



**Have a great time,  
and help raise funds  
for the Village Hall -  
Hurst Green Wine,  
Beer and Music  
Festival**

**Fri 13th & Sat 14th  
September**

**See back for details  
Fun for all the  
family!**



## Project Progress

Work has not yet started on renovating the Memorial Hall (Hurst Green Village Hall), but great progress has been made in raising funds for the project. The Parish Council and Memorial Hall Committee set up a joint Project Team. The Project Team sought ideas from architects for the long-term look of the hall. Some of those ideas may have been too futuristic, though others, such as improving the kitchen and the bar area will be incorporated in future plans.

Instead the Project Team has come up with a realistic phased renovation project. Phase 1 is to replace the roof, keeping the existing shape and using the same type of tiles. The old tiles have seen over 50 years of use and urgently need replacing. The cost of this phase, including insulation, comes to over £80,000. The good news is that, by the 1st August, through fund-raising and grants £40,382 has been raised - we are half-way there! £31,000 has come in grants, most of it from the Lancashire Environmental Fund.

The Project Team is awaiting news on a second large grant - clearly that will be vital. But so too are the efforts of everyone in the community. The Auction of Promises and Hurst Green's Got Talent raised over £7,000, and the Project Team has launched 'Sponsor a Tile'. Nearly £2,400 has been raised through this so far.

**Thank you to everyone who has donated. Have you yet to sponsor one or more tiles? Please help to make the roof sound. Tiles are £10 each. Please make cheques payable to 'A, B & C Memorial Hall', and give them to Barbara Herd, 2 Whalley Road (next to Millie's) or post to the Treasurer, Agnes Bland, Hill Croft, Shire Lane, Hurst Green, Clitheroe BB7 9QR.**

Once the roof is secured, Phase 2 will be the heating.

If the roof is renovated for the next 50 years, and a proper, affordable, working heating system is installed, the Memorial Hall will be in good shape to continue to serve the community. It is a vital space for local organisations, clubs and social events. Let's give it a great future!

**And another great way to help the project: have fun at Hurst Green Wine, Beer and Music Festival - 13th and 14th September - book your tickets!**

## The Lady Statue

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May the Lady Statue at the top of the avenue was dedicated and blessed following major renovation work. The statue depicts Mary, as defined in the Book of Revelation: 'And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and a moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.'

The Lady Statue and plinth were gifted to Stonyhurst by Thomas Eyre, who donated £200 for the monument as a thanksgiving for his preservation in a serious carriage accident. The figure stands on a globe which is decorated by the symbols of the Four Evangelists. It is made of cast-iron, and is cast in two pieces, the globe and the figure, which are bolted together.

The work of renovation was carried out by Rupert Harris, an international expert in sculpture preservation, at his studio and foundry in East London, where a new steel armature was made to give strength to the cast-iron exterior. The Lady Statue was given a fresh coat of paint to complete the conservation process. This is not only decorative, but protects the iron from the effects of rain, snow and hail. The halo of twelve stars was newly made and gilded with 23-carat gold.

Our Lady of the Avenue certainly looks resplendent after her makeover, which was made possible by the generous donations of two old Stonyhurst families.

# HACKING BOAT

As school holidays get underway and days out and picnics are planned, it is worth remembering the role played in summers past by the ferry known as 'Hacking Boat' that used to ply back and forth across the River Ribble near its confluence with the Calder, about a mile downstream from Winkley Hall Farm.

The earliest known reference to the Hacking Boat ferry appears to be in 1706, when Sir Nicholas Shireburn of Stonyhurst arranged to pay an annuity 'of forty shillings a year' to 'the Boatman of Hacking Boat.' The operation of the ferry was the responsibility of whoever lived at Hacking Boat farmhouse, which was set back in the field about 100 yards from the river. It can probably be safely assumed that the ferry ran continuously from its inception until it ceased running in 1955, after which the farmhouse at Hacking Boat stood empty for many years.

For the last 20 years of its life, the boat was operated by Gregory and Mary Ellen (Nellie) Holden, who lived at Hacking Boat, and where their 5 children, John, Marie, Bernard, Elizabeth and Peter were born. During the years that Greg and Nellie were bringing up their family at Hacking Boat there was no electricity and no running water. Drinking water was pumped from a hand-pump in the yard, and rainwater collected from the roof was used for washing, although during dry spells, water for washing had to be carried up from the river. There was no road to the farm other than the cart-track from Winkley or the path across the fields from Jumbles on the other side. During their later years at Hacking Boat the family had a car, but unless the fields were particularly dry, it had to be left at Jumbles and they had to walk the rest of the way home. The children

attended St Joseph's School. They walked from Hacking Boat in their wellingtons to Crossgills Farm, and then changed into their clogs in the farm dairy before carrying on to school.

