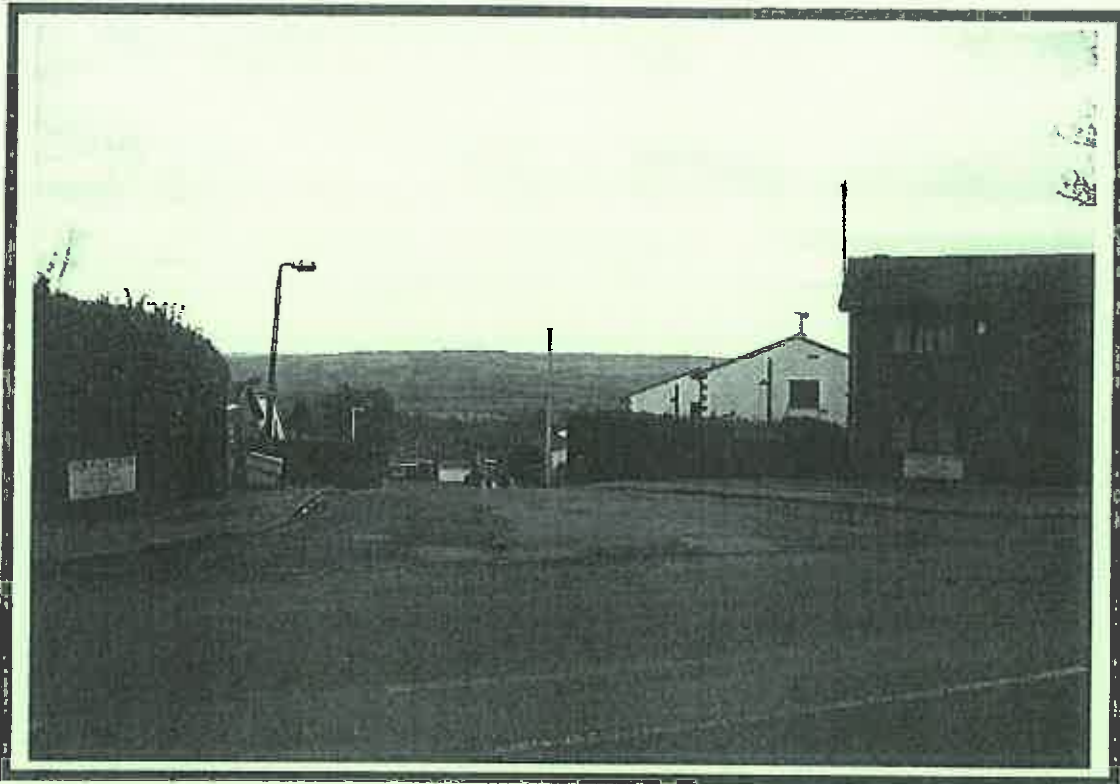


Wilpshire Parish Council

Newsletter Spring 2015



JUNCTION OF DURHAM DRIVE AND WHALLEY ROAD, WILPSHIRE.

Most of the houses in Wilpshire are built on the north facing slope of Wilpshire Moor. On Thursday, 29th January, 2015, there was a snow storm at Wilpshire which did not affect Billington and the Ribble Valley. Part of the reason is the altitude and exposure of Wilpshire compared to neighbouring parishes.

QUESTION

If you stand at the road junction shown on the photograph (Durham Drive and Whalley Road) what is the difference in height above sea level between this road junction and the junction of Whalley Road with Petre Roundabout? The answer gives some indication as to how much higher Wilpshire is than surrounding parishes. Please answer in metres or feet.

Answers to Leslie Lund, Clerk to the Council on Tel: 01254 248289. £10 prize for the first correct answer.

David Briffett

WILPSHIRE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2015 edition of the Wilpshire Parish Council Newsletter. Our Parish Council Newsletters seem to be appreciated by residents which is pleasing. We hope that you will find this edition useful and informative.

Our Newsletter is published annually and contains information about local organisations, churches, public transport, useful contacts etc., as well as articles relating to the local area. As ever, the breadth and accuracy of the information is only as good as that supplied to us by the groups and individuals concerned. We have invited as many organisations as we know of to submit information and have included all which has been submitted. Our thanks go to those who have responded.

Residents too have been invited to submit articles be they recollections of by-gone Wilpshire, poems, commentaries on modern Wilpshire, Wilpshire connections etc. So if you feel the urge to contribute to next year's edition then please send articles to our Parish Clerk, Mrs. Lesley Lund, 5 Hollowhead Close by the end of January 2016. Letters must contain an address.

Further information about the work of the Parish Council can be found on the Parish Noticeboard outside the Right At Home office (former Post Office) and on our website at: www.wilpshireparishcouncil.org The Parish Council is always interested to hear the views and suggestions of residents and has a fifteen minute public participation session before each meeting for this purpose or, if you prefer, you can write to the Parish Clerk. The Annual Meeting of Electors will be held on Wednesday, April 15th at 19.30 at Wilpshire Methodist Church Hall. You are invited to attend.

Finally, can we extend a warm welcome to new residents of Wilpshire Parish and hope that they enjoy living here in this pleasant part of Lancashire.

Newsletter Quiz Winners

On the cover of the 2012 Parish Council Newsletter we asked readers to give the location of another drinking establishment in Wilpshire in the 19th century other than the Wipshire Hotel. The answer was an alehouse at 21 Knowsley Road. Until fairly recently the layout of the interior of this address gave a clue to its former use. Alehouses were common in the 19th century and often were just rooms in cottages set aside for drinking by members of the public. The winner of the quiz was Mr Hindle who received his £10 at a recent council meeting.

Our 2014 Quiz asked readers to give the original name of the house formerly which stood on the site of Grosvenor Lodge on Whalley Road. The answer was: Hydrastin Villa and the winner of the £10 prize was Mr Jeff Smith. And what is/was Hydrastin? According to the internet it is a poisonous white alkaloid, chemical formula C₂₁H₂₁NO₆, obtained from the root of the goldenseal and formerly used to treat inflammation of the membranes. It is believed that the original owner of the property was involved in its manufacture.

PLEASE HELP THE ENVIRONMENT BY RECYCLING THIS NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Message

The past year has seen your Parish Council deal with a range of issues from planning applications, public footpath and highways matters to the use of the Durham Road Play Area by dog owners and finding a new Parish Lengthsman to list but some.

We were pleased to receive several applications for the post of Lengthsman and appointed Chris Walton to commence work in the spring of 2014. Chris introduces himself in this newsletter. Sadly, in early December, we heard of the death of Barry Grunshaw our previous and long-serving Lengthsman. Barry's legacy to Wilpshire will be the daffodils which he planted along Whalley Road on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillor Tony Gaffney represented the Parish Council at Barry's funeral.

We lost the services of Councillor Jean Franey in the summer as she and her husband decided to move back to The Wirral to live nearer their family. Jean served as a parish councillor for many years and I thank her for her service and commitment to our area. Jean's departure means that the Parish Council now has two vacancies – a very disappointing state of affairs, since local advertising hasn't resulted in any residents coming forward to fill them. Localities such as Wilpshire need residents' voices to be heard and represented. Parish Councils are the eyes and ears of their local communities often getting things done by their 'bigger brothers' in the borough and county councils who are often unaware of local problems and issues. I hope that having read of these vacancies that at least two interested and committed Wilpshire residents will come forward to offer their services. The commitment – ten evening meetings per year. Please contact Lesley Lund for more information.

Scrutinising planning applications is an important aspect of the Parish Council's role. Some applications are straightforward whilst others might be contentious or could have a major impact on the local area. With this in mind you will read in this issue an open letter sent by the Parish Council to our borough and county councillors, M.P. and chief planning officer relating to changes of use at Carr Hall. Whilst the Parish Council acknowledges that good use must be made of existing buildings it opposes any further development of the green belt open space between the settlements of Wilpshire and Langho.

The Parish Council tries, within its limited powers and resources, to do its best for Wilpshire residents. In this Newsletter you have been asked to submit any ideas which could be considered and developed by the Parish Council so please respond.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for their support, enthusiasm and hard work in enhancing and safeguarding the interests of Wilpshire Parish. They are all unpaid volunteers. As ever, I should like to thank our Parish Clerk, Lesley Lund, for her sound advice and support in sustaining the work of the Parish Council. May I also thank our borough and county councillors for their support and advice. And to all local residents who, in whatever ways, have helped to make Wilpshire a pleasant and safe community in which to live – thank you.

Craig Ward

Wilpshire Parish Council

Clerk:

Lesley Lund
5 Hollowhead Close
Wilpshire

Tel: 01254 248289

Members:

Cllr C Ward (Chairman)
19 Hollowhead Avenue
Wilpshire

Cllr P Bradshaw
4 Valley Road
Wilpshire

Cllr D Briffett
94 Whalley Road
Wilpshire

Cllr R. Hornsby
12 Vicarage Lane,
Wilpshire

Cllr T Gaffney
16 Vicarage Lane,
Wilpshire

Cllr Mrs J. Bremner
90 Whalley Road
Wilpshire

Vacancy

Vacancy

Borough Councillors:

Cllr S Bibby
34 Beaver Close,
Wilpshire

Cllr S Hirst
29 The Hazels
Wilpshire

Parish Council Meetings 2015/16

**March 4th, April 15th (Annual Meeting of Electors 2015), May 27th (AGM),
July 1st, August 19th, Sept 30th, Nov 4th, Dec 16th, Jan 20th 2016, March 9th,
April 20th (Annual Meeting of Electors 2016), May 18th (AGM)**

What do you want the Parish Council to do for you?

We are open to new ideas to update or improve services in the Parish.

