



Welcome, all round the Green!

Round The Green is a community newsletter produced three or four times a year. A special welcome to all new residents in and around Hurst Green, especially residents on The Warren and in Clough Cottages (the Eagle & Child). This edition of Round the Green has been sponsored by Stephen Clarke in memory of his mother Helen Clarke a long time resident of Hurst Green who sadly passed away last year.

Become a Friend

A great way to support the Village Hall is by joining the 'Friends' scheme. Thanks to all who pay by standing order. If you need to renew your annual subscription or would like to join, contact Agnes on 826559. It costs £10 each or £20 family membership for a year.

Village goes green to keep warm

Peter Butterfield writes about good news for the Memorial Hall.

The people of Hurst Green and the surrounding parish are celebrating the final piece in the financial jigsaw which will, at last, solve the heating problem in their village hall – and enhance their green credentials into the bargain.

The Big Lottery has confirmed that it will donate £81,500 to provide ground source heating for the Memorial Hall. With close on £56,000 being raised from local fund-raising functions and pledged by other grant funders, work is now underway.

The hall was self-built by the villagers back in the sixties and was beginning to show its age. There is still a lot of emotional investment in the hall, which was built to honour the war dead from the parish, so, two years ago, a project group consisting of members of the parish council and the village hall committee was formed to draw up plans to bring the hall into the 21st century.

“We held a consultation exercise with the villagers to work out what was the best plan for the hall,” said Niall Macfarlane, the chairman of the village hall committee. “We put forward all sorts of ideas – even the possibility of demolishing the hall and rebuilding elsewhere. Finally, it was decided to refurbish the hall to make it fit for purpose again. The biggest issue was the heating – in winter it can get really cold and draughty – but the roof was the most pressing problem. The concrete tiles were deteriorating and leaking in places so we decided that it should be the priority and we made it phase 1, the heating is phase 2, refurbishment of the interior, covering the changing rooms for our village football club is phase 3(a) with upgrading of the kitchen and mezzanine floor and a lift for the disabled as phase 3(b). We even have a phase 4 but that’s way in the future.

“When we roughly costed the plans and informed the parishioners that we were looking at raising in excess of £300,000 there were many who said it could not be done. Well, we are well on our way, thanks to our two sterling grants gurus, Barbara Herd and Margaret Carrington, who have put in a staggering amount of work to source grant funding. Up to now they have brought in grants of more than £200,000.” Local folk have also pitched in with fund raising through bingo sessions, donating raffle prizes and holding mini auctions and the roof was completely replaced last year at a cost of £72,000, raised through grant aid and the local fund raising.

A total of £137,000 was needed for the heating and, in 2018, the Big Lottery was approached.

“They said that if we were successful, and that was by no means certain, they would not be able to fund the £56,000 needed for the heat pump itself,” said Margaret. “So we had to approach other funders and raise money from local people – then of course we were hit by lockdown. Happily, we got lots of support and we have been able to source the £56,000 needed.”

Margaret and Barbara are particularly proud that **The Big Lottery**, when awarding their grant, congratulated them on a ‘really good bid’ which ‘had covered all the bases’.

Grants for the heating work, in addition to The Big Lottery, have come from:

Garfield Weston, The BA Carbon Fund, Bernard Sunley, Ribble Valley Borough Council, The Harold and Alice Trust, The Craven Trust, and The Duchy of Lancaster.

A site meeting has already been held between the contractors and a local farmer, who is doing the ground works for the heating coils to be laid under the Bailey Field behind the hall, and excavations will start in the next few weeks.

Margaret and Barbara are not resting on their laurels. They are working hard on securing the £55,000 for phase three (a). “We are on a roll, we will do it. Then we will move on to the kitchen and mezzanine floor,” said Barbara.

For more information Peter Butterfield on 01254 826308, or 07895625897 or email; peter.r.butterfield@gmail.com

What a year it has been with so many of our village institutions and organisations closed or operating under special measures. Coupled with this we welcome new faces from The Warren , Clough Cottages and other homes which have changed hands. With this in mind we invited some of our organisations to introduce themselves and /or update us.