During their years at Hacking Boat the ferry boat was in very regular use. It was kept moored by an iron chain to a tree in the hedge. The main traffic was people from the towns and villages

around Langho and Blackburn who were coming over to walk and picnic on the river bank on the Hacking Boat Farm side of the river. There was a landing stage on the opposite side and people would shout or whistle to attract the attention of the boatman. Because Greg farmed full time, it was usually Nellie who would operate the ferry, rowing into the teens of people at once across the river in the flat-bottomed boat. She kept her bicycle outside the house ready to cycle down the path to the riverbank when called. At Easter and in summertime the riverbank has been described as a 'mini Blackpool', as scores of people played and picnicked on the riverside where there was sand, shallow water for paddling and tiddlers to catch. Marie remembers that her and her brother John both helped to operate the ferry during the school holidays. The charge for the ferry crossing was 3d for adults and 2d for children. People crossing from the Hacking Boat side could be taken either to the landing stage below the confluence of the two rivers, or across the Ribble or Calder individually. Apart from families, the ferry was also popular with ramblers and fishermen.

The boat was almost always kept in the water and during the severe winter of 1947 it was trapped by ice. With the thaw the chain broke and it was washed away down the river. Greg followed the river all the way to Preston Docks looking for it. There was no sign of the boat, but three months later it was found by a water bailiff on the river at Freckleton and was shortly after brought back by the local coalman on his lorry.

Life for the Holden family continued in much the same way until the family moved to Bailey House at Hurst Green in 1955, when Greg took over the tenancy of that farm. The house was unoccupied for many years after that, bringing to an end the long tradition of the ferry at Hacking Boat.

The boat that was swept down river in 1947 was the larger of two boats. The other boat went back to Edwardian times. It was flat-bottomed, with straight sides, and two oars, and, though small, could take up to 12 people. It was made by a firm of joiners in Whalley. After being left in a barn for many years it was given to Ribble Valley Borough Council and was renovated by Lancashire Museums. It was on display at Clitheroe Castle Museum until 2009, but is currently in storage.



Sadly, local residents who have passed away in the recent past include:

### **Roland Yates**

Roland Yates of Deer House Farm died in March this year. Roland came to the Ribble Valley from Wheelton in 1954, when his parents bought Dutton Hall Farm on Gallows Lane. After leaving school, Rowland farmed with his parents and later his brother Alan. In 1962, Roland married Cynthia, a teacher from Brinscall and they set up home at Lower Dutton Farm, moving to Deer House some 8 years later, where they brought up their children, Ruth and David. Roland was a keen footballer as a lad, but his main interests were always his family and his farm. He was, to say the least, a dedicated farmer and was never happier than when out among his sheep. Roland was a real character, never short of a tale to tell, and will be very much missed among the farming community.

### **Molly Bailey**

Molly Bailey, who lived for most of her life on Shire Lane, died in October last year. Molly, who grew up in Bristol, met her husband, Rob, on a day out to Hampton Court. They conducted a long-distance courtship until their marriage in 1952, when Molly came to live with Rob at Cut Thorn Farm where they raised their 3 children, Christopher, Andrew and Janet. Molly attended St John's Church, and was an active member of the parish. She was a founder member of both the Mothers' Union and Hurst Green W.I. Molly retired to Clitheroe with Rob in 1996, but continued to worship regularly at St John's and attend Hurst Green W.I. until a few months before her death. Molly was the well-loved matriarch of a family that came to include 6 grand-children, and she is very much missed.

### **Peter Shoesmith**

Peter Shoesmith, formerly of Bailey Green Cottages, died in January this year. Peter, who lived with his parents at Bailey Green for much of his life, worked for many years as a farm labourer. On his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, Peter moved to Clitheroe where he joined the community of Elms House, living relatively independently with their help for several years, and becoming a much-loved member of that community. During his years in Clitheroe Peter actively campaigned for the rights of disabled people. The highlight of Peter's year was his annual trip to Lourdes with the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage, where he tended to be the life and soul of the party. Peter loved a chat and a laugh, and had a wicked sense of fun. He is, therefore, much missed by those who knew him well.