Due to the increasing necessity to use the internet in everyday life, it is known that there is a need for IT access and support in the Ribble Valley. There are schemes being set up to help. We ask: Is there such a need in Wilpshire? Please let us know if you need such help and we will see if it is possible to provide support locally.

Have you any ideas for additional features in the Durham Road Children's Play Area?

Would you like more information about local footpaths?

What would you like?

Do let us know your ideas, either by speaking to a Parish Councillor or contacting the Parish Clerk, Lesley Lund.

WHAT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL DID IN 2014

Your Parish Council.....

- met on ten occasions
- maintained a Parish Council website
- reported problems on the local highway and public footpath networks to the relevant authority
- provided a donation (together with Ramsgreave Parish Council) and volunteer to maintain the floral displays at Ramsgreave & Wilpshire Station.
- provided a wreath on behalf of parishioners on Remembrance Sunday at Wilpshire Methodist Church.
- provided funding for our Parish Lengthsmen --
- maintained the Durham Road Play Area.
- gave donations to Lancashire Air Ambulance, Bowland Mountain Rescue, Wilpshire Methodist Church (room hire),
- funded and produced the Parish Newsletter and paid for delivery to every household in Wilpshire Parish.
- organised a Parish Walk
- scrutinised local planning applications as received from RVBC and commented where appropriate.
- attended meetings with other local bodies to represent our local area.
- set a precept of £15051 to cover its expenditure.

WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL?

Parish Councils in England are the first tier of local government and are responsible for areas known as civil parishes i.e. not connected to a church parish. They can deliver a wide range of services at local level depending upon the type of locality and budget. These are first-tier councils and respond to the needs of the communities they represent – delivering the services or representation they most need.

Parish Councils are statutory bodies and members are elected for a term of four years. They are funded by an annual precept which is added to Council Tax. They do not receive funding from central government.

Open Letter from Parish Council to Elected Representatives

Dear Cllr Hirst and Cllr Bibby,

This letter is to make you aware of the great concern that Wilpshire Parish Council has about the encroachment of development on the Green Belt at Carr Hall. It hopes for your support in stopping any relaxation of conditions or further extensions of the Planning Permissions already granted for the site.

This piece of Green Belt is a fundamental part of the character of our Parish and that of neighbouring Langho; it also separates these two settlements.

Permission for a Garden Centre has already led to extra commercial and industrial development on the site. The Garden Centre's existence has been used as the special circumstance to allow 3 wind turbines and, recently, conversion to office use and the storage of construction materials.

The Parish Council fears there is a very real threat of the site becoming an 'Industrial Park'. United Utilities has already sought pre-application advice about using the site as a depot, citing that this is needed on the same site as the newly permitted offices (see their agent's e mail dated 10th Dec 2014). Such proposals would significantly detract from the Green Belt itself and would have a further adverse effect on residential amenity. It does not take much imagination to see where this might lead, and quickly too.

Wilpshire Parish Council asks you, as our Ribble Valley Councillors, if you support the principle of preserving this area of Green Belt and if you will do your utmost to protect it.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Lund (Clerk)

Cc Rt Hon Nigel Evans MP
Cllr Alan Schofield
Langho Parish Council

Reply to Open Letter from Parish Council

Dear Councillors,

My thanks for your letter regarding Carr Hall.

I entirely sympathise with your concerns to prevent further 'encroachment' on the Green Belt separating Wilpshire and Langho and the preservation of the essential residential and rural character of the area. In fact the current planning framework offers a clear and robust protection of the Green Belt in this area and the ongoing work of site allocations under the newly adopted Core Strategy will serve only to reinforce that position. We should be clear therefore that any proposals to significantly extend the current consents into anything approaching an 'industrial park' which you mention would be patently and clearly unacceptable in planning terms.

Quite simply the Green Belt status would strictly control built form and would prevent inappropriate commercial 'encroachment' and I cannot envisage any future circumstances in which that would change or in which it would ever be acceptable. Indeed the NPPF section 9 'Protecting Green Belt' attaches great importance to its designation and clearly states that 'the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence'.

Within that planning context, therefore, the application which is expected from United Utilities in due course to accommodate their differing requirements for the site will have to be assessed and tested in terms of the 'planning harm' to the Green Belt requirements. As you know, this is currently at an early 'pre application' discussion stage and until a formal application is received in due course we cannot assess accurately what may be requested. What I can say is that whilst there is a recognition that United Utilities are a responsible public company who wish to make a long term commitment to the site in terms of finance and employment, the planning officers are quite clear in their duty to assess any consents requested in terms of the 'planning harm' to the Green Belt which I have just mentioned. The Planning Committee would be equally clear in its duty and I can give you my firm assurance that I also of course 'support the principle of preserving this area of Green Belt' in terms of the question you pose in your letter.

I have asked John Macholic the planning officer to keep me fully briefed on developments and I will continue to liaise with you and Parish members accordingly.

I do hope my comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart

Councillor Stuart A Hirst L.L.B

USEFUL NUMBERS

AGE UK

Ribble Valley Insurance and Information Office: 18A Castlegate, Clitheroe

Tel: 0300 300 1234

Information available on; Insurance, Benefits, Sheltered Accommodation, Home Care, Aids for Easier Living.

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9.00 a.m.– 12.30 p.m.& 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION & DELIVERY

An excellent service for the sick and housebound.

Brownhill Pharmacy, 782 Whalley New Road, Brownhill, Blackburn

Tel: 01254 249016

Langho Pharmacy, 1a East View Terrace, Whalley Road, Langho

Tel: 01254 247750

NHS DIRECT

Tel: 0845 46 47 Advice on illness and emergency, and also on healthy living. 24hours a day, 7 days a week.

POLICE

For non-urgent calls please telephone 01254 51212 and leave a message on the answerphone. TELEPHONE 999 ONLY IN AN EMERGENCY. The Neighbourhood Police Team for Wilpshire are PC 697 Lee Forshaw, PC 2833 Wendy Waterhouse & PCSO 7721 Jules Ragen who can be contacted on 01200 458766
E-mail: RibbleValley.NPT@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS

This charity enables anyone to pass on information anonymously about any crime or criminal activity. FREEPHONE 0800 555 111

STREET LIGHTING

Faulty street lighting may be reported on 0845 053 0011 or by logging on to the Lancashire County Council website and entering 'Street Lighting'

Please give the name of the village, name of road and the number painted on the lighting column in question. If the number is not visible then give the number of the nearest house.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

National and local travel information may be obtained from Clitheroe Interchange, Railway View Road. Tel 01200 429832

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Tel: 01200 425111

Public Transport Update

Whilst 2014 saw few changes to public transport provision locally the coming year could prove significant in a number of ways some for the better and others not.

The bus network remained intact though the through service to The Royal Blackburn Hospital was withdrawn. With Lancashire County Council facing further massive cuts in expenditure there was a distinct possibility that the subsidy was to be cut for our local rural bus routes to/from Longridge & Chipping via Ribchester and Clitheroe via Copster Green to/from Blackburn which both serve Wilpshire. Fortunately, this seems to have been averted for at least another year so the message is as ever – use them or lose them! Blackburn's new bus station should open in the first half of the year and should provide much improved facilities and state of the art information boards to aid travel.

The local rail network continues to see increased patronage which is reflected in the numbers using Ramsgreave & Wilpshire Station. 114 000 passengers used the station in 2013/14 compared to 47935 in 2003/4 as recorded by ticket sales. 2014 saw decisions taken which will impact on our local train service with short term pain leading to long term gain. Between May and October Bolton Station will be closed at weekends as work takes place to electrify the line between Manchester and Preston. Also the currently disused platform at Bolton will be reinstated. At some point this summer work will commence on rebuilding Farnworth Tunnel south of Bolton to prepare for electrification. This work will lead to a reduced service south of Bolton and replacement buses between Blackburn and Manchester but check before travelling. The re-opening of the Todmorden Curve is planned for the commencement of the summer timetable in May. A new hourly service from Blackburn to Manchester via Todmorden and Rochdale will be introduced from that date. Also, looking further down the tracks, the next two years should see work be carried out to redouble the track to the north and south of Darwen Station to enable an all day half hourly service to operate between Blackburn and Manchester. And if all this wasn't enough, the Government announced recently that the much disliked Pacer trains will be replaced with new trains as part of the letting of the new northern rail franchise in 2016 the 'winner' of which will be announced later this year. Just when these new trains will appear and who will build and pay for them remains distinctly unclear.

Nevertheless, the renaissance of our local rail network is remarkable but absolutely necessary if growing road congestion is to be stemmed and the needs of the increasing population of the Ribble Valley, in particular, are to be met, though whether one could call it strategic planning is open to serious question. Back in the 1970's only the hourly Preston – Colne and Blackburn – Manchester services survived the Beeching Axe and even these seemed likely to disappear as rail travel was declining steadily. Issues including the level of fares and overcrowding remain but it appears that these too might be addressed in the coming years.

Local Bus & Rail Timetables

Timetables for Transdev buses are available from their website. Other bus timetables are available at Clitheroe Interchange or from Blackburn Tourist Information Centre now relocated to Blackburn Market. The website www.traveline.org.uk will enable you to plan a journey by public transport, including sections on foot, from Wilpshire to any destination in the UK.

Rail timetables are available from manned stations and Clitheroe Interchange. Local line timetables are best downloaded from the Ribble Valley Rail website at www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk. This website also gives details of actual train running from Ramsgreave & Wilpshire Station. So you can check before leaving home if your train is on time. Go to the website, click on 'Timetables' then on 'Train Running', then click on 'Northern' and find your relevant station and train departure. The website has lots of other useful information about the local rail network as does the website www.communityrailancashire.co.uk. Our local station also has Help Points so that you can call Northern or British Transport Police.