A St John's welcome from Brian McConkey

Welcome to Hurst Green especially if you are new to the Village.

I very much enjoyed speaking to those who have moved into the new homes in the Village when I dropped off Christmas cards. St John's is an Anglican Church with much closer links with St Peter's and St Joseph's than perhaps we had in the past. Fr Curtis and myself speak regularly and particularly enjoy it when we can worship together. In normal times this happens around 3 times a year.

Hurst Green is under the jurisdiction of Blackburn. In 2017 a new group of Churches were formed namely Hurst Green, Mitton and Ribchester. I was and am very privileged to be the 1st Vicar of these group of Churches.

What is unique about St John's.

For me there are 3 main things that are important to us: Firstly we are an Eco Church and have been recognised as such. This means that we care for God's creation through our Worship, buildings, land, community engagement and individual lifestyle. This expresses itself in many ways. We have a managed Churchyard for wildlife to prosper. We support renewable energy. We are a Fairtrade Church and encourage the buying of Fairtrade products. We have a unique composting toilet. Secondly some would say that in the truest sense of the word that we are Protestant. The word protest would be part of our Mission. What do I mean? Wherever there is injustice in the world we are happy to make a stand. We support the rights of Children and Young people through support of the Children's Society. We will defend the poorest in our world through Christian Aid and ecumenically with CAFOD. Our annual Carol singing supports the charity Thomas in Blackburn which supports the most vulnerable of young people. Thirdly like many Village churches we are small in number but large in heart. I would like to think that any newcomer to St John's would find a warm and inclusive welcome.

Finally we live in strange times and sadly public worship is not happening.

We have a weekly electronic mailing:

If you would like to receive it please mail me on: canonbrianmconkey@btinternet.com As Vicar I live in Ribchester Rectory and can be contacted on : 07973740981

We are fortunate at present to have a Curate who lives in the Village

Her name is Rev'd Karen Herschell and lives in the Vicarage near Church. Her number is 07891 915671.

Little Hobbits Parent and Toddler group, update by Mags Allanson.

Every Thursday morning during termtime, the Hurst Green Hobbits Playgroup meets in the Memorial Hall from 9:30 to 11:30. The spacious hall gives plenty of room for the children to play with a wide range of equipment, such as a toy kitchen, Duplo, slides, ride-on toys, and a train set. Volunteers kindly help out each week with serving teas and coffees to the adults and snacks and drinks for the children. Some weeks, a craft table is also on offer. Everyone is welcome at this very friendly group.

We managed to stay open during the Tier 3 restrictions by following all the recommended precautions, but unfortunately we have had to close temporarily during the full lockdown. As soon as that is lifted we will reopen, as it is valuable for both the kids and their parents or grandparents to get out and enjoy themselves together.

Join our Facebook group to stay up to date: search for 'The Hobbits Baby and Toddler Playgroup'.

The Catholic Community in Hurst Green update by Fr Tim Curtis SJ

We are alive and flourishing, despite ten months of living with Covid. Thankfully, under the current lockdown, churches may open and it is a valid reason to leave your home to attend a church service. Sadly, since March, we have not been able to use the St Joseph's chapel in the heart of the village. This space cannot be made covid-secure, so will remain closed until social distancing restrictions have eased. So all of our services take place in St Peter's, Stonyhurst, which is large and well ventilated and can safely accommodate our worshipping community.

Our parish website has also proved very popular as a resource hub for those who do not wish to come out to church. The current newsletter lets everyone know what is happening and we also post the Sunday homily and prayers. Currently we are live-streaming the 11am Mass from St Peter's both for Stonyhurst students and parishioners. The pandemic has forced us to become creative. Many enjoyed our "drive-in" Mass on Christmas Eve.

