

VILLAGE VOICE

The Forton Parish Council Newsletter

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2021



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DIARY

FORTON POST OFFICE, Methodist Church Hall, Hollins Lane: OPEN Mon - Fri 9am-1pm

*All activities & meetings may be paused due to Covid-19 restrictions
check with organisers*

Baby & Toddler Group: Fridays 9.45-11.15am in term time

Children's Judo Club: Fridays 5-5.45pm (younger group) & 5.45-6.30pm (older group)
in term time - contact Antony 07738 408731 for further details

Dog Training: Wednesdays 6-7.00pm (contact Abbie 07535 737921 for further details)

South Lancaster Speakers Club: Methodist Church Hall, Hollins Lane
Most 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7.30pm September-May (Contact David Knox 01524 805554)

Singing Club: St Peter's Church, Scorton
Thursdays, 6.30pm - contact Jan Hindle 07730 646581

Zumba Class: Tuesdays 10.30-11.30am (contact 01995 600185 or 07876 520799)

1st Forton Scout Group meet at the Scout Hut on Hollins Lane

Scouts - ages 10½ to 14 - Thursdays 7.00 to 9 pm
Beaver Scouts - ages 5½ to 8 - Tuesdays 6.00 to 7.15pm
Cub Scouts - ages 8 to 10½ - Wednesdays 6.00 to 7.30pm
Brownies - Mondays 6.00 to 7.30pm
Please tel 01524 792089 for more information

OCTOBER

Thurs 14th: Mobile Library, School Lane

Thurs 14th, 7.45pm: Field Day AGM in the Pavilion

Thurs 21st, 7.30pm: WI talk 'Lancaster Canal'
by John Acres

NOVEMBER

Sat 6th, 10am-3pm: WI Winter Craft Fair

Sun 7th: Deadline for Shoebox Appeal

Thurs 18th, 7.30pm: WI AGM

Thurs 25th: Mobile Library, School Lane

*Information about Church Services
and events on page 23*

*Parish Council meetings are held on the 1st
Monday of each month in the Village Hall
at 7pm (except August)*

The email address for the Village Voice is: dgrmsharp@btinternet.com

Content not attributed has been contributed by the editors

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VILLAGE VOICE CONTENTS

Except for reports made by
members of Forton Parish
Council, the views
expressed in reports are not
necessarily those of the
Council.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE (December/January) BY 12 NOVEMBER, PLEASE

Parish News

Chairman's Comments

I am sure the whole village was disgusted by the stealing of the three flower tubs at the A6 bus stop. Our flower group team worked so hard to brighten the village - what people are there around to destroy the nice things in life?

Points from the recent Parish Council meeting:

*Two new Parish Councillors have been appointed - Sue Tresilian from Hollins Lane and Neil Wigglesworth from Spring Vale. Sarah Taylor has resigned and there may be another appointment next month.

*Councillors have agreed to appoint James Reilly to redesign the Parish Council website. Although many residents like the informal style of local Facebook, it is felt that a 'new look' website will be an accurate source of village information for everyone.

*County Councillor Matthew Salter attended to answer concerns about the dreadful state of many roads. (At least the work on the culvert on School Lane has been finished!)

*The speed indicators in Hollins Lane are now working - thanks to Councillor McLoughlin for his dogged hard work in getting these in place - and 68mph has already been noted with concern!

*We note that some houses are already occupied in Hollins Green (although planning conditions have not been met). Many of the houses in 'The Hollies' and 'Haighlands' have new residents.

*It was really nice to get four new volunteers to help with Village Voice distribution.

*United Utilities will be informing residents of their plans for new water treatment work around Forton and Hollins Lane: 15th September in the Village Hall and 21st September in the Methodist Chapel. Residents should have already got letters.

Janet Huddart

Hi Everyone,

I hear more about the roads than anything else as a Councillor, and I know it is so unpleasant to hit an unexpected pothole. School Lane is a particular concern in our area, as it has been in bad shape for a few years now, and the route most people will take into Forton itself. As such I was impressed to see a Change.org petition started by Mike at the Cricket Club, with 216 signatures asking for School Lane to be improved. Given the size of our village community and the fact not everyone is online, it represents a considerable turnout, and reinforces what I have been saying to Highways at LCC for some time - we need to get the road sorted! The good news is that, after persistent lobbying, money has been allocated to resurface the road, though the plans had to be delayed until the culvert and small bridge near the Cricket Club could be repaired: which took place this summer. The priority now is to get the road resurfaced, though it might take some time to go through the process.

