local government with a variety of powers and duties that impact on the community we serve.

Additionally we are a means of representing our community with other bodies, such as Borough and County Councils.

Mellor Parish Council is strictly non-party political and your Councillors are here to represent you, not a political party.



Hello, and on behalf of Mellor Parish Council a warm welcome to this newsletter, our first since the local elections in May. As the make up of the Parish Council has changed and with three new councillors coming on board, we thought that as well as the usual updates, it would be useful to give some space for each Councillor to introduce themselves and explain in their own words what they intend to bring to your council and our shared community. Look out for these spotlights in this and future editions of our newsletter.

Meanwhile a full list of Parish Councillors is on the left, contact details for them and other useful contacts can be found on page 3 for your reference.

As you're probably aware there were 19 candidates at the Parish Council elections and it is heartening to see so many residents prepared to contribute their time and energy to the community. The number of candidates and the higher than average turnout shows the strength in our local democracy – something we are keen to build on over the coming months. Our thanks go to everyone who stood, and to everyone who voted in May.

PS Thanks to Shafiq Khan ([www.shafiqkhan.co.uk](http://www.shafiqkhan.co.uk)) for providing the photo of the Mellor Millennium viewing point.

## In this issue

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***Let us know if there's anything else you'd like to hear about from us.***



### How to make Elderflower Cordial

With summer (hopefully!) with us when you read this, we're grateful to our Parish Clerk for this timely recipe for a delicious cordial

Tip 3 lbs caster sugar into a large bowl, pour over 2.5 pints boiling water, leave to cool.

Add 25 elderflower heads, shaken but unwashed, in full bloom, 2 ounces citric acid & 2 sliced, unwaxed lemons.

Give it all a good stir, making sure to press the elderflowers in well.

Cover and leave for 48 hours, but stir from me to me.

Filter through muslin into clean, sterilized bottles. It will keep for several months in a cool place, but refrigerate once opened.

Serve diluted with water, or add to gin & tonic or a glass of prosecco.

**Please**, when you're out and about this summer always respect the environment; if you're picnicking take a bin bag to clear up, check the whole area for litter and take it home with you.

Around the village please use the bins provided and help us keep the Parish tidy.

## Message from Cllr. Bernard Murtagh (Chairman)

As I move into my 6th year on the Parish Council as Chairman, my reason for joining the council continues to be my wish to improve village life and help in any way possible.

In the last term I was especially pleased with the work that was accomplished from the long term projects we put in place for the War Memorial and the Children's Play Area, and I look forward to further developing these with my fellow councillors over the next 4 years, as well as looking to other areas within the community where improvements are needed.

I thank you for your votes and I would like to give my thanks to all the candidates that stood for the May election. I also welcome the new members to the council and believe the skills and energy they bring to the table will revitalise us and assist greatly in going forward.

However, the flip side of that means we shall miss the expertise and experience from a few of our long-standing members who have now stood down from the council. We owe a great deal of thanks to Pat Young, Alan Upton and Michael O'Grady for the considerable time they have each given over the years.

Never forget the council is here for you and please bring to our attention any problems, thoughts or ideas you have. You can attend any of the monthly meetings or contact us personally to bring your points forward.

## Have your say

If you would like to come along to any of our Parish Council meetings they are held on the first Thursday in the month, starting at 7pm in the Methodist Church, Mellor Lane (see page 3).

There is always a session at the beginning for members of the public to bring their ideas, suggestions or concerns, and barring exceptional circumstances you are welcome to stay for the full meeting if you so wish.

You can also contact the council by email at [clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk).

## Stop Press

As this newsletter was being finalised we were delighted to hear that LCC have agreed terms with an alternative provider to retain the 280 bus service linking Preston and Skipton. Thanks go out to RVBC and Cllr Alan Schofield at LCC for their support and to everyone who has petitioned to retain this vital bus service.