My sadness is that I am not able to visit those who cannot come to church, but remarkably, staying at home has helped many people deepen their faith. There are many events that have not been adequately celebrated, so we long for the time when we can safely meet together in church again.

Niall MacFarlane updates us on the Memorial Hall in lockdown.

Like many community organisations, during the pandemic the village hall has had to suspend its regular bookings (W.I., Youth Group, Fete Day) suffered intermittent bookings (footballers, playgroup, fitness classes, St Joseph's sport afternoons) and the cancellations of commercial bookings: weddings, celebrations, fund raising events. We have had to adopt different ways of running the permissible bookings with updated protocols, enhanced cleaning policies, safer practise, and responding to the tier changes as decreed by the national government. Back in April, we were considerably helped with a £10k grant delivered by RVBC which allowed us to pay the Spring 2020 quarterly utility bills despite the greatly reduced income. But the pandemic was also the stimulus for the hall committee to make changes: clean and polish throughout the hall rooms, tidy up the space use at the back of the stage, (the footballers were also pro-active with their changing rooms), re-pointing of the west facing hall wall, install internet access, launch our hall website. Not to mention the new roof and of course the great news about the heating (See front page!)

In addition we bought a redundant bar set-up from the New Drop and this has been beautifully installed by Des Harwood aided by Peter Butterfield and John Taylor. We have plans to modernise the sport changing rooms, the Gents toilets, replace the electrics in the kitchen and install a lift as part of the plan and then build a conservatory on the Bailey Field side of the hall.

I am very grateful for the efforts of the committee, the fund-raising sub-group who have been tenacious in their efforts – both locally and nationally! The whole committee looks forward to welcoming back the community to the hall in the numbers which it can support as soon as we are able. We welcome any suggestions and ideas: now is the time to let us know!

Bowl up for happier times. *Paul Garstang introduces readers to the Bowling Club.*

Mental Health and physical wellbeing are priorities for us all at present, and as we emerge from our recent troubles it will be extremely important that we re-connect and take advantage of our long awaited freedoms.

Exercise and sport can play an important part in this process regardless of our age. Crown Green Bowling has been a pastime enjoyed as part of village life for a generation now, and the Bowling Club is preparing once again to welcome back players just as soon as it possibly can.

Tucked away behind the village hall is a beautiful green and clubhouse run by a small team of volunteers. Bowling is a delightful mix of exercise, conversation tea and cake, and it is completely up to you just how much of each ingredient you choose to add. The bowling green would usually open around the middle of March, for a bowling season which lasts until the end of September. This year I suspect it will be a little later before we can open the doors, but once we do Hurst Green Bowling Club would like to invite one and all to come down, make some new friends or catch up with those not seen for a while.

The green is open for casual play each and every day, and this is supplemented by 4 teams, which take part in various local bowling leagues. Weekends during the summer also see a number of friendly competitions for club members, in other words it's a pastime into which you can decide how little or much you want to participate. There really are very few more relaxing places to be on a sunny day, than sat around the bowling green with friends and that all important slice of cake!

For further information please see hurstgreenbowling.co.uk or contact the club secretary Paul Garstang on Tel: 07500 888626 or pgarstang@hotmail.com

Sadly during the last year there are a number of villagers who have passed away.

Annie Packer

Annie Packer of Warren Fold died in November last year at the age of 83. Born in Sheffield, Annie, who worked as a seamstress, married her husband Dan in the late 1950s. Annie and Dan moved to Hurst Green from Gisburn when Dan retired as Head of Gisburn Primary School. They joined the congregation of St John's Church where Annie continued to enjoy her love of music and singing. One of Annie's other main interests was gardening, but sadly this was increasingly curtailed by disability. Annie, who was widowed some years ago, was housebound for several years and for almost all of this time was cared for at home by her family. Annie and Dan had three children, Andrew, Alison and Rachael, and went on to have two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Agnes Eccles