I have asked County Councillor Charlie Edwards, Cabinet member for Highways, to visit Forton next week to look at the road (he is aware of the petition as well) and I will keep lobbying the Council on this. In the meantime, if we can all keep reporting potholes to LCC at : <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/> that will be really helpful in keeping our roads in working condition, especially as winter comes around.

Best Wishes

County Councillor, Matthew Salter



The Village Remembrance Service
Sunday November 14th
Starting at 10.15am in the Village Hall followed by
the Act of Remembrance outside at the
War Memorial at 11am.

Forton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

This term all three sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have continued to meet outside the hut as they did before the summer. We expect to be able to meet inside as the weather deteriorates during autumn.

During meetings we follow strict Covid protocols which have been laid down by the Scout Association following National Youth Agency advice.

Currently we have a few vacancies for new members - see Diary on back cover for details.

John Nelson, Group Scout Leader



1st Shireshead Brownies

After the fun of paddleboarding at Guys Farm in July, the Brownies were set the challenge to 'Be Active' over the summer holidays: this meant doing six different sports activities to gain the badge and there is a special prize for the most creative record of these activities. The Owls are looking forward to seeing what the Brownies got up to when we have our first meeting on 13th September.

We start the term with another outing to Guys Farm for fun on the gyro cars and a camp fire. There are lots of exciting activities planned for this autumn term, including badge work ('My Rights', 'Collecting' and 'Network Skills Builder') and also plenty of crafts and games.



Our plea for helpers in the last issue of Village Voice was successful and we are delighted to welcome Charlotte Green who will be joining us as a unit helper this September. Thanks so much Charlotte for giving up your time!

Snowy Owl (Charlotte, and assisted by Neil) have been busy leafletting new houses in Forton to spread the word about the 1st Shireshead Brownies - this has been successful and we are looking forward to greeting some new Brownies when our meetings start again this month.

We have space for new Brownies - if you like crafting, playing games, having challenges and making new friends and you are a girl aged 7-10 years, why not give Brownies a go. It's very easy to join and new Brownies would be very welcome. Find out more about the 1st Shireshead Brownies by contacting the Owls: Snowy Owl Charlotte (tel: 07969 436872) or email: c.baker@lancaster.ac.uk and Brown Owl Ruth (tel: 01524 792306).

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Forton Primary School

The school doors opened on the 6th September and the Forton School community extended their usual warm welcome to the new children in Pre-school: Freya, Eva, April, Ben, Jack and Lola. Reception: Guilia, George, Harry, Nora, Adam, Holly, Zeke, Tommy, Bethany and Oscar. In Nicky Nook, Thea and in the Juniors: Cyrus, Luke, Emily-Rose. All the children have made an amazing start, settling in well and making friends.

It has been wonderful having parents in for our Friday celebration assemblies once again and helping in the classes, supporting the children's reading. We have missed you!

Last term we hosted 'Down in the Dell' sessions for toddlers. They were hugely successful (thank you Ruth Ross!). We will be resuming toddler sessions on Monday 20th September. Please call school for more information, 01524 791188.

Lorna Boase, Head Teacher

Forton Baby and Toddler Group

What a lovely summer holiday we all had, and we are now settling back at our Baby and Toddler Group. We have welcomed a couple of new faces from the village since starting back in September and we have said goodbye to a few who have started on their new journey at school, we wish them all luck.

We have a great group of mums and grandparents who bring along their babies / toddlers to the group each Friday. If you would like to join us at our Baby and Toddler Group, we would love to see you during term time, please come along on a Friday morning, 9.45-11.15am at Forton Village Hall.

Jenna Metcalfe

Forton Village Hall is back fully open for hire.

If you are a group or run a class and are looking for premises to rent or want a great space for a birthday party or for a special occasion, please get in touch with Michelle Weir on 07799 370639 for more information.

We have two new classes starting in September:

New Zumba Class has started on Tuesday mornings, 10.30-11.30am.

If you would like to join this class, please call 01995 600185/07876 520799 or email: zumbawithrosepetal@gmail.com

New dog training group class starts, Wednesday 22nd September, 6-7pm. Please contact Abbie on 07535 737921.




Forton WI presents a
Winter Craft Fair

Saturday 6th November, 10am-3pm

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Forton Play Area

We have some exciting news about Forton Play Area.

Following many months of working hard behind the scenes and being granted funding from Lancashire Environmental Fund, Forton Parish Council, and now getting the approval from Wyre Council to use monies from Bowland Gardens development, we are pleased to announce that we can update and refurbish our existing play area. This will mean that the play area will have to close for a few weeks whilst the necessary work is carried out, and we are hoping that we will be able to start this around November time.

We are aware that we have not had much equipment on the park for some time now, but unfortunately the process of getting funding and then getting approval from Wyre Council has taken some time, even more so with Covid!

Once we know the definitive dates, we shall give notice of when the play area will be closed and for approximately how long, via Facebook, posters around the village and in the Village Voice.

Jenna Metcalfe

Forton Field Day AGM

Finally, after what seems like forever, we are meeting for our AGM and to start the preparation for the next Forton Field Day which will be held on Saturday, 25th June 2022.

The Forton Field Day committee is made up of new and old residents, of all ages, from all over the village! If you would like to bring new ideas to help keep Forton Field Day going, or would just like to lend a helping hand, please come along to the Field Day 'Cheese and Wine' AGM in the Playing Field Pavilion on Thursday, 14th October at 7.45pm. We meet four or five times a year to arrange jobs such as the house-to-house collections, the Rose Queen and retinue, discussing and organising the entertainment etc. before sorting the actual day itself.

Commitment can be as little or as much as you want. Any help is always gratefully received. For more information, please contact Forton Field Day Chair, Andrew Weir on 07792 087096 or Treasurer, Jenna Metcalfe on 07850 008428.



Angel Festival 2021

Once again, St James' Shireshead Church will be holding an Angel Festival on the weekend of the **4th and 5th December, 11am-4.30pm** in the church on Whinney Brow Lane, Forton.

A host of angels will be on display and refreshments will be available throughout each day.

We would like to invite you, your family, business or group to create an angel using any medium or to lend us an angel which is a family favourite or of significance to you. Following the success last year, we would once again like to encourage everyone in the village to display an angel in their window or garden over that weekend. The Angel may be in the form of an angel scarecrow, painting, wooden angel, floral display or any other creative design you wish.

If you would like further information on how to participate or about the event itself, please contact Ruth Ross - 01524 792306 or email: ruthross500@aol.com

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Shireshead and Forton Cricket Club

It was the Ladies team that claimed the most silverware winning four out of five softball tournaments against a range of teams from Cumbria and Lancashire, the village again 'punching above its weight'. Emphatic wins at tournaments at Bare, Fulwood and Broughton, Carnforth and Fleetwood and a runners-up position at Garstang showed just how much the squad of players have developed and improved this year. Regular attendance at Friday night training sessions has meant that 'newbies' Michelle Jack, Sue Swire, Jess Burrows and Jo Kerr have come on 'leaps and bounds'. More experienced players such as Carrie Parkinson, Amy Creed and Emma Johnson have excelled once more, as have the talented youngsters Evie McBride and Katie Oliver. Michelle Weir, Sharon Bryan and Andrea Bookless have all proved their worth in the matches this year.

Shireshead first team, led ably by Steve Yates, look like finishing in 3rd position in Division 1. They have also won the Hackney and Leigh Cup with a win against Trimpell at Cartmel. What is most encouraging is the fact that all players have made telling contributions to the team success. Young Joe Oliver has had a terrific season with 657 runs. He was almost single-handedly responsible for the cup final win with a fine 76, followed a few weeks later with his career best 96 against Arnside. Opening partner Tom Jacques returned to the prolific form that has earned him the accolade of being one of the most successful batsmen in the league in recent times. Tom averaged over 43 with 735 runs. Joe Oliver, Steven Foy and Adam Murphy have all impressed, with Adam scoring 84 against Carnforth and scoring over 650 runs. There is no show without the indomitable Dave Jack who topped the bowling averages with 43 wickets and over 550 runs. Paul Concannon, Plumbing and Heating kindly sponsored the first team this season.

Simon Gould's strong second team look like finishing up second or third after their championship victory last season. Fifteen year old Ernie Collinson recently broke into the first team but has scored 648 runs in senior cricket. Simon Gould, Paul Yates, Paul Coulton, Rob Skipworth and Phil Oliver have all scored over 300 runs. Shireshead's third team finished a creditworthy 3rd place with Aiden Weir being the 'pick of a crop' of superb young bowlers. David Sloane hit a career best 371 runs in the season.

The junior teams have all performed well and credit goes to coaches and parents who have supported them, in particular Matt Yates, Mark Sutcliffe, and Jonty Collinson for their commitment as team coaches. The U16s reached the league final only to be pipped by Westgate and the U11 team won their league section and also the hard ball cup.

The All Stars programme saw over 60 under 8s enrol and they enjoyed the sessions organised by Paul Yates and his 'merry band' of coaches.

On a sad note the club lost two of its stalwarts this summer in Allan Twiname and Colin Richmond. Both avid supporters in the latter years with their respective 'better halves' and families, both Colin and Allan made huge contributions to the success of Shireshead CC. As Terry Mansfield wrote in his 2009 insight into the Club's history, the high scores at an early Clifton Park "were a tribute to the excellence of the pitches being prepared by Allan Twiname, and also to the mown outfield - no long grass had to be retained for the cows anymore!" Allan could be seen regularly watching son Colin Twiname at Shireshead. Colin Richmond, fondly nicknamed "Subbuteo" by teammates for his distinct batting style, was Club Chairman in the early 1970s and was a prolific batsman winning the averages in 1973. We will miss them both.

Huge thanks go to a strong and active committee and especially Andrew Cragg and Bill Jacques who contribute so much to the ground and pitch maintenance and preparation. Special mention must also go to Denis Yates, Club president, (Continued on page 11)



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(Continued from page 9) who is a true Club figurehead and contributes to coaching youngsters, helping with ground maintenance, supporting the teams and the provision of words of wisdom and support.

Mike Park, Chairman



Above - 1968 1st XI
Back row Colin Richmond (2nd from left) Allan Twiname (furthest right)



2021 Above - 1st team
Bottom right - 3rd team
Bottom left - Ladies team



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

We are pleased at how the return to meetings has gone. It was lovely to see so many members and visitors at our afternoon tea 'social' in August and has certainly got the committee thinking about other afternoon events after some expressed a preference. September's meeting went well, was very entertaining and we were kept safe and well sanitised in accordance with all the recommendations.

We are therefore looking forward to our next meeting on Thursday 21st October when we shall be having an illustrated talk on something close to all our hearts - the Lancaster canal. If you haven't already discovered the pleasures of the canal, John Acres' talk will certainly stimulate your interest as he will be telling about its past, present and future. Do come along and join us in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm prompt, you will be very welcome.

The next event will be the Craft Fair on Saturday 6th November in the Village Hall from 10am to 3pm, further details elsewhere in the Village Voice.

Then on Thursday 18th November we will be having our AGM when we will be looking back at the last two years and how it affected the WI and, of course, our own experiences, as well as looking forward to next year, which is our Centenary. Held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, guests are welcome to attend.

If you have any comments, queries or just want to talk, please phone either Pat Murgatroyd on 791580 or Christine Smith on 793549.