<b>Councillor Contact Details:</b>		
Cllr Mr Bernard Murtagh – Chair	68 St Mary's Gardens	813663
Cllr Mr Nick Marsden – Vice Chair	8 Glendale Drive	814215
Cllr Mrs Stella Brunskill	Oulton, Myerscough Rd, Mellor Brook	812694
Cllr Mrs Dot Crooks	59 Mellor Brow	812021
Cllr Mr John Hymas	34 Mellor Lane	07928 939228
Cllr Mrs Margaret Johnson	14 Mellor Brow	813638
Cllr Mr Ian Moss	15 Hob Green	813581
Cllr Ms Dani Murtagh	68 St Mary's Gardens	07833 444253
Cllr Mr Mick Venables	46 St Mary's Gardens	813562
Cllr Mr Noel Walsh	Bench Mark Barn, Elswick Lodge	813365
Mrs. Teresa Taylor (Clerk)	6 Chatburn Avenue, Clitheroe, BB7 2AU	01200 422607

Nigel Evans MP  
 email: [evansn@parliament.uk](mailto:evansn@parliament.uk)  
 web: [www.nigel-evans.org.uk](http://www.nigel-evans.org.uk)  
 tel: 01200 425939

#### **Ribble Valley Borough Councillors**

Cllr Noel Walsh  
 email: [cllr.walsh@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.walsh@ribblevalley.gov.uk)  
 tel: 813365

Cllr Stella Brunskill  
 email: [cllr.brunskill@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.brunskill@ribblevalley.gov.uk)  
 tel: 812694

#### **Lancashire County Councillor**

Cllr Alan Schofield  
 email: [alan.schofield@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.schofield@lancashire.gov.uk)  
 tel: 07876 844262

#### **Dates for future Parish Council meetings;**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November

You can also contact us by email at; [clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk)  
 or visit the new Parish Council website at; [www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk)

To view planning applications for the parish, type the link below into your browser and insert Mellor for the location:

[www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/planningApplication/search](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/planningApplication/search)

## Parish Information

### Sunday Church Services:

**St Mary's CofE Parish Church**, Church Lane at 09.30am

**Mellor Methodist**, Mellor Lane at 10.30am

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

**St Leonard's CofE Parish Church**, Balderstone at 8.30am & 10.30am

**St Leonard the Less CofE Parish Church**, Samlesbury at 11.00am

**Mellor Library** tel: 0300 123 6703

**Mellor Doctors' Surgery** tel: 617101

**Local Services: Potholes (LCC)** tel: 0300 123 6789 or email [highways@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@lancashire.gov.uk)

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

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

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

**Dog Warden** tel: 01200 414464

### Groups and Organisations:

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

**Little Angels**: Rita Gorman 812566 / Margaret Baldwin 812360

**Beavers / Cubs / Scouts**: Susan Middlemass 812642

**Rainbows**: LynnFish 813591

**Brownies**: Michelle Venn 812711

**Guides**: Helen email: [helendentith@btinternet.com](mailto:helendentith@btinternet.com)

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

**Mellor Allotments**: Meryl Rishton 245460

**Mellor Bowling Club**: Gordon Livesey 812140

**Mellor Connections**: Carolyn Hymas 813282

**Mellor Village Show**: Marjorie Nicholson 814121 / Dot Crooks 812021

**Mellor Village Hall**: Janine Foster 07561 538314 or email: [mellorvh@gmail.com](mailto:mellorvh@gmail.com)

**Luncheon Club**: Judith Marr 812741

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

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

### Book Club

Calling all book lovers!

There are a few book clubs already running in the village although they are pretty over-subscribed. If you're interested in starting up a new book club get in touch with Dani on 07833 444253.

### Facebook Groups

Residents have set up a couple of facebook groups serving the parish.

**Mellor and District Voices** is for general news and discussions

**Mellor Village Community Against Crime** aims to raise awareness of criminal or anti social behaviour.

To join either group log into facebook, search for the group name and click "join".

Do let us know if any of the above details are wrong, or if your group isn't listed and we'll be delighted to include details in the next newsletter.

## Chairman's Report March 2019

As we approach the end of yet another civic year, I am pleased to take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening on the Parish Council during 2018-2019. Including next month, the council will have met with members on ten occasions on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Methodist Church. All meetings are open to the public and residents of the parish are welcome to come along and raise any matters of interest they have during the public session.

Councillors have been kept busy throughout the year in matters relating to the general services for the village which has required close liaison with Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council amongst other agencies. Members were especially appreciative of the me given by RVBC Deputy Leader Cllr Atkinson and Chairman of the Planning Committee Cllr Brown for their attendance at our open meeting last August which served to allay concerns about a potential housing development within the village. With over 35 residents a ending, it was useful that a formal record of concerns raised by residents and the parish council was able to be compiled and submitted and we give our thanks to those residents for their time and effort. We are also grateful to County Councillor Alan Schofield who is a great advocate for the village and who continues to support the parish in much of our high- way issues, especially those relating to speeding and the improvement of our roads.