Travelling further afield to the rest of Europe by train is easier than you may think despite an annoying absence of through services from the north of England. As well as the excellent www.seat61.com website, which provides comprehensive information about connections from London St Pancras to most European countries, a new website appeared in 2013. www.Loco2.com will give you times and fares from Ramsgreave & Wilpshire Station to almost every other station in Europe.

Fare Bargains

Whilst fares rose an average of just over 2% local rail travel is still cheaper than the parallel bus network and season tickets offer major savings to regular users – roughly four days for the price of seven. Two people travelling together Off-Peak (after 09.00) should purchase a Duo Return which entitles one person to travel for half fare providing two people return together. These tickets are available to many destinations in Lancashire from R&W on Northern trains. Just ask the conductor. NB Restrictions apply to return journeys from Manchester in the evening rush hour and in December.

There are numerous Day Ranger and Rover Tickets covering Lancashire and the rest of NW England. One of the best value tickets for those travelling across Gtr Manchester and into parts of Derbyshire and Cheshire is the 'Wayfarer' – a ticket available for purchase at Clitheroe Interchange and other manned stations in Gtr Manchester and Lancashire. It is also possible to buy Wayfarer tickets at shops with a PayPoint facility or from conductors on trains. A Wayfarer is valid from Darwen and can be used on all trains, buses and Metrolink after 09.30 and all day at weekends across a wide area e.g. to Matlock (train to Buxton then bus), Edale and Grindleford (near Sheffield), Leek, Northwich and Macclesfield to name but some destinations. Pick up a leaflet and map from Clitheroe Interchange or Manchester Victoria giving full details. Wayfarers cost only £12 with those aged 60+ paying only £6! There is also a Group Ticket for two adults and up to two children. See the Ribble Valley Rail website section – 'Promotions' for further savings' deals.

For longer journeys it is always worth checking for savings by breaking up your journey into shorter sections e.g. travelling to the West Country it can be cheaper to book to Birmingham and then again from there to your destination. Travelling to London can be significantly cheaper travelling via Manchester Piccadilly.

Fancy a cheap trip by train to Edinburgh, Glasgow or Birmingham from Preston from £2 each way on named trains then search a few weeks in advance on the Megabus website but opt for the 'Train' option in mode of travel section unless you want to travel by coach.

Season tickets on the buses can be bought from the driver. The Ribble Valley Day Ranger can be used on all buses in the Ribble Valley as far as Barnoldswick, Slaidburn and Accrington & Burnley via Whalley. These tickets currently cost £6.50 for adults and valid after 09.30. Group Ticket (up to 2 adults & 3 children) £13. There is also a weekly version of this ticket.

DalesRail

The DalesRail train will run every Sunday from May 17th to September 6th. It calls at Ramsgreave & Wilpshire then continues via Clitheroe and the Settle-Carlisle Line to Carlisle calling at all stations en-route. From the train passengers can join guided walks of varying length from an easy stroll to a strenuous fell hike, take a town tour or wildflower ramble or a connecting bus to, for example, Wensleydale or down Swaledale, or simply do 'their own thing', or just enjoy one of the world's great railway journeys. For further details visit www.dalesrail.com.

For other guided walks from local trains visit: railramblers.wordpress.com or communityrail Lancashire.co.uk

Points to Ponder

Between 1997 and 2013, and before the latest drop in oil prices, the real cost of motoring dropped by 9%. In the same period bus and coach fares increased by 28% and rail fares by 22%.

Source: Transport Minister, Robert Goodwill, in the House of Commons in June 2014 in response to a question asked by another M.P.

Rail Investment Spending Per Head By Region 2012/13: North West £89, NE £52, London & SE £363

Source: Dept of Transport

Ribble Valley Snippets

RVBC policy on fracking. This is basically 'wait and see' how things develop. Planning applications will be dealt with by LCC; RVBC being consultees. Apparently it has been said that the terrain in Ribble Valley is not particularly suitable for well heads. There is an awareness of concerns about potential difficulties regarding property insurance in areas where fracking is taking place.

Events on the Highway. A change in arrangements has been triggered by Police withdrawal from covering all but events of 'national importance' e.g. Remembrance Sunday. Numerous problems arise for organisations including costs from the need for 'notice of closure'. A scheme to help organisations is being set up, by LCC and the police, access to which is via RVBC. A planned part of this scheme had been for training of a named individual within a group as a marshal. This has now been changed and the proposals at time of going to print are for training on employer/employee basis. An objection to the exclusion of volunteers from the training scheme has been made. Interim guidance has been issued, see LCC website for full details.

Highways - new 5 year Transport Asset Management Plan. There is to be a different approach to the problem of our deteriorating roads. The previous plan, followed over the last five years, of worst condition roads first has failed if continued will result in ever worsening road conditions. The policy now is to spend, diminishing, funds with a view to extending the serviceable life of roads before they get to the point of needing complete (and very expensive) resurfacing. This means some roads currently in very bad condition and in need of complete resurfacing will wait longer. It is hoped that this approach will be more effective in the longer term but patience and understanding will be needed in the short term. The state of pavements has also deteriorated. The effective, longer lasting, weed killers are now banned for Council use.

Broadband Speeds. Superfast Lancashire (fibre optic cable installation) is proceeding well and should now be available in Wiltshire. Business Support is available for eligible businesses as is training for Online Champions.

Refuse and recycling collection services Larger 240ltr green bins are still available to householders as replacement for the small 140ltr bin. Residents are encouraged to use the white sacks for paper and cardboard collection. If you need a sack please contact RVBC.

Subsidised Bus Services. Services are still under threat. Lancashire County Council currently subsidise a number of financially unviable services across Lancashire at a cost of £8,000,000 each year. As a result of Government announcements on funding, the County Council is looking at a number of measures to make further budget savings, one of those proposals is to reduce the amount of money spent supporting bus services.

Policing in the Ribble Valley A relatively high volume of thefts from motor vehicles has been reported. The police ask for help with reporting and preventing this from happening. Over 70% of the incidents were as a result of insecure vehicles.

Parish Council Elections The Chief Executive has proposed that RVBC runs a meeting to inform the public about how the elections work and to encourage more interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. It is felt important that it is made clear that party politics plays no part in Parish Council elections, also that Parish Councils are not connected to church parishes..

THE DEVOLUTION CHALLENGE – THE FUTURE FOR WILPSHIRE AND THE RIBBLE VALLEY

The Parish Council Chairman's interest in local history is well known and readers of this annual report will have no doubt enjoyed the many interesting articles featured in its pages in its editions which trace the impressively long and often fascinating history of the Wilpshire area. In contrast the Ribble Valley is, of course, a very recent creation of the reforms of 1974 and the borough celebrated only its 40th birthday last year.

Despite this disparity and the historical links with Blackburn there is no doubt that the residents of Wilpshire now firmly identify the ward as an integral and important part of the Ribble Valley. Many residents will no doubt recall how this emphatic loyalty to the borough was clearly demonstrated some years ago when the Boundaries Commission proposals threatened to dismember the borough and take Wilpshire and surrounding wards back within a 'greater Blackburn'. Fortunately that was a battle won and the victory was due in no small part to the fierce and effective campaign by local residents to stay within the Ribble Valley.

Talk of change is in the political air again, however, and with it another potential threat to Ribble Valley – but of a different nature. The Scottish Referendum result has added great potency to discussions on devolution within England and both government and opposition are now committed to this agenda. There is clearly no appetite for an additional tier of regional government so the drive for 'localism' will now be to further empower local government. In itself this will no doubt enjoy much popular support and is to be welcomed but the crucial question for us is what form will this structural change take and how is it likely to affect us here in Wilpshire and the Ribble Valley?

Many areas have already seen the creation of large single tier 'unitary' authorities and Blackburn MP Jack Straw is one of a number of local and national commentators now arguing strongly for the creation of a single unitary 'super council' across East Lancashire which would sweep away to extinction district authorities such as Ribble Valley. I fear the assumption that this will bring greater efficiency may well prove spurious. Ribble Valley may be a small authority but, despite huge grant cuts, we have by far the lowest council tax rate in the county, a balanced budget, good reserves and service satisfaction and efficiency levels which are the envy of our larger neighbours. Bigger is quite simply not always best.

And what of local identity? The borough is far more than an administrative entity. There is a sense of pride and belonging in a place where people want to live and work in a healthy, rewarding and safe environment which would be utterly lost were our powers and identity to be subsumed within a monolithic East Lancashire authority. The council in Ribble Valley has rejected this option as being totally inimical to the wishes and interests of our residents and fortunately we are supported by the majority of other district authorities – of all political colours – throughout East Lancashire. There has to be a better way – and I believe there is.

As an alternative to unitary 'mergers', councils can now consider the alternative option of working together in a 'Combined Authority'. In essence, local authorities can enter a formal legal agreement to cooperate on strategic issues such as transport, regeneration and economic growth made with the approval of the Secretary of State under a statutory order. Although no such structure exists as yet in Lancashire we are surrounded by 5 Combined Authorities most of which were formed in April last year – Sheffield City Region, North East, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and West Yorkshire, and many more are now up and running throughout the rest of the country. The salient feature of such an arrangement is that no merger or takeover is involved. Each council retains all its legal independence but agrees to cooperate to increase efficiencies and exercise new powers devolved down from central government. Early discussions involving the Lancashire authorities have been encouraging and the idea is gaining traction.