### **Sam Smith**

Sam Smith of Carlinghurst Farm, Dutton died on December 31<sup>st</sup> last year at the age of 88. Sam was born and brought upon a farm in Claughton, the youngest of 4 children. In 1955 he married Mary Bamber of Chipping and they set up home in Bleasdale, where their first 5 children were born. From there they moved to Goosnargh and then, 50 years ago this year, moved to Carlinghurst, where Sam farmed for the rest of his life. Sam and Mary had 7 children in all, Andrew, Anne, Jean, Ted, Kath, Tom and Frank, and went on to have 18 grandchildren and a total of 11 great grandchildren to date. Sam farmed Carlinghurst with his sons Andrew and Tom, and when a stroke 10 years ago left him unable to walk, he took to touring the farm on his mobility scooter, getting into various scrapes and sometimes requiring search and rescue! He is, needless to say, very much missed by the large family he leaves behind.

This edition of Round The Green was kindly sponsored by the late Ray Ormerod. If you would like to sponsor an edition, please contact Agnes on 826559 or Nancy on 826903.

Little Green Bus, based in Clitheroe, provides Community Transport in the Ribble Valley. It arranges door-to-door transport for many elderly, disabled or vulnerable residents, including getting to medical appointments. If you or a neighbour or relative need help to get about, why not give the friendly staff at Little Green Bus a ring on 01200 444484.

**Wedding? Children's Party? Meeting?  
Workshop? Fund-raising Event?  
Social? Do?**

**Why not book the  
Memorial Hall?**

**Contact Kath Molyneux on  
01254 826898 or  
07973521774**

**Or email: [kath@streamsystems.co.uk](mailto:kath@streamsystems.co.uk)**

# Hurst Green Wine, Beer and Music Festival

Bands Playing:  
Friday Ribble Valley Jazz Big Band  
Sweeny Astray  
Drive  
Saturday Blowjangles  
Jam Factory  
Level 2

Plus other artists and singers

All proceeds in aid of the **Memorial Hall Restoration Project**

Dates: Friday 13th September 7.00pm to midnight  
Saturday 14th September 2.00pm to midnight

Venue: Hurst Green Village Hall

## Prices:

Friday Night - £10 incl 1 free drink - glass of wine or beer

Saturday - £12 all day incl 1 free drink - glass of wine or beer

Children under 16 Half price incl 1 free soft drink

On the door, in advance or booked:

Book your tickets or buy in advance:

e: [hurstgreenevents@gmail.com](mailto:hurstgreenevents@gmail.com)

t: 01254 826252 or 01254 826308

## Music

**Wine, cheese**

**Bowland Beers**

**Lager**

**Spirits**

**Gin Bar**

**Soft Drinks**

**Food**

**Fun For All**

## Parish Council News

After many years service, Gordon Nicholson has had to retire due to ill health from both the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall Committee. They both thank him for all his work and commitment.

Gordon has been replaced on the Parish Council by Simon Bailey (826903).

Thanks to Chris Holden and all the volunteers who have made such a lovely job of the War Memorial again this year.

Thanks also to the volunteers who help to maintain the community garden in front of Bilsberry Cottages.

At The Parish Council AGM, Christine Holden, who represents Chaigley Ward, was re-elected as Chairman, with Margaret Carrington as vice-chair. The other Parish Councillors are Chris Berry, David Bland, Peter Butterfield, Des Harwood and Roger Wilkinson. The Parish Council meets regularly at 7.00 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Village Hall - come along!

## Revd. Karen Herschell writes:

I can't believe that it's now been over a year since we moved to Hurst Green and I took up the position of Assistant Curate at Ribchester, Hurst Green and Mitton. It has been a whirlwind year of settling into village life; of a new job and getting to know three different parishes and communities. I have absolutely loved my time here so far and have enjoyed getting to know everyone, of serving at St John's and making new friends in the village. You have all made me and my family feel very welcome and a part of this beautiful and special place. I am also delighted to say that I have now been Ordained a Priest at Blackburn Cathedral on 29<sup>th</sup> June and it was wonderful to share that day and my first Eucharist services with so many of you. I'm now looking forward to what the next 12 months will bring.

And a date for your diary: next year All Hallows at Mitton is celebrating 750 years of being a place of Christian worship. We will be holding a Celebration and Mission week as part of this important anniversary; where there will be a full programme of different events for all the family taking place throughout the week. We are delighted to announce that the celebrations will begin with a joint Benefice Confirmation Service on Pentecost Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 which will be led by The Rt Rev Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster.