



# BLACKO NEWS

AUTUMN, 2004

**NO-ONE SAID IT WOULD BE EASY** in the Champions Class of the Best Kept Village Competition. Rivalry was going to be intense, but Blacko came third, to be highly commended, behind Over Kellet in the Vale of Lune and Newton with Scales on the Fylde, but ahead of Bilsborrow and another Lunesdale village, Arkholme. So, all our effort paid off; effort, that is, by everyone. However, a special thank you is deserved by those who agreed to “adopt-a-spot”, joined working parties or regularly litter-picked. Especially pleasing is the fact that we have also been awarded two highly commended certificates in the Certificates of Merit Section. The Ridehalgh family at Burnt House Farm and Ray and Sylvia Proctor at the Rising Sun did extremely well in their respective classes. Well done!

By way of a prelude, a Frontage Competition was organised in June, with every household in the BKV judging area being entered automatically. Reedley Nurseries judged, which was a far from easy task. In the large house section, Edna Ashworth of Beverley Road was the winner, with her near neighbour, Jean Kippax, runner-up. In the small houses section, Lynne and Stephen Halstead of Gisburn Road won, and Alison and Ian McDonald also of Gisburn Road came second. Prizes were donated by Reedley Nurseries, Blacko Gardening Club and the Parish Council. As we say every year, “And so to next time!” We’ve had a good boost, and when the Hollin Fold development is completed, landscaped and the car park finished, Blacko stands a good chance of winning the coveted Champions Class!

#### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

is on 14<sup>th</sup> November, this year. The Chairman of the Parish Council hopes that as many as possible can join him at the War Memorial at 10.50am, and in the Chapel afterwards for the morning service and light refreshments.

#### WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Fair at the School  
**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December** - Over 70s' Christmas Dinner at the Moorcock  
**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December** - Carol singing around the village, 6.30pm  
**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December** - Carol Service at the Chapel, 2 pm  
**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January** - Quiz in the Rising Sun, 8pm  
**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> February** - Valentine Dance at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall

## **BLACKO CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December at the School 1pm to 4pm**

**STALLS - REFRESHMENTS – FATHER CHRISTMAS**

**A GREAT AFTERNOON OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY!**

**ORGANISED BY BLACKO SCHOOL & THE EVENTS COMMITTEE**

#### OBITUARIES

With great regret, we have to record the sad deaths of Ken Oldham, Philip Healey, Betty Foster, Tony Clarke, Sam Cooke and Sally Healey. Our sincere condolences are extended to their families and friends.

**WE'RE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY!** Cliff Richard fashion, that is. Well, that's an exciting idea the Events Committee has, amongst others. On a balmy summer evening, next year, suitably attired in 1960s clothes, and aboard a big red double decker bus of the same vintage, there could be a trip out into the Dales or the Ribble Valley for a champagne picnic tea. The afternoon of Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June has been pencilled in for it. Long before that, though, there will be a repeat of the greatly successful Christmas Fair on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, the Over 70s Christmas Dinner on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December and a Valentine Dance (with local live band) on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> February at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall. Also, there's to be an exciting, test your Blacko knowledge walking treasure hunt, from pub to pub on 15<sup>th</sup> May, and before that, by way of a practice, a pub quiz in the Rising Sun on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January. An Open Gardens Day is a new venture on the cards for, hopefully, Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June. Open Gardens have proved very popular elsewhere. Volunteers make their gardens available, and show them off, whilst providing something for visitors, such as Pimms and strawberries, hamburgers and hot dogs, a tombola or plant sale. Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> August is the date for a late summer dinner dance. “Not another dinner dance!” someone shouts. It had been planned to have one this year in a marquee adjoining Roughlee Village Hall, but when costed out, the price was prohibitive. So, this time, it will be at the White Bull in Gisburn, with coaches provided. Watch out for more details in the spring.