My own view is that a combined authority in Lancashire may be the best way to safeguard the independence of the Ribble Valley - and therefore the future of Wilpshire as a ward within it – whilst enabling us to participate on equal terms with other councils in Lancashire in the benefits of strategic devolution of powers. Undoubtedly difficult detailed discussions lie ahead and when a proposal is formalised the council will need to consider if and how we go forward and we will undertake a full public consultation exercise at that stage to inform that decision.

In the meantime I look forward as leader to representing Ribble Valley in the ongoing discussions in a spirit of optimism that we can retain our precious identity and independence whilst playing a full and constructive part in the serious and responsible exercise of devolved powers across our county and region. Let us hope it proves to be so.

Councillor Stuart A Hirst

Wilpshire Ward Borough Councillor and Leader of Ribble Valley Borough Council

29, The Hazels

Wilpshire

Blackburn BB1 9HZ

m 07989 303684

e stuart@avebell.co.uk

(EDITOR: Would any reader like to give an alternative view on the issues covered in Stuart's article? If you would then please send them to the Clerk for inclusion in next year's Parish Council Newsletter. Name & address required)

Walkers Walking Wilpshire Way

In May Wilpshire will be on the route of the Long Distance Walkers' Association Red Rose 100. The event will take place over the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend – May 23rd to 25th with around 550 walkers covering a 100 miles' route through Lancashire in 48 hours – quite a challenge! Prior to this event there will be a similar one for the walk's marshals over the May Day Bank Holiday Weekend.

The 100 miles' circular walk begins and ends at the Anderton Centre near Rivington Reservoir. From there the participants will head for Darwen Tower then drop down into Witton Park and up over Billinge Hill to Ramsgreave Hall before descending to Wilpshire Bottoms. The route will then lead them under the railway at the old Wilpshire Station, up to Hollowhead and into Dean Clough and on to Whalley. From Whalley they will climb Pendle, take in Downham, Bolton by Bowland, Tosside and Gisburn Forest before a breakfast stop at Slaidburn. After breakfast they will tackle Longridge Fell, descend into Hurst Green, head for Mellor Brook, Hoghton and Brinscall before making for the finish back at the Anderton Centre. Phew!!!!

It's the first time since 1991 that the challenge walk has been held in Lancashire. For more information visit the LDWA website.

Parish Walk 2014



Crossing the stepping stones in Wilpshire Glen

Sixteen people joined last year's Parish Walk which took a route to try and follow, where possible, the parish boundary which meant heading through Wilpshire Glen where the Showley Brook is the parish, borough, county, UK parliamentary and European parliamentary boundary. We then headed over Hollowhead, across the golf course to Little Snodworth, passed Carr Hall and headed down to the A59 before returning via Dewhurst House to Salisbury and dropping down again to the Showley Brook and on up to Ramsgreave Hall and back into Wilpshire Bottoms. This year's Parish Walk takes place on Sunday, April 26th – hope you can join us!



Crossing Wilpshire Golf Course

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

THE WILPSHIRE PARISH WALK

A Walk on Wilpshire's Moors

SUNDAY, APRIL 26th 2015

A fairly easy 6 miles' walk taking in Wilpshire's glens,
deans, moors and tops

MEET OUTSIDE THE BUTCHER'S SHOP AT 1.30 P.M.

On our walk we will:

pass through Wilpshire Glen

by ginnels and gaps lead to countryside soon to disappear forever

cross the lesser known heights of Wilpshire

pass by the ancient farmsteads of Eddy Holes and Mickle Hey

descend into Dean Clough

cross Wilpshire Moor

learn more about our local landscapes

All of this using the parish's local public footpath network

Come and meet some of your fellow residents and parish councillors

**WEAR BOOTS, WELLINGTONS OR STOUT SHOES – the route will be wet
and muddy in places, BRING A WATERPROOF, DRINKS AND A SNACK.**

N.B. unsuitable for pushchairs



Salesbury Church of England Primary School is well positioned on Lovely Hall Lane to be part of the real hub of the local community. Enjoying meaningful links with St. Peter's Church which strengthen and nurture our Christian ethos enables us to be a warm and vibrant learning community.

Our learning journey starts in our nursery school where children from 3 years old experience a taste of school life and foster their love of learning. Today, they have made wonderful models of houses and set these up alongside a makeshift road running through their classroom. They are now steering remote control cars around the track, we may have knocked over a few houses but what fun they have had!

This morning, we have woken up to a very snowy Salesbury day and the area looks beautiful and after sparing a moment to take in the breathtaking views and realising how lucky we are to learn and work together in such a beautiful part of the county, we have prepared to welcome our children into school. They have arrived wrapped on in hats, coats, scarves and boots and some even arrived on sledges. Children had a great time playing in the school grounds in the snow – rolling snowballs, making snowmen and having a real explore! The children in reception have made some wonderful snowmen, and having been colour mixing in the snow and watching the patterns emerge.

We are very excited about next week as it is our Storytelling Week where we celebrate the many rich and vibrant stories from near and far. We will be joined by a storyteller, John Kirk, on Monday who will kickstart our wonderful week of literacy learning. On Thursday evening, our nursery and infant children can come back to school in their pyjamas to enjoy bedtime stories, milk and cookies bringing teddy along too. The bedtime stories will be told by another visitor 'Wee Willie Winkie.'

This coincides with an exciting building project in school where our library will be completely renovated and is sure to catch the attention of all our children. This has been enabled by our PTFA organisation 'Friends of Salesbury School' who work tirelessly along with the support of parents, parish and community to raise money for our children to have those extras that make such a difference.

We are currently also working on an exciting writing project with our year 6 children where they have been 'recruited' by local businesses to design real adverts for them. We are working hard on the skills we need to do a good job before personalising our designs which are bespoke to our customer's needs. Watch out for the adverts as they become 'live' in the area.

Reverend Martin is a regular face within our school community and by working with children, serving as a governor, leading worship and providing pastoral support for the school, our school life is greatly benefited. We worship In Church fortnightly on a Wednesday morning at 9am, and we extend an open invitation for the community to join us for these services.

In our school entrance, we have unpacked our archives and displayed our photographs and logs demonstrating many decades of Salesbury School life. Do pop in and have a look if you are passing!

Clare Berryman

Headteacher

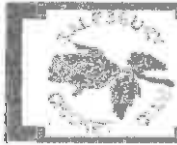


All children created their own artistic masterpiece leading to a wonderful art exhibition shared by all

Toasting marshmallows on the 'campfire'



African Land Snails in Class 6!



SALESBURY CRICKET CLUB

Salesbury CC was founded in 1906 and first played in the Blackburn Sunday School League. Today we run three senior teams in The Houldsworth Ribblesdale Cricket League.

We also have a thriving junior section with teams at age groups U9, U11, U13, and U15 playing in the Lancashire Colts League and an U18s team playing in the Ribblesdale League Knockout Cup. Salesbury have been credited with E.C.B. Clubmark Status, showing that we reach the highest standards of junior infrastructure and child safety.

The 2014 season will be remembered as being another successful one for Salesbury Cricket Club, from the U9s through to the 1st team.

At Senior Level the 1st Team were pushing for promotion from the B Section to the A Section but were piped at the post. After a rocky start the 2nd Team found some stability and produced some amazing performances to cement their place in the First Division for 2015 whilst a young 3rd Team played some excellent cricket all season and finished in the top half of their league.

At Junior Level the stand out team was again the u 9s, who again ran out league winners and who are proving that the future of the Club is looking very healthy indeed.

For the last four years the club has employed the services of a professional to strengthen the team and run coaching sessions. From 2010 this position has been filled by the talented Susantha Pradeep, our first overseas professional from Sri Lanka.

Susa continues to enjoy his time in Salesbury and is looking forward to returning in April 2015 in what is rumoured to be his final season.

Winter nets have been arranged for the month of March for both the juniors and seniors. The u9s will take place at Mellor Village Hall on Sundays from 4–6 p.m. The u11s and u13s sessions will take place on Saturdays at QEGS, Blackburn from 6–7pm and the seniors will be at Blackburn College on Fridays from 7–8pm

We are again hoping to arrange the now annual Golf in April 2015 at Wilpshire Golf Club. If you wish to enter a team please contact Jason Rawson at the Club.

Last year, the Chairman's T20 game between a team selected by our Chairman, Andrew Green, and a team of Sri Lankan Professionals, selected by Susa, was again a great success with the Salesbury XI coming out on top. We again look forward to hosting this match again in 2015. Details will be posted around the village when finalised.

St. Peter's Church held a fund raising game on the ground last summer, which proved hugely popular and of great benefit to both the Church and the Club. We aim to arrange a successful repeat during 2015 and again this will be publicised when details confirmed.

We welcome any new members, both playing and non-playing, who are keen to join an ambitious, progressive but family orientated cricket club.

For further details please email Andrew Green (Chairman): chairman@salesburycc.co.uk

Wilpshire Golf Club

Wilpshire Golf Club was formed on 20th June 1890 making 2015 its 125th anniversary reminding us of past achievements and the fact that it is the oldest golf club in East Lancashire and one of the oldest in the county. In 1890 the course had 9 holes which straddled Hollowhead Lane. The meeting place for members was the Wilpshire Hotel. There is however no record of how much time was spent in the pub compared to that playing golf. We can only hazard a guess.

The club is very different today with what is recognised as one of the finest courses in the area and a clubhouse which has recently undergone an extensive refurbishment. The clubhouse is now being increasingly used for external functions such as birthdays, weddings and christenings not only making use of the well furnished rooms, the views but also the excellent fare from the kitchen.

Members of the club not only enjoy their course but also the opportunity to play snooker, dominoes, bridge, learn to dance and enjoy regular social functions. It is a community within a community but nevertheless very welcoming to new comers.

Currently, like most golf clubs there is a drive to encourage new members at all levels including social. There is a particular interest in encouraging those new to golf, lady members and those who only want to play casual non competitive golf during the week.

