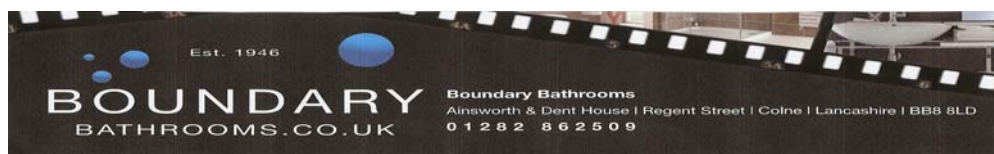




BLACKO NEWS

AUTUMN 2008

SPONSORED
BY



The weather might have been lousy,
but.....

WHAT A SUMMER!

BLACKO has had a memorable past few months. The magnificent sum of £42,000 has been raised, and the new play equipment is in place, the village was Highly Commended in the Champions Class of the Best Kept Village Competition and, once again, it has a shop. On the down-side, many residents had to endure the misery of the Shamania, but spirits have been lifted by social events, such as the Summer Dance and the re-vamped Village Show.

More inside!

DON'T MISS.....

**"THE WIZARD
OF OZ"!**

**A MUSICAL FOR ALL
THE FAMILY**

ON SUNDAY 4 JANUARY
AT THE LOWRY, SALFORD

MATINEE PERFORMANCE
COACH INCLUDED

TICKETS £25

DEPOSIT OF £10 REQUIRED BY
1 DECEMBER

RING 616562
TO BOOK

ORGANISED BY BLACKO EVENTS COMMITTEE

MITCHELL MEATS
for BBQs and Hog Roasts
Visit our stall at Gisburn Auction
Thursdays and alternative
Saturdays
Ring Matt on
01200 445153
07974 011452

REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY
*The Parish Council extends a
cordial invitation to everyone to
the service at the war memorial on
Sunday, 9th November at 10.50,
which is continued in the chapel,
followed by refreshments*

WELL DONE, CLOE!
Chloe Ashworth has just left Blacko Primary School and come away with the "Leaver of the Year" award. Headmaster, Mark Harrison sings her praises, adding that she has been outstanding throughout her time at the school. A shining example of all that's good about our school!

- A NEW SCHOOL FOR BLACKO? See inside

WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

<u>"THANK YOU" NIGHT</u> CROSS GAITS MON 27 OCT	<u>CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY</u> MOORCOCK INN FRI 31 OCT	<u>BONFIRE</u> CROSS GAITS WED 5 NOV 7pm	<u>CHRISTMAS DANCE</u> SPREAD EAGLE SAWLEY SAT 6 DEC	<u>CHRISTMAS FAIR</u> SCHOOL SUN 14 DEC 1 to 4	<u>OVER 70s' DINNER</u> MOORCOCK INN TUES 16 DEC	<u>CAROL SINGING</u> AROUND TREE AT RISING SUN MONDAY 22 DEC	<u>"WIZARD OF OZ" MUSICAL</u> LOWRY, SALFORD SUN 4 JAN	<u>NSPCC 60s NIGHT</u> SS PETER & PAUL SAT 7 FEB
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£42,000 for new play equipment raised in less than three years!

After a lot of hard work (and dogged determination), Blacko has got its new children's play equipment on the Recreation Ground.

Blacko Events Committee, the lead partner with the Parish Council, has had, at times, an uphill battle to secure sufficient grant funding to supplement its fund-raising efforts. Local people have been unstintingly generous, to the tune of over £10,000, in their support of the wide-range of social gatherings, aimed specifically at adding to the fund. Originally, the work to replace the aging and potentially dangerous items was costed at £55,000, but it became apparent after confirmation of grant aid, that £42,000 was the most possible, and the specification had to be amended, taking out the perimeter fencing and some smaller pieces. Applications for larger amounts to Sita Trust (the philanthropic arm of Sita UK Ltd, landfill

site operators) and the Big Lottery Fund foundered, despite a lot of hard work being put in to submit detailed bids. Thankfully, more locally, there were successes with Pendle Community Network's Community Chest granting the maximum of £2,000, the Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee of the Borough Council awarding the project £4,500 and, finally, when spirits were low, the Lancashire Environmental Fund, a partnership between the County Council, Sita UK Ltd, The Wildlife Trust and Community Futures, which allocates grants under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme using moneys from Sita UK Ltd, Neales Waste Management and the County Council, agreed to allocate the maximum of £25,000.

On top of all that, the Events Committee had to register as an Environmental Body with ENTRUST, a government organisation, to be able to tap into the tax credit scheme. And that was a mammoth task in itself, with, amongst other hurdles, all the committee having to be vetted as suitable people.