Investment in some items of village furniture created a few talking points over the year. One being the plaques inviting walkers to 'sit and rest a while' on the new and refurbished benches sited in and around the village, another being the View Point dial which has been replaced following damage during recent storms. Giving the telephone box on Mellor Lane a new lease of life has prompted plans for it to be freshly painted.

However, the largest investment this past year has been the renovation of the children's play area, which forms part of our long-term development of the area. The drainage took some time to complete while waiting for the right ground conditions, but the council hopes that the results from this work will be evident for many years to come, as will the inclusion of the new fencing which encloses the full area, a key feature chosen to address child safety.

Of course, the greatest part will be seeing the

enjoyment from the children and their families who will benefit from the new play equipment and safer open space. Amidst ensuring all the usual hedge trimming was undertaken, dealing with the problem of grass cutting on St Mary's Gardens also became a hot topic last year which took time to resolve, but the persistence of the council paid off when cutting recommenced, albeit towards the end of the summer.

As it seems with most years, the council is frequently called upon to address the issues surrounding dog fouling around the village, which always seems to be a case of the few not adhering to the standards of the many. We would again urge dog owners to act responsibly when out walking their dogs. Dog bins and general waste bins are available, as of course is taking it home to your own bin.

In a bid to tackle some minor of antisocial behaviour, cameras have now been installed at the village hall which appear to be working as a deterrent. The council was especially thankful to all those involved in this year's Remembrance Day Service. The working party led by Cllr Brunskill did a wonderful job in bringing together the local churches, schools and residents to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the 1st World War. In particular, thanks are given to Rev Jefferson and Rev Smith in the leading of the service, to St Mary School for hosting the event and to Mr Guilfoyle who was instrumental in the success of the beacon being lit to mark the occasion. Alongside general maintenance, further improvements to the War Memorial Gardens are considered by the council each year and making power and water available on site are currently a couple of options under discussion. If you have any suggestions or ideas of your own (these are not limited to the War Memorial Gardens!) please feel free to come along to the public session when we meet on the first Thursday of the month or get in touch with myself or any of the parish councillors. Hopefully the pick and mix I have included in this report will give a broad view of the issues that are dealt with by the council, but before closing I must give full recognition to each member of the council who tirelessly donate their time and skills in service of our community, along with thanks to the clerk in her role in administering the work of the council on our behalf and our local clergy who open the meetings. To each we owe our appreciations.

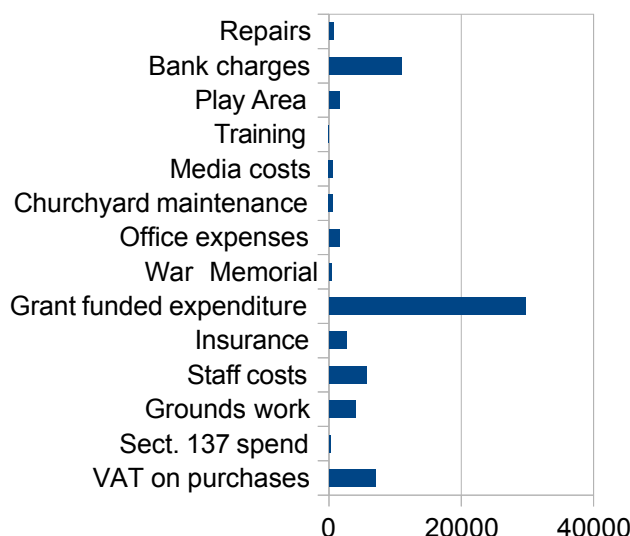


## How is your money spent?

The most common source of Parish Council income is the “precept” - the council's share of Council Tax. As a Corporate Body, the council can also look to other sources of funding such as grants and sponsorship to help implement its plans.

Really there is no “typical” year in terms of what our income is spent on as it is heavily dependent on the needs of the community at the time. We do however have regular office and staff costs (the position of clerk to the council is a salaried role) and we can usually assume there will be costs for repairs and minor refurbishments around the parish.

The accounts are independently audited each year and available for public inspection for a period at the end of each financial year. The chart below shows the areas of Parish Council spend last year.



Grant funded expenditure represents our investment in the children's play area – see Cllr Marsden's report on the next page to see the main sources of grants.

## Councillor Spotlight; Cllr Mrs Stella Brunskill

Stella has served as a Parish Councillor for many years as well as a Ribble Valley Borough Councillor serving on personnel, licensing, community, health and housing committees, and is the authority's children's champion.

This year she will also be serving as Ribble Valley mayor so is expecting a busy year representing the borough at functions across Lancashire.

During her tenure as mayor, her chosen charity is Veterans in Communities but she also intends to raise funds for local projects and organisations that promote community wellbeing.

Born in Ireland, Stella came back to her mother's county of birth in the 1950's. She is a magistrate and chairman of the juvenile bench.

Stella follows in the footsteps of Cllr Walkman who served the parish and borough for many years and was made an Alderman of the Borough. She can be contacted by phone on 01254 812694 or email her at RVBC where her email address is [cllr.brunskill@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.brunskill@ribblevalley.gov.uk)

## Get involved

There are so many things going on in our community and always more to do – from organising events to taking part in litter picking. If you'd like to get involved we would love to hear from you. Contact any Parish Councillor or email [clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@mellorparishcouncil.org.uk)

Mellor Village Hall Wildflower Area Update	Nick Marsden, Vice Chairman writes...
<p>The warm early summer weather has really encouraged the native meadow grasses to grow and we've already had to re-cut the paths through a couple of times. The fruit trees (apples, plums and cherries) are doing well. Although it's always a shame when the blossom falls there are already signs of fruits forming for an autumn harvest. The other trees are also doing well – the birches and rowans especially and we've also spotted a new oak sapling (maybe even now a squirrel is trying to remember where it put that acorn!) Sadly, we seem to have lost a couple of willow trees and these will be taken out as we think about what's best to replace them with (suggestions welcome).</p> <p>It's amazing the variety of wildflowers that has started to appear as we've left the area largely to "do it's own thing". We've had some generous gifts of native wildflowers from residents and those, along with mother nature, mean we now have the start of a bee and wildlife friendly area that should only get better over the coming years.</p> <p>We'd love to know from you if you spot any additional flowers to the ones we've seen so far this year. Here's our list but let us know if you can add to it;</p> <p>Snowdrop; Buttercup; Cranesbill; Milkmaids; Yellow Rattle; White Deadnettle; Honesty; Cow Parsley; Daffodil; Daisies; Primrose; Periwinkle; Teasel; Bluebell; Forget-me-Not; Foxglove; Snakes Head Fritillary; Knapweed; Bistort; Cowslip:</p> <p>Unsurprisingly, as the mix and quantity of flowers increases and we let the grasses grow taller and set seed, all sorts of insects and other wildlife are being attracted into the area. Bees, butterflies and dragonflies are starting to appear in greater numbers and the other day we even had a frog enjoying the sunshine!</p>	<p>Understanding the workings of Mellor Parish Council is probably very low on the "to do" list of most residents. However there has never been a more challenging time for councillors given the spending cuts forced on Local Authorities in recent years.</p> <p>In Mellor, the PC raises funds through a precept to provide local services and enhancements not covered by RVBC or Lancashire CC but may also apply for grants and was recently successful in raising over £30,000 from Lancashire Environment Fund to improve the play area. Additional funds were secured from RVBC, Thwaites, BAe, Wincanton Haulage and LCC Parish Champion for which we are extremely grateful.</p> <p>In the future, the PC may have to step in to help to protect local services such as the Library, the Doctors Surgery and local bus services. All this creates extra demands on councillors and clerks. That said, councillors cannot do everything. Mellor also relies on a host of volunteers and organisations to run clubs and societies. Then there are volunteer litter pickers and the "Guerrilla Gardeners". The Village Hall, whilst owned by the PC, is run as a charity by a committed Executive Committee who have recently completed an impressive upgrade to the building and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. Please make use of this tremendous facility.</p> <p>The PC also comments on local planning matters and acts as the eyes and ears of the community. Recently an open meeting was held to discuss how the village may be affected by the drive to build more houses. Those of you who went to the meeting received assurances from the deputy leader of RVBC that Mellor was not included in current plans for any major development.</p> <p>None of business of the PC can be achieved without a highly motivated clerk. Our Clerk has years of experience, advising councillors on procedural and legal matters as well as building a good working relationship with outside bodies.</p> <p>As councillors, we must be prepared to defend the precept and flag up the Council's achievements. We must make ourselves available, wherever possible, to listen to the views of parish residents, taking forward legitimate concerns such as speeding. As a body and individually we must communicate effectively with other similar organisations, service providers and external bodies such as the police.</p> <p>As members of the PC, my colleagues and I are keen to discuss those matters which are important to you. So please feel free to email the Clerk, attend the PC meetings or contact any councillor. We have put ourselves forward to serve the community of Mellor and Mellor Brook. So please help us to support you.</p>