A meeting will be held in late March/early April for all interested local residents at which time representatives from the club can explain what is on offer and answer any questions. There will undoubtedly be the odd glass of wine and nibbles available to relax the atmosphere. Couples are particularly invited to attend as mixed golf at Wilpshire has always been an important element and one which the club wishes to enhance.

Anyone interested in continuing their golf at a great course, leaning to play or just social membership call the office to register an interest. The club will then keep them informed of when meetings will take place.

Telephone: 01254 248260

email: admin@wilpshiregolfclub.co.uk

A Message from Wilpshire Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Is there anyone in life that you admire other than a celebrity? One of the people that I admired was William Sangster. William Sangster was a Methodist Minister. He spent a lot of his time in Westminster Central Hall, the cathedral of Methodism. He preached to thousands of people in his time. He even spent time living and witnessing in the bomb shelters during the war.

During this time people's lives were filled with fear, anxiety and uncertainty, so it was difficult to maintain a sense of hope and joy during this period. But Dr Sangster inspired many people with a sense of hope during those dark days. He was shaping minds and hearts.

One of Sangster's way of inspiring hope was to give the 10 commandments a new twist. Although the language is a little out of date the ideas still give us a flavour of how we ought to enjoy life to the full.

1 Thou shalt enjoy this lovely world which God has made: sun, moon, and stars; fields, flowers, and trees; wind, warmth, and rain; earth, sea, and sky.

2 Thou shalt enjoy the gift of love from parents, sweetheart, wife, the love which goes on loving when you are most unlovely.

3 Thou shalt enjoy home – where you do not visit but belong; where your absence means a gap which no one else can fill.

4 Thou shalt enjoy the trustfulness of little children and their adoring belief that there is nothing you do not know and nothing you cannot do

5 Thou shalt enjoy friends, their loyalty and fellowship, their consistency in sorrow, and their unprotesting acceptance of your timely help.

6 Thou shalt enjoy wholesome laughter, the ludicrous incident, the side-splitting joke.

7 Thou shalt enjoy art, music, the cinema, literature. Eloquence, animals, singing, rhythm, games

8 Thou shalt enjoy the privilege of helping others: the poor and sick, the aged and maimed.

9 Thou shalt enjoy peace. This peace shall not attach only to your circumstances: it shall abide in your heart.

10 Thou shalt enjoy God: the knowledge that He is there and that He is love; that He cares for all.

Today the church is still seeking to inspire people with a sense of hope in an uncertain world. As you read through some of the activities in the church you will realize that the small things that are being done by committed people are significant in shaping minds and hearts and giving joy to many.

Albert Gayle (Minister)

Wilpshire Methodist Youth Club

Christmas saw the Youth Club reach its fifth birthday, which was celebrated with a small party at the last Club before the holiday.

It is also pleasing to be able to report that we now have a Family and Community worker funded by the Methodist Circuit who has taken over Leadership of the Club. Charlotte Rumble joined us after the summer break and has already set about bringing in new ideas to improve the club both for the youngsters and the volunteers.

At the same time as we had our birthday party we also had an Open Evening to which parents and members of the Church were invited to come and see what Youth Club was all about. We suspect not many parents received their invitation as the youngsters don't seem to want parents around when they let their hair down!!!!!!

It would not be an article on Youth Club without the usual appeal for volunteers to help out on Friday nights. In particular we badly need male volunteers. Please understand whatever time you could give would be of help even if it is not on a regular basis. If we had a few volunteers who could come now and again it would mean we could at least start some sort of rota. If you can help at all please ring:

John Jeffries on 07554061760.

Currently we see 40 –50 youngsters on a Friday night; however our membership shows that if we had a 'full house' we would have in excess of 70 youngsters in the building. With attendance levels like this we are guessing we don't need to make drastic changes.

So we here we go again into our sixth year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their commitment to the Club week in week out on Friday nights. I feel sure this commitment is appreciated by the youngsters and their parents.

John Jeffrey (Volunteer)

Wilpshire Rainbows

After a difficult period last spring where our Rainbow group was severely struggling for numbers, Wilpshire Rainbows is now thriving once again. We currently have 9 girls, aged between 5 and 7 from a variety of different local schools.

We enjoyed an extremely busy Autumn term earning our "Roundabout Seasons" badge. Highlights included an indoor campfire with toasted marshmallows, decorating hedgehog cupcakes, and a firework night with homemade edible sparklers and shooting rockets. Cooking and eating seems to play a large part in our meetings!

We also enjoyed making fudge to sell at a Macmillan Coffee Morning which was a joint venture with Brownies and Guides.

In November we thought about the 100th anniversary of World War 1 and made Poppy Plates and Poppy biscuits.

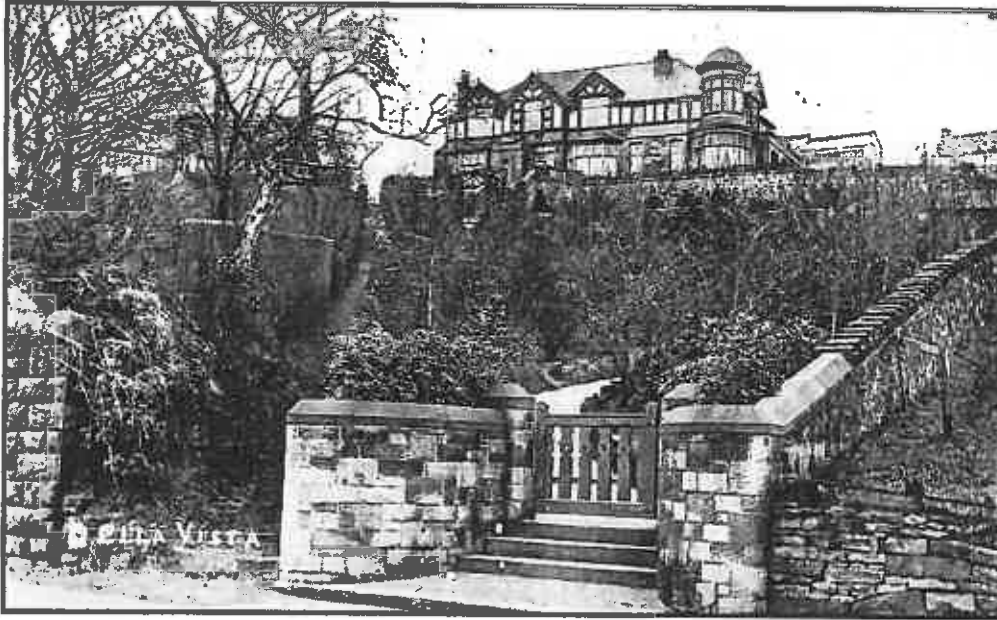
In December we prepared for Christmas by making baubles and painting window decorations. At our last meeting we held a Christmas tea party and our newest three Rainbows made their promise.

We do still have some places for girls aged 5-7. Please contact me if you are interested.

Kirstie Esson
07544 364726

Wilpshire's Lost Garden

Below is an early view of The Knoll. The house was built for John Duckworth who owned Roe Lee Mills. It was originally called Bella Vista (Grand View) for obvious reasons. It was extended in 1909 and the Coach House to the rear was added in 1912 complete with a 'cell room' to provide electricity to the house and had a games' room on the upper floor. This building has now been converted into a private house. At some point between 1912 and 1919 Bella Vista was renamed The Knoll the name it has retained to the present time. A tennis court and outdoor swimming pool were added at some point



The photograph shows the beautifully landscaped garden with its meandering path leading to the small gate on Whalley Road. Directly opposite was the entrance to the old Wilpshire Station from which, no doubt, Mr Duckworth regularly caught the train to do business in Manchester. It has been suggested that the garden was laid out to plans drawn up by the famous early 20th century landscape gardener, Thomas Mawson. He designed many famous gardens, including those at Rivington Pike for Lord Leverhulme, as well as numerous public parks in the UK and abroad.....



Sadly, as the modern photograph shows, the garden has since become overgrown. The trees and rhododendrons have grown and spread but the meandering path with its bouldered edgingcont'd

.....remains to be rediscovered. At some point the garden was enlarged and a new winding driveway was built, which replaced the small gate, but in recent years this was moved to its current, safer location. The house too has undergone partial restoration and has recently been up for sale. Two detached houses are currently being built on the site of the former tennis court.

The public footpath leaving Whalley Road, and leading as straight as a die up the hillside, provides a useful if steep shortcut to/from the main road to Beaver Close and Hollowhead Avenue and on to Hollowhead Lane. Wouldn't it be wonderful if 'Wilpshire's Lost Garden' could be restored to its former glory at some point in the future as it would make a real impact on the local landscape.

Salesbury Memorial Hall Gets A Warm Hat !

Essential work has been carried out to get this popular village hall a new warm roof to keep it going for years to come. Salesbury Memorial Hall was built in 1928 on gifted land – built by the people for the people. It forms the “hub” of village life with hundreds of families taking advantage of the facilities , both within the hall and on the surrounding land.

The hall has remained largely intact and untouched, other than for essential maintainance and upkeep but the roof finally required major refurbishment. Having lasted almost 90years it had not insulation and had begun to leak.

Thanks to the generous support of the Lancashire Environmental Fund, The Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund, the Harold and Alice Bridges Charity and The Houghton Dunn Charitable Trust work on the roof was completed in December.

As well as full insulation of the roof the Westmorland green slates were removed, cleaned and reinstated. The project cost £45,000 and was completed on time and within budget. No more leaks and a warmer hall is the result!