As has already been reported in Blacko News, a focus group of youngsters was established to visit other playgrounds and draw up a specification, Letcliffe Park in Barnoldswick being the favourite. That was followed by an exhibition of the drawings and proposals put forward by the three contractors tendering for the work. The successful one was PPL of Skipton, who battled through some of the wettest summer days on record to remove the old and construct the new equipment.

Already, there have been kind offers of more donations towards the landscaping of the entrance to the recreation ground, as a finishing touch, which will include a new notice board. However, one potential cause of concern is the actual landscaping of the equipment site itself, which has been seeded. One option was to keep it fenced off until the grass had grown, but it was felt that that would be unfair to the children, who are raring to try out their new playground. **So, please keep off the seeded areas!**

Parish Council matters

Blacko Parish Council has a new clerk. Tony Beckett, who has been doing this vital job for the last 18 months, has had to stand down, due to his other commitments on Pendle Borough Council. His replacement is villager, Cheryl Barnes. Thank you, Tony, for all your hard work, and welcome, Cheryl.

The Parish Council is maintaining pressure on the Borough Council in its fight to improve the recyclable refuse collection system, and on the County Council regarding road safety in the parish. Why not come to the Parish Council meetings, find out more and join in the debate?

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN FANCY-DRESS PARTY

**AT THE MOORCOCK
(BY KIND PERMISSION OF MR & MRS J PATTERSON)**

**FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER
6.30 TO 8.30**

OPEN TO ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN LIVING IN BLACKO AND THOSE ATTENDING BLACKO SCHOOL

ADMISSION FREE

PUPILS AT BLACKO SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE A BOOKING FORM

PARENTS OF OTHERS SHOULD RING 616562 TO RESERVE A PLACE

ORGANISED BY BLACKO EVENTS COMMITTEE

BLACKO'S IN FINE VOICE!

As part of its drive to attract more people to the congregation, Blacko Chapel held a most enjoyable "Songs of Praise" evening on Sunday, 7th October. The chapel was filled with joyful singers, and afterwards, there was a get-together in the Sunday school, with tea and biscuits being served.

There are services every Sunday, at 10.30, with a different preacher each week. A warm welcome is ensured, which is also certainly the case at the regular Tuesday Coffee Club, between 2 and 4pm.

SHAMANIA – IS IT ALL OVER?

Residents of Gisburn Old Road endured nights of misery in August, on top of disruption on the narrow road during the build-up to the first Shamania Festival, held on land actually just outside the parish, in Salterforth.

Blacko News has discovered that there were several breaches of the conditions of the licence granted to organisers, Enlightened Entertainments Limited, including a fair number for excessive noise. One of the conditions was that no noise should be audible in any house after midnight. On top of that, it appeared that the agreed traffic management plan was not adhered to, as stipulated by the judge

at the appeal hearing, and a letter sent to the Parish Council from the Chief Executive of the County Council acknowledges that.

A special meeting of the Borough Council's Licensing Committee had been scheduled for October, and the Parish Council and residents had submitted observations, ready for attending. However, Enlightened Entertainments surrendered its licence for the Gisburn Old Road site. The question remains as to whether the Borough Council will prosecute for the breaches. One comment, echoed by many, is that if someone charged with a serious traffic offence would get off if he or she said his or her driving licence had been surrendered. Pendle Borough Council has been asked to clarify the position.



BLACKO PICTURE QUIZ

This is a photograph of the late and much-missed Marjorie Metcalfe, kindly loaned by her daughter, Kathleen MacGregor. Where is Marjorie standing? Answer next time.

BEAUTIFUL BLACKO'S BKV SUCCESS!

To go head-to-head with its friendly rivals, Roughlee, in the Champion Village Class of the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition (and winning) was always a Blacko dream.

That dream came true in part, as both villages battled it out in this hard-fought competition. Last year, Roughlee was the Champion Village. However, despite magnificent efforts by both, neither won, that accolade being awarded to St. Michael's on Wyre, and second place going to Town Green near Ormskirk. Blacko came third, with Roughlee fourth. However, the judges were so impressed with Blacko and Roughlee, that both were Highly Commended, the only ones in the class to be so honoured.

This is, of course, a cracking result for Blacko, which also saw the School's allotment retaining the award for Best Special Feature, and the War Memorial coming second in its class to be Highly Commended, as was Hill View in the Sheltered Accommodation Class. As always, there has been a wonderful response by the whole village, and year by year

enthusiasm for the competition increases. The "Adopt-a-Spot" volunteers have worked tirelessly, and the Parish lengthsman, Dave Bridge has done a wonderful job, as has Pendle Borough Council's street cleaning team. Visitors to Blacko often comment on its appearance, especially the absence of litter, which demonstrates the great pride taken in it.