**A date for your diary!** The Mellor Village Show is on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September, look out for entry forms in the shops in the village. Meanwhile, to help you plan your entries here are the categories for this year's event;

<p><b>SECTION ONE - FLOWERS &amp; PLANTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Rose</li> <li>2. A Vase or Bowl of Roses (Up to 5 blooms)</li> <li>3. A Vase of Sweet Peas (Up to 9 blooms)</li> <li>4. A Vase of Dahlias (1 - 3 blooms)</li> <li>5. A Bowl of Floating Flower Heads</li> <li>6. A Vase of mixed flowers without added foliage</li> <li>7. A display of 5 Fuchsia heads (mounted)</li> <li>8. A perfect but lonely flower in a vase</li> <li>9. A vase of 3 Hydrangea flowers</li> <li>10. 3 stems of Chrysanthemum</li> <li>11. A Flowering Plant</li> <li>12. A single Cactus or Succulent or a display of Cacti / Succulents</li> </ol> <p><b>SECTION TWO - FOLIAGE &amp; FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. A non-flowering plant</li> <li>14. An Autumn arrangement to include fruit and/or vegetables</li> <li>15. A floral arrangement in an unusual container</li> <li>16. A miniature arrangement not to exceed: Height 10cm Width 10cm Depth 10cm</li> <li>17. A floral arrangement with a 'Harry Potter' theme</li> </ol>	<p><b>SECTION THREE - FRUIT &amp; VEGETABLES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. 3 Tomatoes - any variety</li> <li>19. 3 Potatoes - any variety</li> <li>20. 3 Onions - any variety, any size</li> <li>21. 3 Root Vegetables - tops to be left on</li> <li>22. A collection of fruit and / or vegetables - 4 kinds (3 of each)</li> <li>23. Any other vegetable (not covered by classes 19-21) up to 3 of one variety</li> <li>24. 3 Seasonal Fruit - same variety</li> <li>25. 1 Lettuce (root on)</li> <li>26. 4 Different Herbs (displayed in a vase or jar)</li> </ol> <p><b>SECTION FOUR - HOME PRODUCE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27. Home-made beer, wine or country spirit</li> <li>28. A Jar of Home-made Jam</li> <li>29. A Jar of Home-made Citrus Curd</li> <li>30. Focaccia Bread</li> <li>31. 5 cocktail size sausage rolls</li> <li>32. 4 Sweet Scones</li> <li>33. 5 Ginger Biscuits</li> <li>34. A Coffee and Walnut Cake</li> <li>35. A Malt Loaf</li> </ol> <p><b>SECTION FIVE - PHOTOGRAPHY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36. Lancashire Landscape</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37. Funniest Photograph (with caption)</li> <li>38. The Seashore</li> <li>39. Weather</li> </ol> <p><b>SECTION SIX - CRAFTS (ASSORTED)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40. An exhibit of tapestry, hand embroidery or cross stitch</li> <li>41. Any item made from paper and/or card</li> <li>42. A hand knitted or crocheted item</li> <li>43. Hand-painted ceramic or pottery</li> <li>44. Art (any medium)</li> <li>45. You've Made It - Let's See It!</li> </ol> <p><b>SECTION SEVEN - CHILDREN'S SECTION</b>  <b>Age Groups: (4-6 years) (7-9 years) (10-12 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46. A poster for 'Healthy Eating'</li> <li>47. An imaginary animal made from fruit and/or vegetables</li> <li>48. Small pizza base decorated as a 'Face'</li> <li>49. A collage of a beautiful butterfly</li> <li>50. You've Made It - Let's See It!</li> </ol>
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Putting together a show like this takes a great deal of time, effort, skill and commitment and the Show Committee is to be congratulated and thanked for all it does.

### **Councillor Spotlight: Cllr Danielle Murtagh**

Dani has a background in further and higher education, she currently works in the planning department of a local University, is on the governing body of a new high school and volunteers at one of the village Sunday schools.

She says "Firstly a huge thank you to everyone who voted for me, it's a privilege to have been elected and I look forward to working with both the Council and all of our community over the next few years.

Having grown up in Mellor I'd like to see the Council engage more with residents, so that we can work together on the things that we as a community feel are important to us. Whether that be campaigning to get the Borough/ County Councils to provide more funding for dog wardens or better traffic calming measures or coming together to organise village events; social activities for our children or to keep our roads and shared spaces clean and green.

Please do get in touch to let me know if there's anything specific you would like us to work towards or any issues you'd like to raise."



**Councillor Spotlight:  
Cllr John Hymas**

After senior management roles in both the public and private sectors and consultancy, John retired 6 years ago and is actively involved in village life.

John writes; "I've lived in Mellor for over 30 years having initially been smuggled across the border from Yorkshire and somehow never wanting to go back.

I would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to vote at the recent local elections. I take the trust placed in me and every Parish Councillor very seriously and look forward to serving our community.

My ethos is that we must work together at creating what I'm calling "a kinder community".

To me this means being kinder to our environment (cutting down on waste, reducing our carbon footprint, and ensuring land is used appropriately), and being kinder to each other (tackling anti-social behaviour be it speeding, littering, or petty crime and by encouraging others to invest, and work together, in improving the community we all share).

We must start and maintain real dialogue between the Parish Council and residents, to develop a shared plan covering a wide range of issues such as housing, the local economy and transport.

Once we know what the community wants we will be in a much better position to argue for the resources needed to deliver, and to identify where the responsibility for delivery lies, be it at County, Borough, Parish Council or individual level."

**Mellor St Mary Primary School Update**

We are pleased to report that Mellor St Mary continues to be a thriving and successful school with full pupil roll across all ages. We continue to develop our outside learning spaces which includes planting 240 saplings around the field and forest school areas. The EYFS outside learning area has been redesigned with artificial grass, rubber pathways and a selection of natural learning stations and through the kind donations of FOSMS we have had an outside classroom built on the old Teepee site. In order to protect and keep our new areas safe and secure we are in the process of replacing our external fencing to a more secure but in keeping fencing and gate system.

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, Save the Children, Blackburn Food Bank, Royal British Legion, Bishops Harvest Appeal 2018 and our own PTA / FOSMS.

Breakfast and After School groups continue to thrive 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. Unfortunately this year preschool has not been run due to low numbers.

The school has taken part in a number of sporting events through the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Schools Partnership programme. Unfortunately our PE lead Mrs McPherson has been off school, so we have not been able to compete in as many events as we would have liked.

We continue to build on our relationship with St Mary Church and have already taken part in a number of special occasion worships, including Education Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas Nativity both in Church and Blackburn Cathedral and we are planning our Easter Stations of the Cross Service with Rev Roland on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April and Resurrection Service on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. This year we have started a BLAST club (Believing, Learning and Sharing Together) on the first Tuesday of each month. The biggest combined event this year, was the Remembrance Weekend and a huge thank you goes to Balderstone and Osbaldeston schools for helping us prepare the wonderful displays and a multimedia presentation to remember all those from our local villages who died in the great war.

Friends Of Mellor St Mary continues to go from strength to strength and for regular updates about the school our website is [www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk).

Mrs J.Embley-Peers (Headteacher)

### Local Policing

Have you met our Community Support Officer PCSO 7143 Caroline Pemberton?

If you have anything to report or discuss with our local police call 01200 458766 or email RibbleValley.NPT@lancashire.pnn.police.uk.

### Keeping your property secure

It's the time of year when we start to think of sunnier climes.

Unfortunately this can leave our homes vulnerable.

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

Using timer-switches to turn your lights and radios on and off when it goes dark.

Cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries whilst you're away.

Use Royal Mail's 'keepsafe' service - they keep your mail for up to 2 months while you're away. Mail sitting on your doorstep is a sign that you are away.

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

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

### Rose Gala

The gala began with the Rose Queen service in church and Canon John introduced the retiring Rose Queen Emilia as well as visiting Rose Queens for other parishes.

Congratulations to Emilia for raising over £2000 for The National Deaf Children's Society.

Mrs Emberley-Peers then crowned Jessica as Rose Queen for 2019, her charity is The Christie Charitable Fund.

Inclement weather led to cancellation of the village Procession so the Jam Factory played in church before the gala in school.

Thanks to Zohra, the FOSMS chair and everyone else involved in making the event such a success.