The Trustees and Management Committee of Salesbury Memorial Hall wish to thank all parties who supported this major project- not least of all the contractors : Brian Cooper Builders Ltd., and Randles roofing of Todmorden for their excellent work and Finlay Hodge from Community Futures for his advice throughout the project.

For further information about the project contact John Fryer on 01254 245174

SALESBURY MEMORIAL HALL

ACTIVITIES

		Main Hall	Upstairs
Healthy Life Style Dancing	Monday	10:30am	
Guitar	Monday		6:30pm
Metafit	Monday	6:30pm	
Ladies Badminton	Tuesday	1:30pm	
Tai Chi	Tuesday	6:30pm	
Zumba	Wednesday	6:15pm	
Senior Badminton (18+)	Wednesday(ex4 th in month)	7:30pm	
St Peter's Salesbury Mother's Union	4 th Wednesday in month	7:45pm	
Salesbury under 5's (mums& toddlers)	Thursday	9:30am	
Pilates	Thursday		6:00pm
Body Blast	Thursday	6:30pm	
Metafit	Thursday	7:45pm	
Pat Eaket's school of Dance & Drama	Friday	4:00pm	
Ribble Creative Stitchers	3 rd Friday in month	7:30pm	
	3 rd Saturday in month	10:30am	

Parish council meetings

P.A.C.T. meetings

Tennis Club

Rooms available for hire:-

CHILDREN'S PARTIES

QUIZZES

DISCOS

BEEBLE/WHIST DRIVES

DANCES

MEETINGS

JUMBLE SALES

P.A.SYSTEM

DISABLED ACCESS
CAR PARK

PIANO

ALL ENQUIRIES MRS B CRAVEN

TEL

01254249425

20th January 2015

Life of a Parish Lengthsman



I became the Wilpshire Parish Council Lengthsman in the spring of 2104. I enjoy being a Lengthsman and Wilpshire is a pleasant place in which to carry out my duties. I clear the parish footpaths of litter, leaves and moss and inspect and tidy the Durham Road Play Area and other open spaces including the steps and shrubs of the triangular garden area near the Wilpshire Hotel.

My other duties include picking up litter from hedgerows, footpaths, highways and lay-bys, cleaning road signs as necessary and occasional removal of fallen trees from country footpaths.

I hope that you now understand some of what I do and please say 'Hello' if you see me around Wilpshire.

Chris Walton (Wilpshire Parish Council Lengthsman)

A message from your Lancashire Fire Rescue Service

Free Fire Safety Check

The best way to save a life is to prevent a fire in the first place, and homes across the County are benefiting from Lancashire Fire and Rescue's Home Fire Safety Checks. The checks involve a crew visiting your home and giving advice, as well as fitting smoke alarms where necessary. Any resident within Lancashire can request one and they are completely free of charge.

- * We will provide and install FREE 10-year smoke alarms where necessary.
- * Give life saving advice in the event of a fire in your home.
- * How to make a fire escape plan for you and your family.
- * Practical advice on identifying fire hazards in the home.

All home fire safety checks are carried out by employees of Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service who will show identification.

To obtain a home fire safety check, please contact us by calling Freephone number 0800 169 1125 or enter your details onto the dedicated page at: lancsfirerescue.org.uk.

Your local station (according to your postcode) will receive your request and contact you. We aim to see each household within six weeks†of the booking being requested.

Policing Crime in Wilpshire and Ribble Valley

The policing team/area for Wilpshire has been re-organised and grouped to include Mellor, Clayton le Dale with Ramsgreave and Wilpshire.

The team are:

PC 697 Lee Forshaw
PC 2833 Wendy Waterhouse
PCSO 7721 Jules Ragen

Contact: 01200 458766

e-mail: RibbleValley.NPT@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

In the last recorded twelve month period in our grouped area there have been committed the following crimes:

Anti-social behaviour	98
Bicycle theft	2
Burglary	27
Criminal damage & Arson	22
Drugs	2
Other crime & Other theft	38
Public order	2
Shoplifting	2
Vehicle crime	35
Violence & Sexual offences	28
Possession of weapons	0
Robbery	0
Theft from person	0

Overall the Ribble Valley has the lowest crime rate in Lancashire and is lower than many similar areas such as Craven, Eden, Dorset, Wiltshire and most areas of Devon.

Within Lancashire Ribble Valley has 33 recorded crimes per 1000 population compared to Blackburn with Darwen at 73 and Blackpool at 114. Fylde has the next lowest rate at 40 per 1000 population.

If you have any questions about police performance or a particular crime or issue in your area ask them. You can get in touch with your local Policing team, attend a local 'beat meeting' or email your Crime Commissioner.

For further information:

www.lancashire.police.uk > my area>Ribblevalley
www.police.uk/lancashire/E42/team

Gates and Fences re-enforce the boundaries of your property.

Check for weak spots where a thief could get in - a low or sagging fence, or a back gate with weak lock.

A thorny hedge along the boundary can act as a deterrent. But make sure that the front of the house is still visible to passers-by so that a burglar can't work unseen.

IF YOU LIVE IN A FLAT

The most vulnerable part of your flat is likely to be the front door.

Replace a weak door. It should be as strong as the main entry door. Fit hinge bolts which stop the door being pulled off its hinges

Fit a steel strip to the door frame to strengthen it.

Consider having a door telephone entry system installed. Never 'buzz' open the door for strangers or hold the door open for someone who is arriving as you are leaving.

OTHER GENERAL HINTS AND TIPS

If your house is going to be left empty, make sure all windows and doors are closed and locked and remember to set the burglar alarm.

Use special timers which you plug your lights into before plugging them into the mains to give the impression that someone is at home. Consider attaching one of these to the radio to make it appear that someone is in the house.

Lock away any ladders or other portable items that could be used to reach upper windows.

Use an invisible marking pen (UV Pen) to put your house number and postcode on as much property as you can particularly electrical goods.

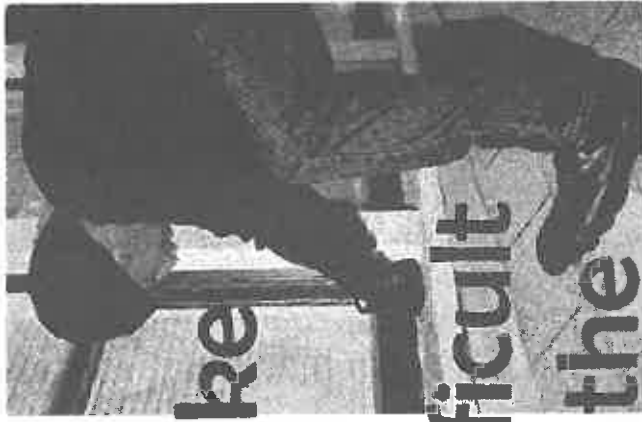
Speak to trusted neighbours and ask if they can:

- Remove mail that maybe on show.
- Use your rubbish bins, placing them out and returning them on the correct day.

Use your driveway to give the impression that someone is using the property.



**ribble valley
community safety
partnership**



Make it Difficult for the Burglar

Reduce the risk of burglary happening to you by making sure you've taken these simple precautions. For a relatively small outlay you could make your home more secure and buy peace of mind into the bargain.

Remember: if looking for a private company to carry out any work to improve your security, make sure you get at least 3 quotes all from businesses that are trustworthy and well known.

ACTIONS THAT MAY HELP US HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE BECOME A VICTIM OF CRIME

Make a list of make, model and serial number of all high valued goods and store the information safely. This would aid the police and insurance companies if you were unfortunately to become a victim of crime. Some companies offer free registration of goods to be stored on electronic databases.

If make, model and serial numbers are not possible, for example with valued paintings, ornaments or jewellery, take photographs or video of these items with a coin or ruler beside them to indicate their size.

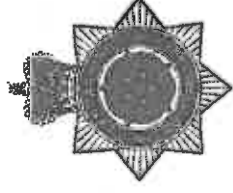
MOTOR VEHICLES

Thieves often look for opportunities to steal valuables from parked vehicles. If you can, park your vehicle in a well lit area and take your valuables out of the vehicle.

Items such as satellite navigation systems are especially attractive to thieves and should be removed.

Thieves will often check if vehicles are secure and if they are will move on.

An un-locked vehicle is a golden opportunity for a thief.....Lock it before you leave it !!!



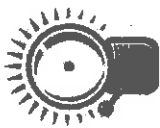
**Lancashire
Constabulary**

police and communities together

Most burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves.

In two out of ten burglaries they don't even have to use force - they get in through an open door or window. **ALWAYS SECURE UNLOCKED DOORS AND WINDOWS, EVEN IF ONLY AWAY OR OUT THE ROOM FOR A FEW MINUTES.**

Look at your home through the burglar's eyes - are there places where they could break in unseen? Have you fitted strong locks on your doors and windows? Would they have to make a lot of noise by breaking glass?



ALARMS

Visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice.

There are many systems on the market, ranging from cheaper DIY alarms to more sophisticated alarms costing hundreds of pounds. Easily installable 'wire-free' alarms are now available whereby sensors fitted around the house transmit radio detection signals to a control system. These systems usually take 3-4 hours to fit. Wired alarms are cheaper but take longer - around a day to install.

Again get specialist advice and a number of quotes from trustworthy companies. Consult your insurance company for companies they recommend before deciding which best suits your needs. The system should meet BS4737 (professionally installed) or BS6707 (DIY).

Remember, a badly-fitted alarm can create problems in itself. Don't install a DIY system unless you have the electrical knowledge and practical skill to do so.

DOORS

If your front and back doors are not secure, neither is your home.

Make sure the doors and frames are strong and in good condition. Glass panels on or around the door are especially vulnerable, if possible replace them with laminated glass.