As you will have gathered, the Events Committee is keeping very busy. After some considerable time as Chairman, Keith Collinge is taking a breather, as is secretary, Vivienne Hesketh. Both will remain very active, of course. Peter Hesketh is taking over as chairman, whilst Lesley Stone will, in the near future, become secretary. The committee is now quite strong, but volunteers are always welcome. Speak to Vivienne if you'd like to come along to a future meeting.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BLACKO AT [WWW.BLACKOVILLAGE.COM](http://WWW.BLACKOVILLAGE.COM)!**

**A NEW FACE IN THE POST OFFICE** After six years as the village postmistress, Jean Lord has retired. She has built up what was, not long ago, a business on the brink of collapse into a thriving enterprise. However, that success has been part of the reason for her deciding to sell up, as the job has now become two-handed, although she has had the part-time help of Lillian Lawler. The new owner is Andrew Hennessy, with Helen Pitcher as postmistress. A warm welcome to them both, and best wishes to Jean for a long and happy retirement.

**BKV VOLUNTEERS AVERT FLOOD CATASTROPHE** During the summer, a large amount of garden waste was dumped into the stream alongside the track up to Hillside Farm off Beverley Road. This forms part of the landscaped area for which we got a Green Partnership Award, but, more disturbing, is the fact that not many days later, there was heavy rain. This could quite easily have washed all the debris down up against the trap protecting the culvert under Beverley Road, and have caused flooding. Best Kept Village volunteers removed no fewer than four green wheelie bins of rubbish.

Ironically, all the perpetrator of the thoughtless act had to do was ask Pendle Council for some bins. The mind boggles!

### **SCHOOL NEWS from headmistress, Rachel Ormond**

It's been a busy start to our new school year. We welcome 14 new reception children and two new children in Years 3 & 5. We also have a new face on our teaching staff, Miss Joanne Hacking, who joined us at the start of this year. The Year 5/6 children have just returned from an adventurous outdoor week at Barcaple Christian Centre in Dumfriesshire. They were kept extremely busy, and activities included zip wire, archery, canoeing and much more. The sun shone every day, and the midges stayed away!

Plans for our building work are well and truly underway this year. This is to create a new classroom fitted with all the latest technology and a much needed cloakroom. Work on these improvements should start next May, when the weather might have got better! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising dinner dance at the tempest Arms at Elslack in June. The evening was extremely successful, and we are on target with our fundraising. We are hoping to plan some more events for the school year, and, of course, there is the Christmas Fair on Sunday, 5th December, a joint venture with the Events Committee.

This term, the children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of extra curricular activities, including cross country running, football, hockey and learning to play musical instruments, such as the clarinet and recorder. The infants are visiting Barrowford Library to meet Steve Wetherill, an author of children's books, and a theatre company will be performing "Penny and the Pirate" at the end of October. So, it's going to be a busy and exciting term for Blacko Primary School!

*The school was entered for the Schools Section in the Best Kept Village Competition. No award this time, but it looked pretty good! – Editor*

**THE SPORTS DAY** was held again this June, after missing a year, and proved to be a good day for everyone. Another joint School/Events Committee production, it was, perhaps, not on the grand scale as previous ones, but it's good to see it back on the social calendar. The ever-popular Tower Race (just for youngsters) was the highlight of the afternoon, and a bouncy castle kept the children amused between races, whilst the various stalls raised sufficient money to defray costs and make a little profit.

### **POLICING UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT**

After some years of inertia, Blacko has a community beat officer again. Okay, PC Julie Ayre isn't *our* village bobby; not a *Blacko Bobby* of old, living on her patch, as we share her with other Pendleside villages (and that's not new), but she's very much around, and as a former resident, appreciates the parish's needs. A couple of editions of Blacko News ago, a picture of the old police station on Gisburn Road was featured. Now pulled down, and Hill View built on the site, it was completed in 1922, and saw several occupants who were to leave their marks on local policing, PCs Jim Bushell, Bill Marsh and Derek Beal being more recent ones. Until 1967, the beat comprised Blacko and Higherford, and was worked on push-bikes. In that year, the territory was expanded to take in much of Barrowford, and, following local government reorganisation in 1974, the detached part of the West Riding parish of Brogden, which was covered from Barnoldswick, but with more affinity to Blacko. Then, the PC used his own car to get around. And here's another instance of the wheel re-invented. It was apparent that PC Ayre could not cover her large patch with the resources available to her, so the Parish Council suggested something radical; pay her a car allowance! Amazingly, this was agreed (but only if a police car isn't spare).

There's no doubt that rural policing can be the Cinderella of the force, but the Parish Council likes to think that it keeps senior management on its toes. One area for concern has been the Lancashire Constabulary's Police and Communities Together (PACT) initiative. Based on an American concept, it relies on local input, through regular meetings. On top of that, a recent idea has been the holding of police surgeries. However, the opinion of the Parish Council is that these meetings, invariably poorly attended, and PACT are a waste of valuable resources, and time would be better spent by PC Ayre *standing on t'kerb edge or trying snecks*. Those sentiments have been passed on to the local police commander, with a request for a return of the old resident bobby system being thrown in for good measure! The village core is a Neighbourhood Watch area, co-ordinated by Bill Peacock, and PC Ayre maintains a close liaison with the scheme, as a useful way of getting messages across. Blacko, thankfully, doesn't suffer from a lot of crime, and that's how it must stay. What there is, though, can often be prevented. Thefts from garden sheds can be avoided by good locks and lighting, and the recent unwelcome attention of bogus workmen thwarted by vigilance and firmness, which will also help deter sneak-in thefts, one of which we had had recently. In fact, as PC Ayre and Bill Peacock will agree, vigilance is the key. Keeping an eye out for your neighbours is what Neighbourhood Watch is all about. *It's what living in Blacko is all about.*

Contact PC Ayre on 472980 (voicemail) or 07903 979015 (mobile)

**A BIG HELLO** to our newest Blacko babies! Benjamin David was born to proud parents, Jenny and Sean McParlane on 20<sup>th</sup> July, whilst Daisy Ellen Stone arrived on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Mum and Dad are David and Lesley. Congratulations to the proud parents!

**BLACKO INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHAPEL** extends a warm Welcome to everyone to worship with them every Sunday at 10.30, and to join them for a cuppa and a chat afterwards. The ever popular Carol Service, a joint venture with the staff and pupils from the School, is to be held on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in the Chapel, followed by light refreshments.

**PLANNING** issues take up a lot of the Parish Council's time, and rightly so, as the number of applications passed to it from Pendle for observations has increased significantly in recent months. As is said often, many are non-contentious, but some have the potential to impact on the parish, especially when the rural nature of it could be compromised. The application to build houses next to Little Stone Edge Farm is still with the inspectorate, Pendle Council having refused it, following objections from residents, supported strongly but the Parish Council. However, it could be well into the New Year before the appeal is heard.

At the October meeting of the Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee, plans to convert out-buildings at Tower Farm were rejected, as was a proposal to extend two gardens on to agricultural land on Gisburn Road. This seemed an innocuous request, and similar to ones in recent times, but the planning authority is adamant that there should be no encroachment outside the settlement plan. Amongst those in the pipeline, are applications to convert farm buildings at Admergill Pasture, Great Stone Edge and Hillside Farms to dwellings and farm buildings at Staincliffe, Barnoldswick Road and Burnt House Farm into dog boarding kennels and caravan storage, respectively. All planning matters are discussed at Parish Council meetings, so if you want to air your views, please come along.

#### **ANOTHER GOOD YEAR FOR HOSPICE COMMITTEE**

Our hard-working Hospice Committee has notched up a wonderful £5,000 this year, which will help to fund the running of the Hospice at Reedley. Well done, and thank you to all the Blacko residents and their friends, who have supported events in the last twelve months. The next season has already begun with the Autumn Wine and Cheese Party at Flaxmoor Farm, on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, by kind permission of Vivian and Shelagh Derwent, when over £2,000 was raised.

**THE OVER 70s CHRISTMAS DINNER** is on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Moorcock, with reception at 6.30 in readiness for dining at 7pm. After the meal, there's a treat in store, as local farmer, raconteur and story teller of renown, Maurice Horsfield, will entertain. As usual, transport will be provided, if needed, and personal invitations will be coming out soon. The cost of the evening will be £5, the Events Committee paying the balance.

**THE PETER REED CUP**, awarded annually to the person who has contributed most to the parish, has gone to Vivienne Hesketh this year, in recognition of her sterling work in co-ordinating the BKV drive, her efforts on the Events Committee and her unrelenting scrounging of bottles for her immensely successful bottle tombolas, which, as you might have guessed, will be an attraction at the Christmas Fair. On a serious note, though, Vivienne was a reluctant recipient, and thanks everyone who has supported her over the years, including all the donors of bottles! Wait for her knock, soon.

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### **WISHES BLACKO NEWS EVERY SUCCESS FOR THE FUTURE**

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**THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST** will be rekindled on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, when an intrepid group of Carol Singers will travel around the village, entertaining in a Yuletide fashion, and collecting for local charities. All are welcome to join the merry band, which will be meeting at 6.30 in the Cross Gates for a quick rehearsal and necessary lubrication. Afterwards, supper and more lubrication will be called for. It promises to be a good evening!

#### **REFLECTIONS ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SHOW** by Alison McDonald, secretary of Blacko Gardening Club.

The annual Blacko Gardening Club show was held on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August in the Chapel Sunday School. Everybody was invited to enter their "fruits of the season", be it flowers, fruit, vegetables, photographs, art work, handicrafts, baking, to name but a few. The day turned out to be a success, with most entries flooding in from 9am until 11am on the day. Then came the judging ..... Everyone else left, and our judges got on with their unenviable task.

The doors opened again at 2pm, and anticipation rose. "Would we win a prize?" all eager entrants thought. Proceedings were opened by County Councillor Shelagh Derwent, who later presented the prizes. The whole event was deemed a great success by all those involved. Yet another aspect of village life is continuing to flourish, and with your help or participation, it is hoped that this will do so for many years to come. Since this is not the Chelsea Flower Show, the committee would very much like to invite people to enter in at least one of the many classes next year. Also, any suggestions for future years will be more than welcome.

The Club's hut on the allotments is now closed for the winter, but will open again in early spring.

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**TRAFFIC SPEEDS** through the village continue to cause concern, and the Parish Council has secured regular visits by the Community Safety Partnership's mobile speed camera unit, in addition to the police hand-held facility. The hit rate has been high, and, needless to say, it was inevitable that locals would fall foul of them.

However, heavy goods vehicles using the A682 as an alternative route into Yorkshire, are still a problem. It's been said many times before, that these might not be going fast enough to trigger the cameras, but are still going too fast, considering parked vehicles and children going to and from school.



## **GIVE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO *BLACKO NEWS***

**GRANTS** have been obtained from Pendle Council to cover the cost of security measures and lining-out at the new Hollin Fold car park, to repair the bottom part of the banking of the stream alongside the track up to Hillside Farm and repairs to the dry-stone wall on Beverley Road, where it borders the allotments and recreation ground. Also, it became obvious that the entrance to the recreation ground would not meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, and a grant application was successful for this work, which will involve the construction of ramped wheelchair access.

***THE EDITOR WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE LETTERS OR MATERIAL FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF BLACKO NEWS. SPACE IS LIMITED AND CONTROLLED BY THE BUDGET. IF WE WANT TO EXPAND, IT WILL COST MONEY. AS YOU CAN SEE, THREE BUSINESSES WITH BLACKO CONNECTIONS HAVE KINDLY AGREED TO ADVERTISE. IF WE HAD MORE, ADDITIONAL PAGES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE***

### **USEFUL NAMES & ADDRESSES**

#### **Blacko Gardening Club**

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

#### **Blacko Independent Methodist Chapel**

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 Chapel on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except July), and members of the public are invited cordially to attend**

#### **Chairman and Blacko News editor**

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

#### **Members**

Mrs Elaine Clayton, 448, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LZ 602580

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

Mr David Hutchison, 250, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6LZ 697917

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

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

#### **County, Borough and Parish Councillor**

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

#### **Clerk to the Parish Council**

Mrs Judith Malcolm, 154, Wheatley Lane Road, Fence, BB12 9QG 690006

***Blacko News is published by Blacko Parish Council each Spring and Autumn, edited by Peter Hesketh and printed by Copifax of Burnley***