### Mellor and District Community Association

The Village Hall continues to be well used with every evening taken, mornings on 5 days out of 7, and afternoons 2 days. The meeting room and balcony are also in use most evenings. We also get lots of requests for birthday parties at weekends. In addition we have put on various events through the year and the "pop up cafe" on the first Saturday of each month is well attended. We were delighted to reintroduce the village christmas concert with Balderstone Brass Band and are in our 20<sup>th</sup> year of supporting the annual MacMillan Coffee Morning. See more at <https://e-voice.org.uk/mellorvillagehall>

### Indoor Bowling

With sadness we heard of the passing of Chris Walton (who had been secretary of the club for many years) and of 'Trish' Whatmough.

With new members Kevan and Julie Dean joining we now have 32 playing members and have introduced non-playing membership so that those who, through injury or age, cannot play know they are still welcome at the club for a cuppa and a chat.

Ingrid Price and Tony Dixon won the Christmas pairs competition with Martin Howarth and Margaret Baldwin runners up. Margaret Lonsdale and Gordon Livesey won the Doubles League with Marjorie Ashurst and Tony Dixon as runners up. The Bernard Garlick Memorial Trophy final will be between Margaret Lonsdale and Irene Graham.

New members are welcome and if you would like to try indoor bowling, before deciding to join, you can attend up to three free sessions. We meet Wednesdays 2pm to 4pm and Fridays from 7pm throughout the year at Mellor village Hall. Please bring along some indoor flat soled shoes to change into.

Joan Moss is now Chair with Gordon Livesey Secretary and David Bedford Treasurer. If you are interested in playing then just turn up on Wednesday afternoon or Friday evening or contact the Secretary on 01254 812140.

## Mellor's iconic telephone kiosk refurbished



### Councillor Spotlight: Cllr. Noel Walsh

Noel has lived in Mellor for 41 years and therefore knows the parish well. He has been a Member of Mellor Parish Council for 23 years, serving as chairman from 1999 to 2007.

He also represents Mellor Ward as a Ribble Valley Borough Councillor serving on several committees.

He is a sidesman at St. Mary's Parish Church in Mellor.

Away from Mellor, he enjoys watching cricket, especially Lancashire County Cricket, and is a supporter and season ticket holder at Blackburn Rovers F.C.

Two local residents (Parish Councillors Ian Moss and John Hymas) have cleaned and repainted the telephone kiosk on Mellor Lane. Seen here finishing off the job with the official "Post Office Red" paint supplied by BT.

Cllr Hymas said, "Ian has done a fantastic job tidying up parts of the village and I was happy to help him with this particular project in time for the "Best Kept Village" judging. Councillor Nick Marsden contacted BT and sourced the correct paint so now we have the kiosk back to looking it's best – and by the way yes, the phone does still work!"

The kiosk is one of the few remaining in operation in the Ribble Valley although there are some that have been saved by the community and converted into a wide range of uses from housing Public Access Defibrillators to mini greenhouses.

Older residents might well remember when this one was used as the business phone for the butcher's shop with customers ringing in their orders to the phone box and someone had to run out of the shop to answer it!

### Councillor Spotlight Cllr Mick Venables

Mick Venables has lived in Mellor for many years, and has lots of experience with community issues. In the past he has served as a Parish Councillor & been Chairman of Mellor Village Hall. He has no political thoughts, but is here for the village of Mellor and its community.

Mick worked at BAe for 32 years, undertaking many tasks and roles including logistics, purchasing and as a team leader. He also has many years experience in the motor trade and uses lots of time volunteering for Mellor community.

Mick now works as a Site Supervisor at Mellor CofE Primary School. He likes sport, especially football and is a keen motor cyclist.

### Councillor Spotlight: Cllr. Margaret Johnson

Many of you will know and recognise Margaret, but you may not all know she is a life long Blackburn Rovers supporter!

She likes all forms of sport, but also enjoys reading (she is a members of two book clubs) and singing (she is also a member of a local choir).

A retired lecturer, Margaret is interested in all historical matters, and she also acts as Tree Warden for the Parish Council.

Whatever it is, we want to hear from you and look forward to meeting with as many residents as possible over the coming months. Meanwhile, if you have any suggestions or thoughts drop us a line by completing the form below and dropping it off with any of the parish councillors listed on page 3 of this newsletter. You don't have to give us your contact details if you don't want and any details you do provide will be held securely and only used to contact you about the issues you raise.