Fit back and front doors with a five-lever mortice deadlock - and use it.

Fit all exterior doors - top and bottom - with bolts. Remember to fit all security devices with strong screws or bolts.

Fit both french doors, top and bottom, with a security mortice lock and mortice bolt.

Get specialist advice on fitting locks to patio doors. They should have special locks fitted top and bottom unless they already have a multi-locking and anti-lifting system.

If you're thinking of buying PVCu or metal framed windows or doors, make sure that they come with good built-in locks and a fitted chain, which can be very difficult and expensive to add retrospectively.

Look in your telephone directory for the names of local locksmiths who are members of the Master Locksmiths' Association.

Hinges

Check that the door hinges are sturdy and secured with strong, long screws.

For added security fit hinge bolts. These are inexpensive and help to reinforce the hinge side of a door against the use of force.

Door Viewers

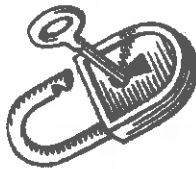
Enable you to identify callers before opening the door.

Letterboxes

Never hang a spare key inside the letterbox - an obvious place that a thief will check.

Spare Keys

Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat or in a flower pot - a thief will look there first. If you're moved into a new house, consider changing the back and front door locks - other people may have keys that fit.



WINDOWS

A third of burglars get in through a back window.

Easily visible locks may deter some thieves, because a window lock forces the thief to break the glass and risk attracting attention. DIY shops sell inexpensive key-operated locks to fit all kinds of window. UPVC windows can be re-enforced but may have to be upgraded by a trustworthy UPVC company.

Fit at least one key-operated window lock to all downstairs windows, those which can't be seen from the street and easily accessible upstairs window, eg. Those above a flat roof or by a drainpipe.

Even small windows such as skylights or bathroom fanlights need locks - a thief can get through any gap larger than a human head.

Remember to remove keys from locked windows and to keep them out of sight in a safe place.

Louvre windows are especially vulnerable because the slats can be removed easily from the frame. Glue the slats in place with an epoxy resin, and fit a special louvre lock. Better still replace them with fixed glass.

If you are replacing windows consider laminated glass. As a last resort, consider fitting security grilles to vulnerable windows - many DIY shops now sell decorative wrought iron grilles. Casement locks make it impossible to open windows without the correct key.

LIGHTING

Good lighting can deter a thief.

Some exterior lights have an infra-red sensor that switches the light on for a few moments when it detects something in its range. Sensors can be bought separately to convert an existing outdoor light into a security one. Any work on current or additional electrical circuits should always be carried out by a fully qualified trades person.

GARDENS

Garages and Sheds host a delight of goods for a would be thief.

Often full of expensive tools ideal for breaking into the rest of the house - and often left unlocked.

Never leave a garage or garden shed unlocked, especially if it has a connecting door to the house - a thief could get in and work on the inner door in privacy.

Fit shed and garage doors with a strong padlock and make sure that they are solid enough not to be kicked in.



Lock ladders inside the garage or shed to stop a thief using them to reach inaccessible windows. If there is no room inside, chain or padlock them horizontally to a sturdy bracket on an outside wall.

Wilpshire Shops and Businesses

The following is a list of shops and businesses open to the public.

Wilpshire Hotel

Along with cask ales, there is the opportunity to enjoy playing darts and snooker (small table) in the bar. There is also Sky Sports and BT Sport. Free WiFi is available.

David and Sharon Halstead host special events details of which are on their notice board. Pie, Peas and Gravy are available every day. Small parties can be catered for.

Additionally, they now provide outside catering for parties.

Opening Times

Monday	3pm - 10.30pm
Tuesday	3pm - 11pm
Wed & Thurs.	3pm - 12.30am
Friday	2pm - 1am
Saturday	Noon - 1am
Sunday	Noon - 11pm

Angella Readfern Hair Salon, 5 Ribchester Road BB1 9JH

In her unisex hair salon Angella offers a personal service in all aspects of hairstyling.

Opening Hours

Monday	Closed
Tues	9.15am - 6pm
Wed & Thurs	9.15am - 8pm
Fri	9.15am - 6pm
Saturday	8am - 4pm
Sunday	Closed

Tel. 01254 248143

www.angellareadfern.co.uk

Get Fresh Sandwich Shop, 9 Whalley Road, BB1 9LQ

Sandra Hogan and her staff offer freshly prepared hot and cold food, fresh soups as well as fresh ground coffee to take away. They also cater for special occasions such as corporate buffets, special birthday celebrations, Mother's Day, christening and funeral buffets.

Opening Hours Monday – Saturday 7am – 3pm

Shop Tel. 01254 248890

Email sandrahogan@live.com

Beech's Butchers, 11 Whalley Road, BB1 9LQ

Local butchers, distributors of meat, poultry and vegetables. A wide range of new dishes, ready meals and home-made pies is now available. *Opening Hours*

Monday to Friday	7.30am - 6pm
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07715446095 Email: Julie.foote@rightathomeuk.com

www.rightathomeeastlancs.com

Jeremy Makinson's Ribble Valley Studios, 23 Whalley Road BB1
9LQ

Family portrait photography, in the studio or on location.

Contact details for an appointment are:

Tel. 01254 248838

www.ribblevalleystudios.co.uk

www.jeremymakinson.com

Post Office Services: Following the closure of Wilpshire Post Office
the nearest Post Offices are:-

Langho Post Office Whalley Road, Langho (opposite St Mary's RC
school)

In addition to the Post Office services there is a shop which stocks
greetings cards and stationery, newspapers and magazines and
some basic food items. It is an agency for clothes repairs and dry
cleaning.

Opening Hours

Mon- Fri 9am – 5.30pm (shop: 8.45 am - 5.30pm)

Sat 9am – 12.30pm (shop: 8.30am – 12.30pm)

Tel. 01254 248198

Brownhill Post Office 740 Whalley New Road, BB1 9BA

In addition to the Post Office, other services offered include passport
photos, a B & W photocopier and an ATM m/c.

Opening Hours Mon – Fri 9am – 5.30pm Sat 9am – 12.30pm

Tel. 01254 248444

The Saga of the Boundary Sign



You may have noticed that one of the old style 'Wilpshire' boundary signs has appeared on York Road. This sign formerly stood at the Wilpshire/Langho boundary on Whalley Road but was suddenly removed by Lancashire County Council Highways Department several years ago without consulting the Parish Council who had financed its renovation not long before. It was replaced by two new signs.

Despite several requests from the Parish Council to L.C.C. to have the sign reinstated its whereabouts was a mystery. It had disappeared without trace or so it seemed. However, a chance remark between Craig Ward, Chair of Wilpshire Parish Council and Brian Haworth, Chair of Langho & Billington Parish Council around three years ago unlocked the mystery. The sign was languishing in his back garden! When the old sign was removed, together with the Langho sign, he asked the L.C.C. workmen if he could have them and they willingly complied with his request.

Having retrieved the sign it was handed back to L.C.C. Highways Department at Whalley who agreed to re-erect it at its old location. One snag was that that a new cast iron 'heritage' post would have to be found. Months, indeed years, passed and despite numerous requests and reminders nothing happened. By the time L.C.C. were ready to re-erect the sign the legislation relating to road signage had changed and cast iron pillars were no longer allowed so near main highways. A suitable location on Whalley Road could not be found despite the best efforts of Councillor Tony Gaffney. Eventually it was agreed that that the sign could be re-erected on the relatively quiet York Road. This took place last autumn and a little piece of local heritage was restored. The Parish Council will be responsible for its maintenance as it is for the other heritage signage in the Parish.

Perhaps the keen eyed among our readers will have spotted an error in the information now displayed on the boundary sign which, hopefully, won't confuse passing 'foreign' motorists – especially those using satnavs!

Signs and Symbols Around Wilpshire

The saga of the Wilpshire boundary sign set me thinking about other signs and symbols in our local area. Over the past 150 years there has been a steady but increasing proliferation of them divided between official and commercial with the occasional commemorative one added to the mix. Many of them we probably take for granted or simply ignore. Such has been the proliferation that, in some locations, there is a real danger of them becoming intrusive and unsightly.

Fortunately, there are strict regulations relating to the erection and size of commercial signage and advertising. If there wasn't then we would be overrun by hundreds of ugly roadside hoardings as often seen in other countries such as the USA and Poland. However, there seems to be little control over the amount 'official' signage erected by local authorities and other agencies. So much official signage has been erected in recent years that the relevant government departments announced a cull but little appears to have happened as a result – indeed 'signage creep' seems to be continuing.

So what is to be seen in the Wilpshire area? Let's take a look :



Perhaps the oldest sign in Wilpshire is that which lies below the recently re-erected boundary sign on York Rd. In this photograph you can see a large stone set in the ground. This is one of Wilpshire's original boundary stones dating back to time immemorial as York Rd is a very ancient highway being on the line of the old main route between Preston, Whalley, and Clitheroe.

Stones or landscape features such as ditches and brooks were often used to mark ancient boundaries. At this location the stone lies on the course of a small stream which flows down to Little Snodworth Farm.



