



BLACKO NEWS

AUTUMN 2005

JUST A WHISKER AWAY FROM BKV TRIUMPH!

BEING up against Wrea Green in the finals of the Champion Village Class of the 2005 Best Kept Village Competition was going to be a challenge, to say the least.

We swept, weeded, litter-picked, painted, lavished loving care on our houses and gardens and, above all, tried so very hard. The village, its shop, pub, chapel, war memorial and school (despite the building work) looked, without doubt, magnificent. Someone has to be the runner-up, though, and it turned out to be Blacko, although, according to the organisers, it was a close call.

Putting things into context, after great successes in the 1970s, thanks to the drive and determination of Jean Brown, we won nothing until taking the first in the Small Village Class in 2002, entitling us to six years up against

fellow champions. Last year, we were third.

The finals judging by Gail Stanley, who, at the awards ceremony, admitted she had a terrible job in deciding, but heaped praise on 'a village that was obviously cared for and loved', where most of the houses were stunning., adding that our problem was Wrea Green. That was during the middle August fortnight, and working parties were mustered over the preceding weekend. The weather on the Saturday was lousy, but, nevertheless, five intrepid volunteers (and two dogs) braved the elements. Sunday was far better, and a dozen, or so, toiled happily throughout the day. Their presence was to prove infectious, and by mid-afternoon, many residents were out doing that little bit extra, which, of course, has been the secret of our success.

It's been said before, but worthy of repeating; we might not have won, but it's great to live in a village that looks good, where people care and there's a community spirit. (The degree of that

spirit has, incidentally, been recognized, and a report on another parish success appears elsewhere in this edition of Blacko News.)

Our labours in the Best Kept Village effort have, nevertheless, been rewarded, and we are to receive, besides the Taylor Smith Trophy (donated by the late Barley parish and Pendle councillor), a monetary award, which has to be applied to a project, recognizing the competition's sponsor, Lancashire County Developments Limited, an arm of the County Council. One idea is putting the money towards the next phase of the Blacko Gateway Project, which will be at the Barrowford end of the village.

So, a big thank you to everyone, not least our lengthsman, David Bridge, who has certainly made an impact on things, and those who agreed to 'Adopt-a-Spot'.

Onwards to 2006!

A BLACKO WELCOME

Our Gateway Project is finished! As reported in the last edition of **Blacko News**, the Parish Council had obtained a licence from the County Council to take over a plot of land at the junction of Gisburn Road with Roughlee Road to erect a floral display and provide a welcome to the village.

Thanks to the generosity of a local man, who covered the materials cost of £400, the hard work by a band of volunteers, advice from Reedley Nursery and sponsorship of its stocking with plants by estate agents, **Broden Lloyd**, the Parish has something else to be proud of. Thanks are extended to Ron Foster, David Ashworth, Stephen Barnes, Simon Askew, Stuart Mitchell, Andrew Wilson, Rodney Sumner and Peter & Vivienne Hesketh for all their help and support. Also, Pendle Council deserves a pat on the back for tidying up the clutter of road signs.

Next year, the floral display will spell out 'BLACKO' in the sponsors corporate colours of blue and yellow.

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IS PLEASED TO SUPPORT
BLACKO NEWS

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret, that we record the death of Earle Ormerod of Beverley Road, a long time Blacko resident, who will be missed greatly by family and friends.

WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER

NSPCC Committee's Evening of Glamour at Gisburne Park

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER

Events Committee's Children's Disco in the Sunday School 6.30pm

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

Christmas Fair at the School 2 - 4pm

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

Events Committee's Christmas Dinner Dance at the White Bull, Gisburn

THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER

Over 70s' Christmas Dinner at the Moorcock 6.30 for 7pm

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

Chapel & School Carol Service in the Chapel 2pm

MONDAY 19 DECEMBER

Carol Singing around the village with brass band, Rising Sun 6.30pm

More Carols around the Christmas tree at 8pm and supper in the Sun

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2006

NSPCC Committee's 60s Night at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall

SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2006

Events Committee's St George's Dance at SS Peter & Paul

VILLAGERS RALLY TO HELP JOHNNY

Johnny Brennan, the Blacko man seriously injured in a road accident, is still in hospital, in a specialist spinal unit at Southport, from where he is reported to be getting stronger.

Over the summer, an appeal was set up, and, so far, £5000 has been raised. In September, a walking treasure hunt was organised by the Blacko & Barrowford NSPCC Committee and £440 was sent to the fund. The proceeds of £280 from the Chapel's Harvest Festival was added, as was £2300 from a special event at the Rising Sun to launch Moorhouse's Brewery's latest venture (see item elsewhere). The opportunity was taken to boost the fund for Johnny with a raffle and auction.

If you would like to donate, please contact Johnny's parents, Jean and Ian at Beverley Farm on Barnoldswick Road. Cheques should be made payable to Jonathan Brennan.

Ian's fellow ex-Burnley Clarets are organising a cabaret evening at Burnley Mechanics and a mixed sportsmen's dinner at Burnley FC. Details soon.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.....

is on 14th November. The service at the War Memorial starts at 10.50, and the Chairman of the Parish Council extends a warm invitation to all members of the parish to join him.

SOMETHING FOR ALL FROM EVENTS COMMITTEE!

Do you realise, that by the time the year draws to a close, Blacko Events Committee will have organised no fewer than 12 events in 2005? Since the last edition of Blacko News, the Summer programme started with a very enjoyable walking treasure hunt through the parish on a glorious May Sunday, and June saw two memorable events.

The first was the now famous 'We're All Going on a Summer Holiday' vintage bus trip to Gardenmakers at Wigglesworth. The idea was to copy Cliff Richard, Melvyn Hayes, Una Stubbs and their friends. The emulation had to be a little contrived, though, and besides not travelling as far afield, a London Transport double deck bus was substituted by Warrington Borough Transport's preserved old Leyland Titan. It was red, but took its role too seriously by doing what the one in the film did; it broke down! In all fairness, it wasn't a true mechanical failure, but a blow-out to one of the rear twin tyres. With its passengers in happy mood after a lovely meal and in good voice, and with Events Committee chairman, Peter Hesketh, behind the wheel, the singing was drowned out on the approach to Gisburn by a loud bang. The intrepid travellers were forced to take refuge in the White Bull, until arrangements were made to get them home, which didn't detract at all from a really good evening out.

The following Saturday was another first, the Open Gardens Day. Six gardens and three allotments were thrown open, not just for everyone to visit and enjoy, but to wine, dine, take afternoon tea, buy plants and take about things horticultural. Vanessa and David Hutchison started the day by selling drinks, pre-lunch, which was a barbeque at the rear of Debbie Taylor and the Hesketh's houses. On the way up Gisburn Road, plants were for sale in Ged and Maureen Ivers' garden. The afternoon's attractions were Somnath and Mamie Gude's garden on Beverley Road, afternoon tea at David and Lesley Stone's in Malkin Close, ice cream on the allotments of Jean and Richard Brown, Alison and Ian MacDonald and Blacko School and wine and cheese at Vivian and Shelagh Derwent's house on Barnoldswick Road. The whole day was enjoyed by the many people who visited, and the committee is very grateful to the property owners.

The Black Tie & Pearls dinner dance was held on Saturday, 20th August in the banqueting suite at the White Bull at Gisburn, which had been recently extended and refurbished. Once again, David Ashworth's band, 'Switch', provided the music. By that time, the Events Committee had amended its rules to allow fund raising for specific things to benefit the whole parish, and just under £2000 was raised towards new play equipment on the Recreation Ground. Christmas is going to be a busy time for the Events Committee (and the village), as a wide

variety of attractions are planned. The Festive Season starts on **Friday 2nd December** with the **children's disco** in the Sunday School between 6.30pm and 9pm. It is free and open to all of primary school age in the parish, and all those attending Blacko School, who will receive an invitation, soon. However, if you have a child who qualifies, but goes to school, elsewhere, please inform Vivienne Hesketh on 616562 if he or she wants to come.



On the vintage bus trip, there was a stop at Sawley for bubbly and nibbles.

Two days later on **Sunday, 4th December**, it is the annual **Christmas Fair at the school** from 2 – 4pm. As in previous years, it will be held part inside and out (weather permitting).

A black-tie Christmas dinner dance will be held at the **White Bull on Saturday, 10th December**. There will be a choice of menus and tickets will soon be on sale at £27. Numbers will be limited to 84, and a coach will be laid on at extra cost.



Ian and Alison MacDonald deliver some horticultural advice to Stuart and Marilyn Mitchell on their allotment during the Opens Gardens Day.

The Moorcock will be the venue again for the **Over 70s' Christmas dinner on Thursday, 15th December**, with reception at 6.30pm. By popular request, the after-dinner speaker will be Norman Robinson. All over 70s will receive a personal invitation, but, inevitably, the committee always overlooks someone. So, if you know of such a person, please let Vivienne know. There will be a small charge of £5 towards the cost of the food and wine, the balance subsidised by the Events Committee.

On the following **Monday, 19th December**, there will be **Carol Singing** around the village. Last year, Peter and Betty Byrne kindly arranged for a brass band to accompany the singers.

The band will be here again, but this year, the procession will start and finish at the Rising Sun. A cordial invitation is extended to all. If you can't sing, don't worry; there will be a job for you knocking on doors and rattling tins. Meet at 6.30pm, and back to the Christmas tree across from the Sun at 8pm for more carols and supper in the pub.

As so to 2006! A full programme will be planned, which will, hopefully, include a race night and a wine, dine and ride night on a steam train. One event already firmed up is on **Saturday, 22nd April, to celebrate our patron saint, St. George** (a day early). This will be at our popular venue, SS Peter & Paul's Church Hall at Higherford. A meal of good English grub, lots of dancing and rousing patriotic songs will be the order of the night!

PARISH COUNCIL CHANGES

The new Parish Council rules mean that the chairman has to stand down after three years. So, at the May Annual General Meeting, Peter Hesketh handed over the reins to his vice-chairman, Keith Collinge.

Elaine Clayton and Dave Hutchison, two stalwart members have resigned. They will be missed, but pressure of work has meant they can't devote enough time to parish business.

Therefore, vacancies exist for two councillors. Do you fancy getting involved in the cut and thrust of local government at grass roots level? If you do, please contact the clerk, Judith Malcolm, on 01200 441220, or speak to one of the councillors.

PETER REED CUP

This is awarded annually to the person considered to have contributed most to the parish in the preceding twelve months. This year it goes to the Chairman of the Events Committee and Blacko News editor, Peter Hesketh.

A LICK OF PAINT

In the last Blacko News, there was an appeal for someone to paint the railings at the bottom of the ginnel from Malkin Close to Gisburn Road and the Malkin Close signs. Without more ado, Phil Sipocz, set to and made a cracking job, as did the mystery painter, who painted one of the Willaston Avenue ones. Many thanks!



**SPONSORS OF
BLACKO NEWS**

CELEBS IN THE VILLAGE!

Not since Jimmy Clitheroe and Tommy Trafford trod the boards of the Sunday School stage have there been two well-known celebrities in the village within the space of a few weeks. In August, the prizes at the Gardening Club's annual show were presented by Geoff Brown, the famous shouting man on the double glazing advertisement. He was very funny and went down a treat, although the club's co-secretary, Ian MacDonald, was a bit taken aback, when Geoff recognised him instantly as a teacher who'd sent him off during a school football match! Geoff is from Burnley, as is Julia Howarth.

Better known to millions as Clare off Coronation Street, Julia did the honours at the re-launching of the Rising Sun under its new owners, Moorhouse's Brewery. Ray Proctor, the licensee for the last ten years, retired in July to live in Salterforth. During his time in the Sun, Ray became a good friend of the parish, supporting its events in many ways, and the Events Committee was always very touched by his generosity, which often went un-noticed by those not involved directly.

The new faces behind the bar are Dave and Pauline Holden, no strangers to country pubs, having come from the Four Alls at Higham. They are very keen to become part of village life, and we wish them a very warm Blacko welcome.

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SPONSORS' GENEROSITY

The generosity of local people knows no bounds. Already, the Events Committee's drive to raise money for new play equipment has been boosted to the tune of £1000, thanks to a village couple, and, of course, the building of the Gateway Project was possible because of another kind benefactor and sponsorship of the plants by Broden Lloyd. Now, two local businesses have agreed to sponsor the floral displays across from the Rising Sun (Barnes of Barrowford) and around the telephone kiosk (Mullen Engineering).

WELL DONE, Simon Harulow of Beverley Road, who came a runner up in the BTEC Plumbing Skills 2005 Competition!

Specialising in sheet lead work, Simon qualified by winning the regional heat at Blackpool, and went down to London for a two and half day final against nine others. A student at Accrington & Rossendale College, he was required to lead a chimney. Simon was awarded a certificate and a cheque for £150.

All that bashing away in his Great Uncle Ron Burnett's garage paid off.

CARING BLACKO RECOGNISED

Blacko has picked up a cheque for £100 by coming third in the Lancashire Building Community Life Competition, run by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and sponsored by Calor. Crawford near Skelmersdale was first, with Wray in the Lune Valley second. The parish showed that it cared for its residents through the wide-range of things on offer to bring it together, and, importantly, in the ways it makes newcomers welcome and gets them involved in village life. In September, the chairman of the Parish Council was presented with the cheque and a framed certificate.

NSPCC UPDATE

The sponsored treasure hunt in aid of the Johnny Brennan Appeal was a very appropriate good cause for the Barrowford & Blacko NSPCC Committee, as Johnny's mum, Jean, was its former chairman, who, over the years, worked hard to raise money for the charity. The August day was glorious, and there was a magnificent turn-out. The committee is very grateful to all those who went along.

Two events are planned to raise funds for the NSPCC. Firstly, on Wednesday, 9th November, Gisburne Park Hospital is the venue for an Evening of Glamour, with demonstrations and advice. Tickets are a snip at £10, which includes a welcome buffet with wine.

Secondly, a 60s Night is to be held at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall in Higherford on Saturday, 21st January, next year, with a live group and pie and pea supper. Bring your own drinks.

For more information and tickets, ring Trish on 613793 or Katrina on 697765.

GRANTS KEEP RECREATION GROUND LOOKING SMART

Grants from Pendle Council and the Green Partnership Award Scheme have meant that a number of projects in the parish can now be financed.

The Disability Discrimination Act required work to be done on the access to the Recreation Ground, and that will start soon to reduce the gradient on the slope. The problem of poor drainage around the basket ball post is to be addressed and the most-used goal mouth has been re-turfed. To save money, that was done by Parish Councillors and volunteers. Our thanks go to Dave Hutchison, David Ashworth, Phil, Sipocz, Roy Foster, Keith Collinge and Peter Hesketh. Those jobs were financed by Pendle Council.

The Green Partnership (an environmental scheme jointly funded by local authorities and United Utilities) paid for repairs to the dry stone walling along the perimeter of the recreation ground and allotments and the building of a stile at the bottom of the track to Hillside Farm, to allow access at that point and stop youngsters climbing over the wall. A grant has also been obtained from the same source to replace the fence by the slide. Dave Bridge, our lengthsman, is doing the work, some of which was finished in time for the BKV judging.

PLANNING MATTERS

A number of planning applications refused by Pendle Council have gone to appeal recently.

Since the last edition of Blacko News, the applications to convert buildings at Tower and Admergill Pasture Farms have been refused, as has that for caravan storage at Burnt House Farm.

In the last Blacko News, it was reported that an application to build at Little Stone Edge had also been refused on appeal, and now the owner of the land, a property developer, who has owned it for some years, has sold it to a local landowner, who intends to return it to agricultural use. The parcel of land, between Gisburn and Barnoldswick Road, had become neglected, detracting from the appearance of the area.

Pendle Council rejected another application recently. That was to move the access to the field behind the Chapel from between there and the War Memorial to Beverley Road, across from the backs of the cottages. The Parish Council objected, as did a number of residents. It was considered that the existing access was far better than what was proposed, and Pendle agreed.



Lengthsman, Dave Bridge, puts the finishing touches to the new stile.

BLACKO HOSPICE COMMITTEE.....

has raised another £7000 for the Pendleside Hospice. This is £2000 more than last year. Its efforts have included a slide show, a concert, the ever-successful Tea at Three, a wine and cheese evening at the home of Shelagh and Vivian Derwent, a stall at Barrowford Show and personal gifts and donations.

A big thank you to all those who have supported the committee.

WANTED!

News for the News. If you have any snippets or photographs, please contact the editor on 616562. Also, letters are most welcome. If you've something to say about what's going on in the parish, drop him a line. Pseudonyms must be accompanied by a name and address.

BLACKO EVENTS COMMITTEE

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

at the

WHITE BULL, GISBURN

on

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER

7.30 for 8pm

Tickets £27
(limited to 84)

from committee members or
Vivienne Hesketh on 616562

Coach available

Dress – black tie

Choice of menu

FANTASTIC FRONTAGES

Again, in the run up to the BKV competition, we had a Frontage Competition. All houses in the village were entered in two classes, small houses and large. Sponsored kindly by Reedley Nursery, Blacko Gardening Club and the Parish Council, the winners of the small house class were Alison & Ian MacDonald, with Steve and Lynne Halstead second. In the large house class, Ged and Maureen Ivers won, with Jean Kippax second. As last year, Peter and Andy from Reedley Nursery had a hard job, as the vast majority of our house frontages looked so good.

THERE'S ALWAYS A WARM WELCOME AT BLACKO CHAPEL

Every Sunday, a different visiting preacher takes the service at Blacko Independent Methodist Chapel, starting at 10.30. Remembrance Sunday's service on 14th November starts at the War Memorial at 10.50, and then in the Chapel. An established and very enjoyable annual event is the Carol Service on Sunday, 18th December at 2pm. This is a combined service with the school, and a warm invitation is extended to all.

Blacko Chapel needs your support. Why not go along to the weekly Tuesday afternoon get together for tea, coffee and a chat between 2 and 4pm? You'll be made most welcome!

AND IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT BLACKO SCHOOL!

The extension to the school is nearing completion, and the consensus is that it's going to look good and fit in well with the existing building. It will provide a new classroom, kitchen and cloakroom, along with an entrance on to Beverley Road. The children, fully equipped with safety helmets, were given a conducted tour of the site by the projects manager, who gave them a very informative talk. Exciting times ahead to pupils and staff!

However, school funds will have to be used for certain items of furniture and equipment. Once again, the Tempest Arms at Elslack was the venue in September for the Friends of Blacko School's Dinner Dance, where the princely sum of £3,608 was raised. The school is most grateful to all those who supported the event, and to the Friends for organising it.

BLACKO SCHOOL & BLACKO EVENTS
COMMITTEE PROUDLY PRESENT THEIR

THIRD CHRISTMAS FAIR

AT THE SCHOOL

ON

SUNDAY, 4th DECEMBER

2 – 4pm

INSIDE AND OUT!

STALLS, FATHER CHRISTMAS,
BARBEQUE
AFTERNOON TEA
AND LOTS MORE!

A GREAT AFTERNOON FOR ALL THE
FAMILY

COME AND ENJOY A REAL BLACKO
CHRISTMAS

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Blacko girls, Alex Scott and Donna McCammon on their marriages. Alex married Kieran Roberts in July at the Chapel, with a reception at Eaves Hall, West Bradford and then honeymooned in California. Donna's wedding to Ian Brotherton was at St. George's in Nelson in October, with the reception at the Centre Spot in Burnley. They went to Cyprus for their honeymoon.

USEFUL NAMES & ADDRESSES

Blacko Gardening Club

Mr & Mrs Ian MacDonald, 390 Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LS

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

Kay Christie, 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

Mr Keith Collinge, Wicken Clough, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LB 696266

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

Mrs Victoria Robertson, 264, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LP 619908

County Councillor

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

Mr Geoffrey Jackson, 456 Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LZ 614308

Borough and Parish Councillor

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

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mrs Judith Malcolm, 49a, Downham Road, Chatburn, BB7 4AD 01200 441220

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