Many local people make donations towards the BKV effort, and there are several local sponsors, without whose generous help, the floral displays around the village would not be possible. This year's sponsors are

*A Ashworth & Sons, Joiners
Barnes of Barrowford
Blacko Events Committee
Brodren Lloyd
Brown's Engineers
Byzack Limited
DIH Designs
McParland & Partners
Mullin Engineering
Robinson & Lawlor*

An important part of the Best Kept Village Competition is Blacko's Frontage Competition. Supported by the Parish Council and Blacko Events Committee, with sponsorship by

ReedleyNursery, which judged the competition, the winners were:-

Large Garden - Mr & Mrs Daly, Hollin Fold
Runner-up - Mr & Mrs Slater, Willaston Avenue
Highly commended - Mr & Mrs Woolnough, Gisburn Road

Small Garden - Mr & Mrs Halstead, Gisburn Road
Runner-up - Mr & Mrs Lalley, Hill View
Highly commended - Mr & Mrs Beech, Gisburn Road

Prizes will be presented at a special **"Thank You Evening" at the Cross Gaits on Monday, 27th October at 7.30.** to which the whole Parish is invited. The Peter Reed Cup, awarded to the person who has contributed most to the village in the last year will be presented to Vivienne Hesketh, secretary of the Events Committee and BKV stalwart. **A buffet supper will be provided free of charge.**

Would you like to be a Best Kept Village Competition judge (and see hidden gems around the County)? Speak to Peter Hesketh on 616562

CAROL'S CABIN - PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES!

One of Blacko's more unpleasant experiences in recent years was the demise of the village shop and post office, at one stage painted garishly as a sex shop and then as premises offering dubious "adult" services.

Followed by a period of dereliction, it is now back to its former glory, having been re-opened by Steve and Carol Hardacre, offering a wide-range of convenience goods, along with sweets, ice creams,

sandwiches, hot snacks and newspapers. Opened officially by the Mayor of Pendle, Councillor Shelagh Derwent, in June, "Carol's Cabin" is going from strength to strength, bucking the sad trend in the rapid closure of many village shops. In the last few months, it has become quite a landmark, enhancing that part of the village. Business is brisk; so much so, that a once familiar face in the old days is back behind the counter. Blacko resident, Lilian Lawless, is lending a hand from time to time.

Blacko has got back a much-missed amenity, and extends a very warm welcome to Steve and Carol.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER RONALD HALSTEAD?

MARIE NORMANSELL, now living in Cardiff, has contacted *Blacko News* seeking information about the village between 1900 and 1937, as her late father, Ronald Halstead, lived in Blacko for a time. She has collected a host of memorabilia and photographs about Blacko, and will be visiting the area in May and June next year. She would be delighted to show her collection to anyone interested, not least to identify people and places. She can be contacted on marienormansell@yahoo.co.uk or the editor will pass on any messages to her, for those not on e-mail.

OBITUARIES

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS, that we record the death of two prominent figures in Blacko's farming community. Yorkshireman, TOM WARD, along with his wife Peggy and daughters, Heather and Sandra, moved from Elslack to New House Farm in 1966, where they were to farm for many years, until ill-health meant Tom had to move into a care home, where he died recently.

ISABEL (BELL) STOREY'S family had farmed Beverley Farm, where Malkin Close now stands. A well-known and much-loved village character, Bell died after a short illness in September, having lived on Stone Edge View for many years. Both will be missed greatly, and our thoughts and condolences are extended to their families and friends.

HOSPICE NEWS

BLACKO HOSPICE COMMITTEE has had another successful year. The Beetle Drive raised £377 and "T at 3" over £900. At the Village Show another £236 was added to the coffers, and donations amount to £810.

The Moorcock Inn has raised £264 since March from its envelope scheme. There is now over £3,000 in the bank to be donated to Pendleside Hospice, thanks to the generosity of Blacko people and their friends.

Committee Chairman, Jean Kippax, has Hospice Christmas cards for sale. If you want some, give her a ring on 612264.

BLACKO EVENTS COMMITTEE

invites you to its

BLACK TIE DINNER DANCE

at the Spread Eagle, Sawley
on Saturday 6 December

Tickets £25

Choice of menu

Coach available

Ring 616562
for a booking form

NEVER MIND THE WEATHER – WHAT A GOOD TIME!

The two big social events of the Summer in Blacko, both organised by the Events Committee, were the dance to mark the tenth anniversary of the committee and the Village Show.

A common denominator was the fact that the Events Committee's marquees were used, firstly for the dance in June on the field behind the Cross Gaits, by kind permission of Andrew and Andrea Duxbury, and then in August for the show on the recreation ground, which was more than just a horticultural and crafts show, but a fun-day for all the family.

Something else in common with both was the weather. On each day, it was favourable, when compared with the rest of the Summer, but in respect of the dance, it could have been a disaster. The three marquees, joined together, had to be put up the week before, and once up, the wind started to blow; gale force, no less. The erection process had proved to be an excellent example of team-work, described as great fun, but things soon got hairy! Determined that the marquees would not budge, committee members, David Ashworth and Simon Askew, set about "battening down the hatches", securing them with ropes thrown across and secured to a tractor and a caravan.



The Events Committee's Show was a huge success, and was expanded to include a host of other attractions, including novelty races. Here, the three-legged race makes a shaky start! The play equipment in the background is now but a memory.

The wind subsided, and there was minimal damage

The actual night of the dance was fine and warm, the marquees full of happy revellers, who danced to "Switch" and Glen South's Disco. Guest of Honour was the Mayor, Councillor Shelagh Derwent, and a splendid buffet supper was laid on by Andrew and

Andrea. The committee ran its own bar, assisted greatly by villagers, Anthony, Barbara and Matthew Platt of Pendle Frozen Foods, who loaned a chiller van, which proved invaluable.

The event was very hard work, but equally enjoyable for the committee, and, of course, all those who attended.

It had always been hoped that Blacko Allotment and Horticultural Society's Annual Show could be resurrected, but it looked like that was not to be. However Events Committee members, Catherine and Roy Fewster offered to organise the show side of the day. The marquees meant the worry was taken out of the day, but, in any event, the sun managed to peep through, and the rain stayed off. Over 300 people enjoyed the show itself, with its variety of stalls and side-shows, including a coconut shy and a wellie throwing contest. There were tombolas, refreshments and a barbeque, along with vintage bus tours in a wonderfully restored 1957 Leyland Olympian single-decker, once owned by Fishwicks of Leyland.

There were races, too, but not serious ones, great fun being had in three legged and egg and spoon races, finishing off with the ever-popular Tower Race. The finale of the afternoon was meant to be a Tug-of-War, but the Cross Gaits team, suitably attired and chomping at the bit, couldn't find any challengers!

A NEW SCHOOL FOR THE VILLAGE?

HEADMASTER, MARK HARRISON writes "Once again we are upgrading the school building. In the last three years we have built the extension, with a new classroom, modern kitchen and cloakroom, new windows and a soft-surface playground. Now guttering and down-pipes are being replaced, making the exterior in keeping with our

excellent village. However, the age of the building is holding us back from becoming a school of the 21st Century. We would dearly love to move into a new building and become the hub of the village. Where, though, is something to be discussed, although we are not looking to expand numbers particularly. Blacko School is proud of

being the village school, and we want to give residents and pupils one to be proud of."

However, there could be problems, planning-wise, as if, say, a Beverley Road site were to be favoured, in the past permissions have been refused on the grounds that the road cannot take any more traffic.

USEFUL NAMES & ADDRESSES

Blacko Allotment & Horticultural Society

Mr & Mrs G. Ivers, 423, Gisburn Road, BB9 6LS 697850

Blacko Independent Methodist Chapel & NSPCC

Mrs Katrina Harulow, 16 Beverley Road, Blacko, BB9 6LX 697765

Burnley & Pendle Hospice Care, Blacko Committee

Mrs Jean Kippax, The Meadows, Beverley Road, Blacko, BB9 6LX 612264

Blacko Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Bill Peacock, 386 Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616956

Friends of Blacko School

Mrs Carol Cooper, Blacko School 616669

Blacko Events Committee

Mrs Vivienne Hesketh, 445 Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616562

BLACKO PARISH COUNCIL meets at 7.30pm in the Sunday School on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except July), and members of the public are invited cordially to attend

Chairman & Blacko News editor

Mr Peter Hesketh, 445, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 616562

Vice-chairman

Mr Roy Fewster, East Stone Edge Cottage, Barnoldswick Road, Blacko, BB9 6RE 616676

Mr Phil Sipocz, 4, Malkin Close, Blacko, BB9 6LY 619064

Mrs Maureen Ivers, 423, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS 697850

Mr Stephen Barnes, Moorcock Barn, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6NG 698053

Mr David Stone, 1, Malkin Close, Blacko, BB9 6LY 612441

County Councillor

Mr Mike Calvert, 1 Rock Lane, Trawden, BB8 8RR 869036

Borough and Parish Councillor

Mrs Shelagh Derwent, Flaxmoor Farm, Barnoldswick Road, Blacko, BB9 6RE 616064

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mrs Cheryl Barnes, Moorcock Barn, Blacko, BB9 6NG 698053

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VISIT US AT www.blackovillage.com