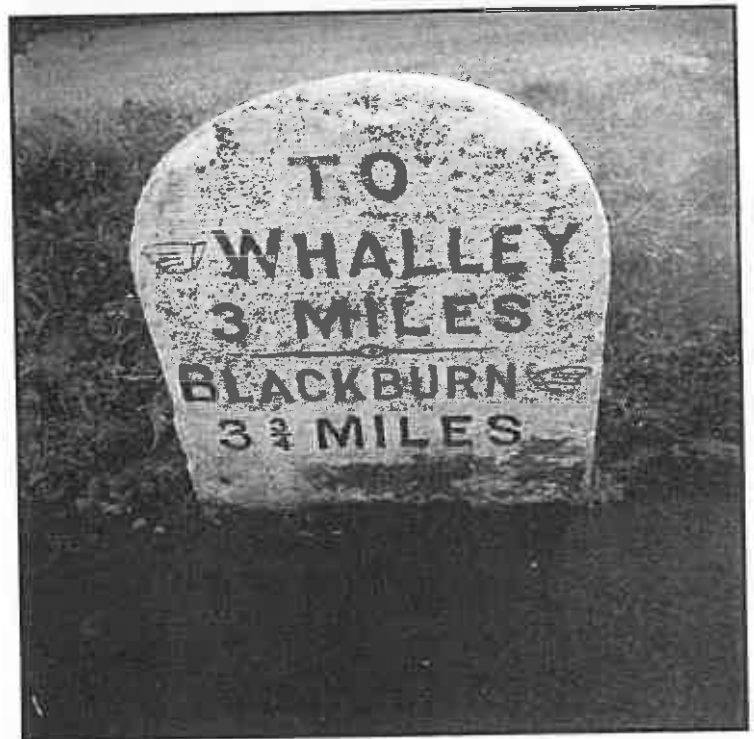
This photograph gives a closer view of the boundary stone with the line of the small stream marked by the fencing across York Rd. The stone lay lost and forgotten until it was recently 'rediscovered' it using an old OS Map. In 2014 the stone was painted white by Councillor Tony Gaffney to highlight its location and significance.

As road traffic and travel increased in the 19th century new turnpike or toll roads were built and where these crossed parish boundaries more distinctive boundary stones were erected bearing the names of the adjoining parishes. On the next page are two such stones. The one on the left is on Whalley Road marking the Wilpshire/Langho Boundary and the one on the right is on Longsight Road marking the Wilpshire/ Salesbury Boundary. Both stones are in need of some renovation and the Parish Council hopes to carry out this work this year. An Act of Parliament dated 1555 made parishes responsible for the maintenance of boundary stones. More recent Highways Acts require Parish Councils to maintain heritage signage.



Prior to the building of the turnpike roads in the late 18th and early 19th centuries there were few road signs to aid travellers. With the building of the new roads, or improvement of the old ones, it was a requirement after 1767 that milestones be erected to assist travellers. Each turnpike trust designed its own distinctive style of milestone and many survive to this day though almost totally disregarded by modern road travellers passing at speeds 19th century travellers could only dream of.

This milestone stands on Whalley Road and was erected in 1819 by the Blackburn & Clitheroe Trust on their brand new road. Many milestones are lovingly cared for by the Milestone Society – a voluntary body which maintains them. The Society recently restored the large milestone in Langho village centre. For more information about milestones visit their website at: www.milestonesociety.co.uk

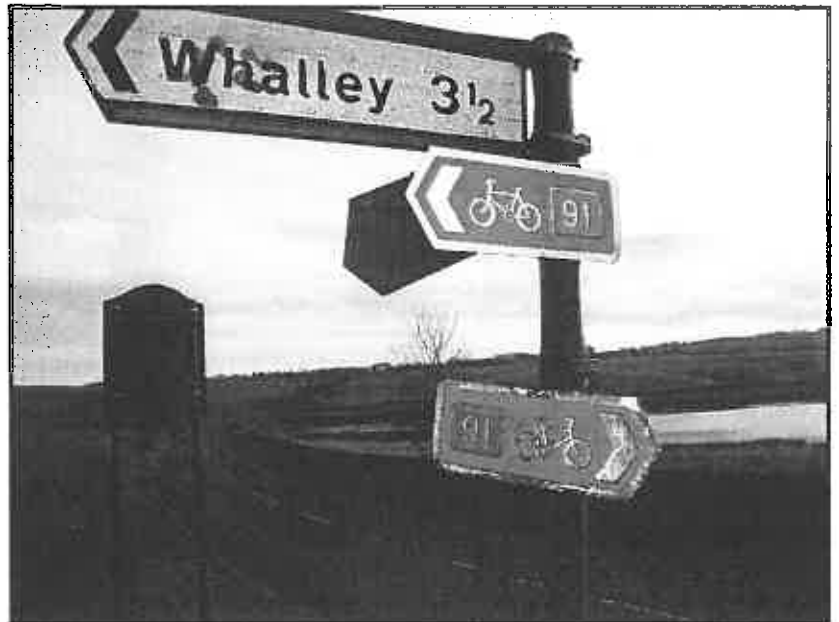


By the early decades of the 20th century motor traffic was increasing and in response new standardised signposts were adopted by the county councils. Wiltshire has a fine example at the junction of Ribchester Road and Whalley Road. This finger post was restored by the Parish Council several years ago and is kept clean by our Lengthsman.



Nothing illustrates better the 'signage creep' mentioned in the introduction to this article. In this view we have the 1920's Wilpshire boundary sign on Whalley Road at the boundary with the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen. To this in recent years we have had added the Ribble Valley Borough boundary sign and to add insult to injury the LCC boundary sign to confuse matters. Yes, we all know Blackburn with Darwen Borough is a Unitary Authority outside LCC control but this sign is surely superfluous. And to make matters worse three more small signs have been stuck on the furthest poles telling thieves to be aware and that the area being an alcohol free zone. How many people will notice or even read these small messages let alone act on them. This array is a cluttered mess and adds nothing to the streetscene and is all the fault of the various local authorities and agencies involved.

How many locals realise that Wilpshire is on the route of The Lancashire Cycleway which is a 250 mile route round Lancashire using quieter roads including Parsonage and York Roads and is on National Cycle Route 91. The Lancashire Cycleway links into the Cumbria Cycleway.



And on the subject of cycling, what's the point of painting symbols and lines to create cycle lanes if they aren't maintained properly. Here on Whalley Road they are disappearing fast.



Now here's a familiar sight in our local area – the fire hydrant but what do the numbers stand for? Well, the bottom one tells the arriving fire brigade how far away is the cover to the hydrant In metres and the top one tells them the diameter of the water main in millimetres – simple but effective

The next two signs illustrate how a simple picture can save a thousand words yet convey the same message. Yes the words warn of the consequence of dog fouling but the picture says it all. The photo on the left is so high up the lamp post on Whalley Road that it's very difficult to read except by giants!



It's what's not there more than what is there in this photo that makes this an evocative symbol. Readers of a certain age will immediately recognise the image for what it is – a symbol of desperation in the dark days of WW2, just after defeat at Dunkirk when invasion was likely and the nation was fighting for its life. An appeal went out for scrap metal to make guns, ships etc. and in many towns all or most of the iron railings were removed for the war effort. Whether they were actually used in the end has become the stuff of speculation. Did they really end up being dumped in the North Sea? Whatever the truth of the matter it helped to bring home to people the seriousness of the situation. Here, outside The Homestead, Whalley Road, the metal stumps are a reminder of those days.

Hieroglyphics in Wilpshire? No – this is an Ordnance Survey Benchmark of which there are some half a million left in the UK. This one is located on the house at the corner of Hollowhead Lane and Whalley Road. Put there in the late 19th century by the mapmakers it is shown on OS Maps with a number – the height above sea level at this point. Here we are at 491feet above sea level measured from the level of water in Victoria Dock, Liverpool used as the Ordnance Datum up until 1921. The dock has since been filled in. The arrow symbol was used by the War Office on all their equipment, supplies etc including the archetypal prison uniform of 19th century convicts and the Ordnance Survey was part of the War Office when first established.

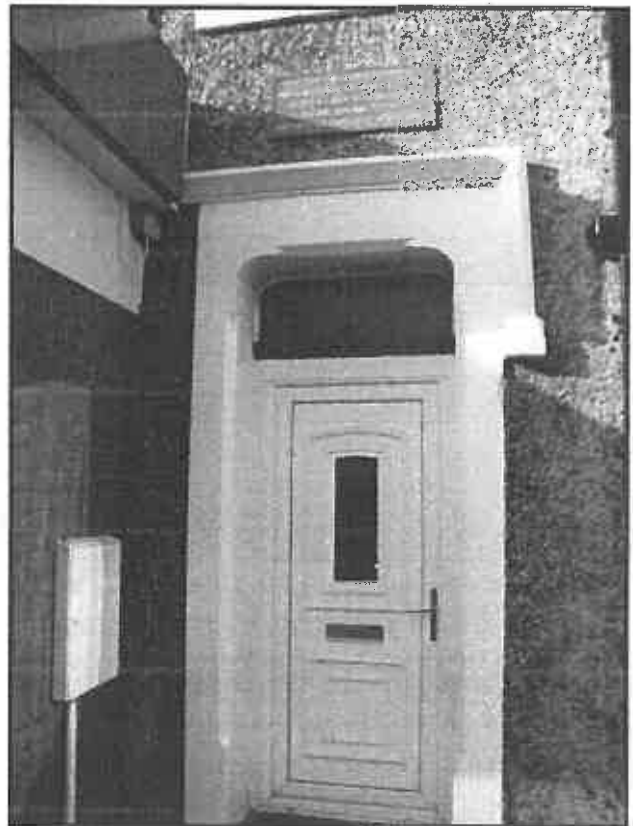




Signs on buildings are sometimes a clue to former use. Here the emblem above the door of this house on Whalley Road is the Lancashire County coat of arms with three roses. Why here? This was Wilpshire's former police station when 'localism' really meant what it said on the tin. Now a private whose name, as shown below, is most appropriate.



The sign above the front door of Wilpshire's last post office tells us all we need to know about its first use –the area's first Methodist Church as described below.



And, finally, on the same building don't forget you can find our Parish Noticeboard



Oh – and please- no fly posters – the Parish Council will have them removed !