Agnes Eccles of Warren Fold died in November 2020 at the age of 79. She was brought up in Preston, the eldest of four daughters. From an early age Agnes had a talent for music, and she became the organist at St Gregory's Church, Preston at the age of only 15. A memorable year for Agnes was 1966, when she supported her father in the role of Lady Mayoress of Preston. The following year she married her husband, Tom, whom she had met through a shared love of ballroom dancing. Agnes and Tom set up home at St Joseph's School House and went on to have 3 daughters, Judith, Sarah and Esther. Agnes became the parish organist, and took on a variety of other roles in the village such as running the Brownies, Guides and the Youth Group. Later, she became clerk to the Parish Council and worked for several years as receptionist at Stonyhurst College. Agnes's Catholic faith was a very important part of her life and last September she and Tom were delighted to be awarded the Benemerenti Papal award for services to the Church. In spite of increasing ill-health, Agnes continued to play the organ weekly at Sunday Mass, and when St Joseph's Chapel re-opens, Agnes and her music will be sadly missed. A friendly person who was never short of a smile, Agnes is remembered by her family for her kindness, her laughter and her zest for life.

Frank Worden

Frank Worden died in April last year at the age of 99. Although he had lived in Clitheroe since his marriage to Joan in 1949, Frank maintained close links with Hurst Green and will be remembered by many as the soloist at the annual Remembrance Sunday service, playing the Last Post and Reveille at the service for many, many years. Frank was born in Preston, but moved to Whalley Road, Hurst Green as a young child and attended St Joseph's Primary School. From an early age Frank played the cornet, and at the age of 12 he joined his father, also a cornet player, in Hurst Green Band. Frank also played in the Stonyhurst College Orchestra. After war service in the Royal Tank Regiment, Frank resumed his occupation of painter and decorator. Music continued to play a big part in Frank's life, including teaching music at evening classes and playing in the orchestra of the Clitheroe Operatic Society, of which he became musical director. Frank is very much missed by his family of 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Robert Bailey

Robbie Bailey, who died in December last year at the age of 95, can best be described as a true gentleman, in every sense of the word. Born in Preston, Rob moved to Cut Thorn Farm on Shire Lane at the age of 7. He attended St John's School, following which he worked on the farm, at first with his father and brother, John, and then for many years with his wife Molly. Rob met Molly, who was from Bristol, on a day out to Hampton Court. After a long-distance courtship lasting 2 years, they were married in 1952. They went on to have 3 children at Cut Thorn, Christopher, Andrew and Janet, and became like adoptive parents to David Learmonth. As well as farming, Rob worked for 20 years at Castle Cement. Rob worshipped at St John's Church throughout his life, serving the church in several different capacities. In 1996 Rob and Molly retired and moved to Clitheroe, but continued to be active members of the church and village community. Following Molly's death in 2018, Rob moved into the Manor House in Chatburn, where he lived very contentedly until his death. Rob is remembered by his children and 6 grandchildren as a kind and gentle man, full of old-fashioned country wisdom and advice and with an infectious sense of humour. He was a pleasure to spend time with.

Gordon Nicholson

Gordon Nicholson of Bilsberry Cottages died last April at the age of 81. Gordon was born near Appleby, but moved as a young child, with his parents and brother David, to Newsholme and Woodplumpton and then to Scott House, Chaigley. Gordon attended Waddington School and then Riversmead (Bowland School) at Grindleton before going on to do 2 years National Service with the army. Gordon's first job was with Dugdale's Animal Feeds, but he went on to spend many years working at Waddington Fell Quarry. In 1964 Gordon married Josephine Wilcock of Hurst Green, and they moved into Bilsberry Cottages, where they brought up their 2 children, Ann and Stephen. Gordon soon became very much involved in the village. He was a member of St Peter's Guild and served on the committee, and he served at various times – and indeed until very recently – on the Bowling Green committee and both the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall committee. Gordon liked to keep his finger on the pulse of village life and there was little that escaped his notice. Gordon and Josephine enjoyed their holidays very much, and at home he was a keen gardener as well as a regular at the Bowling Club. A familiar figure out walking his beloved dogs, Gordon was always keen for a chat. He will be fondly remembered by many for his enjoyment of and commitment to village life.

Agnes Haworth

Agnes Haworth of Bilsberry Cottages died in February last year at the age of 97. Born at Hayhurst Farm, Dutton, Agnes attended St Joseph's School, which involved a long walk through the fields. When Agnes was 11 the family moved to Timothy Farm reducing the walk to school for Agnes and her sister Teresa to a matter of yards. Agnes left school at the age of 14 and went to work at St Mary's Hall. In 1950 she married Clifford Haworth from Gt Harwood and moved into the newly-built Bilsberry Cottages, where she lived for the next 70 years and where they brought up their 2 children, Christopher and Bernadette. Agnes and Clifford were very involved with the Memorial Hall, both as caretakers and organisers of fundraising events. Agnes spent many years working at St Joseph's School as well as being a sacristan at the school chapel. A member of the W.I., she was a great supporter of village activities and her delicious ginger cake would appear on many a cake stall. Agnes always loved children and walks and picnics by the river were regular events for her own children, their cousins and friends. Agnes, who was widowed in 1993, went on to be a loving and fun grandma to 5 grandsons and great-grandma to their children. She was a regular attendee at Sunday Mass, and even into her late nineties, would turn out in all weathers if she got a chance to attend the 8 am weekday mass at St Peter's. Until a few months before her death, Agnes enjoyed remarkably good health and liked nothing better than to be working outside. Her quiet and friendly presence will be very much missed in the village.

Joan Marsden

Joan Marsden of Greenthorn Farm died in June last year at the age of 96. Joan was born in Crosby, near Liverpool, one of eight children. Joan's father was an art teacher, and she showed a talent for and a love of painting all her life. After leaving school Joan joined the Land Army and worked in Somerset. She met her husband, Roger, on a day out to the Clitheroe Agricultural Show, and moved to Greenthorn on her marriage in 1956. Joan loved being at Greenthorn and thoroughly enjoyed working on the farm. She was a very friendly and sociable person, becoming involved in many aspects of the life of St John's Church, and together with Roger, she was a regular attendee at both Knowle Green and Chipping Congregational churches. Joan and Roger, whose family have farmed Greenthorn for over 130 years, had 3 children, Cathleen, Melody and William. Joan liked nothing more than to have her family around her, and her 9 grandchildren (8 girls and a boy) all have very happy memories of spending much of their childhood at the farm. Following Roger's death, Joan managed, with the help of her family, to continue to live and farm at Greenthorn. She is remembered as a person with a real zest for life – described as being 'game for anything' until the end of her days.

St. Joseph's School.

During the first lockdown the governors at St. Joseph's School had the unenviable task of appointing a new head teacher with the retirement of Moya Smith who served St. Joseph's for 5 years, overseeing the opening of the new Chapel and the expansion of the school to four classes.

Mrs Laura Orr was appointed and began her headship in September. Here are her first impressions.

As I walked up the path to St Joseph's in September 2020 I thought I was in a dream! Nestled in the heart of the beautiful Ribble Valley I was to start my first headship at both the oldest and smallest Jesuit school in the country. My nerves soon turned to excitement as one hundred little smiling faces greeted me as they entered the school gates. I instantly became one of the family as the staff, parents and governors gave me the warmest welcome.

The moment you walk into St Joseph's you feel the faith of the school permeating all around you. The teachings of St Ignatius is our guide where we recognise that every aspect of our work can affirm the goodness and presence of God. The chapel or the 'hidden gem' as I like to call it brings peace and tranquillity to our school and is where I like to begin and end each day with a quiet word to God.

Although my first term has been far from 'normal' with the arrival of Covid19, the community of Hurst Green have pulled together to serve others. We have collected hundreds of produce for our local food bank, raised over £2000 for Mary's Meals and our fabulous Friends group created a socially distance treasure hunt based on the '12 days of Christmas' around the village.

Each time I look out of the window I have to pinch myself that I work in such a beautiful environment. Every day is different with new challenges knocking at door from gritting the path to shepherding six 'lost sheep' who approached the school gates, I'm no farmer but with a little help we managed to herd them into the nearest field! I cannot find that task in the job description but what a fabulous way to spend a morning!

As a mum of three beautiful boys, I know the importance a school plays in the life of a child. Our youngsters are going through new challenges each day. I see my role as the gardener – looking over my little seedlings, giving them help and support when needed but having the ability to stand back, allowing them to flourish on their own. Over the coming years, I look forward to watching many children thrive at St Joseph's and promise to look out for any lost sheep!

What is on the agenda for the Parish Council?

The Parish Council are very aware of the twin problems in the village and environs of parking and speed of traffic. We are working with our local P.C., John Feeney who attends our meetings to raise these problems with Lancashire County Council highways. P.C. Feeney has placed signs around the village and tried to increase the police presence especially at weekends. He has also applied for funding to install some permanent signs.

We are in touch with County Councillor Alan Schofield who is supporting our call for action on both these matters. The County Council has been asked to look at a 20 mile an hour speed limit in the village, they are also going to improve speed limit signage on village approaches.

If you wish to report a breach of the COVID regulations you should phone 101 or report it here

<https://www.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/c19/v7/tell-us-about-a-possible-breach-of-coronavirus-covid-19-measures/>

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting are available on the village noticeboard and on the village website www.hurst-green.co.uk where the names of the Parish Councillors and contact details of the clerk can be found.

General Knowledge Quiz for all ages— no prizes, just a bit of fun.

Answers on page 2

1. What is the names of the café in Eastenders?
2. What is the name of the currency used in Poland?
3. In which Italian City was the pizza invented?
4. Which actor played James Bond the most?
5. What is Lady Gaga's real surname?
6. How much (in pounds) does an average cloud weigh?
7. What is Postman Pat's surname?
8. What is Scooby Doo's full name?
9. What is the collective noun for a group of unicorns?
10. What year did our St. Joseph's School open?

Funding our village newsletter.

Believe it or not our "Round the Green " has been going since 2003. It has always been a relaxed affair being published 2-4 times a year as funding has allowed. After an initial grant of £300 we have always relied on sponsorship from individuals and village groups, and people have been very generous. Costs have gone up and our circulation has grown, both with the additional houses in the village and a desire to reach out to the whole of our Parish Council Area, we are including Chaigley this time. The cost of our usual 4 page newsletter is around £100 but due to the time since our last edition this is a bumper 6 pager! For the next 4 editions we have secured a grant from The Lancashire County Champions Fund . Contributions and ideas for articles are also welcomed. Please contact Agnes Bland 826559 or Nancy Bailey 826903 nancy@rivers-mead.co.uk

ARRIVALS

Happily over the past year we have had some new babies to cheer us up.

Olwen-Agnes Nutter born 29th April to Isaac and Alexandra Nutter

Aubrey J. Wilson born 8th June to Johdi Dinsdale and Joseph Wilson, Clough Cottages.

Amina Alshahada born on 24th July to Mousa and Shamsa Alshahada of Shireburn Cottages.

Bobby Hubert Bradley born on 29th July to Alice Molyneux and Will Bradley.

Maisie Rose Bailey born on 11th September to Ryan Bailey and Sarah Renshaw.

Money saving opportunity for those who use heating oil.

Heating oil: there is a bulk buying heating oil website which may be of interest to locals: www.oil-club.co.uk. It claims to have already some 25 householders of our locality (and it is mentioned in the Ribble Valley Borough Council website.) It is worth a look if you buy kerosene and want to take advantage of buying power greater than just yourself! Any questions, contact Niall Macfarlane 826152

Keep up to date on our village website www.hurst-green.co.uk or join our facebook page **Hurst Green, Ribble Valley**