Christine Smith

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*Lancashire Evening Post - Friday 28th January 1921**FORTON'S WAYSIDE CROSS - UNVEILED BY GENERAL SIR A. HUNTER, M.P.
INSPIRATION FROM FAITHFUL AND WILLING SERVICE*

A beautiful wayside cross, symbolic of the sacrifices made during the war, was unveiled at Forton near Garstang, yesterday, by General Sir Archibald Hunter, M.P., "to the honoured memory of the men of Forton and District, who fell in the Great War, 1914 - 1918." The cross is erected on the main road between Lancaster and Preston, on a site at the junction of the road leading to Forton School. It is of Welsh stone, about 12ft. in height, artistically carved with a crown in the centre, and on the base the following names are inscribed:- Henry Rimmer, John Crane, John Bowman, Tom Wright, Richard Alston, Richard Newton, Henry Hoole, Julian Henry Hughes, Eric Spooner, James Armer, Stephen Donnelly, John Wilcock, Peter Hulland, Richard Brockbank and William Kay.

The ceremony took place in the presence of a large company of residents, including relatives of fallen heroes, and the children from the school. Mr Stephen Simpson, of Low Abbey, presided, and was supported by General and Lady Hunter, the Rev. C.B.S. Spooner, vicar of Shireshead, the Rev. J. Meyer, minister at the Forton Congregational Church, Father Dawson, Scorton, Mrs Tempest and Miss Tempest (Clifton Hill), Major and Mrs. G. Haines (Hay Carr), Major and Mrs. Hasteard (Wyreside) [sic: Haskard], Captain and Mrs. H.P. Forshaw (Garstang), Captain John Welch and Miss Welch (Hampson), Mr. E. Drinkall, Mr. W. Robinson, Mr. R. Makinson, and Mr. Wildman.

The Chairman said the memorial committee had been subjected to a certain amount of criticism for its choice, but that was inevitable. However much one might try, one could never please all. At all events, they had done their best, and in the days to come he was confident their choice would be approved. Was not the cross throughout the ages the symbol of sacrifice? It was their hope that the wayside cross would stand for all time by the side of that ever increasingly busy and important highway to remind them, and for the whole world. Many were familiar with the sight abroad of the cross or crucifix set up at the crossroads, and it was not so long since that this country was covered with crosses, the remains of which were still with them. Cabus Cross and Cross Hill were familiar names in their district. The large square stone near Forton Hall originally formed the base of one of those crosses set up to mark the bounds of the possessions of the Abbey of Cockersand. Another stood near Spout House by the side of the ancient highway to Lancaster, and still another was remembered by one of their oldest inhabitants on the rising ground before descending to Potter Brook. They had lost many good and useful things through ignorance and prejudice, and they would do well to restore some of the best of them. They were grateful to Father Dawson and the trustees of the Whinney Brow property for the site and to all subscribers.

General Hunter said there had evidently been differences of opinion as to what form the memorial should take, but they must remember that the Cross was the recognised symbol of the Christian faith, in which the men whose names were inscribed on that memorial had been born, and brought up, and in which they died.

Five of the men, whose names were on the cross - John Bowman, Richard Alston, Peter Hulland, Tom Wright and John Wilcock - belonged to the King's Own Royal (Lancaster) Regiment, which lost 306 officers and 6143 warrant officers, N.C.O.s and men during the war, and in their honour a memorial window was unveiled the previous day in the King's Own Chapel at the old Parish Church of Lancaster. The cross would serve as a reminder to those who have suffered loss in the war that their fallen relatives were not forgotten, and to the boys and girls it would be a reminder of what men had done for them before they were grown up, and as an act of inspiration for the future. To use the words of the King's message at the unveiling ceremony of the previous day, he hoped that the example of faithful and willing service of those men would inspire the citizens of the whole district.

General Hunter then unveiled the cross with the following words:- "To the glory of God, and in the sacred memory of the soldiers whose names are inscribed on the cross." The Last Post was sounded, and the schoolchildren led the singing of the National Anthem, after which thanks were passed to General Hunter on the proposition of the Rev. C.B.S. Spooner, seconded by the Rev. J. Meyer.

Transcribed from the British Newspaper Archive: britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Note: Potter Brook in original, not Potter's.

Cover photo: Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum © WMR - 3379

Unveiling Forton's War Memorial on 27th January 1921

A great deal of attention has rightly been paid recently to the soldiers killed, or who died, in the First World War whose names are inscribed on local war memorials. Less has been written about their form and design, whether everyone in the country wanted to have a memorial in their locality or in many cases, to connect their deaths to Christian sacrifice.

The war memorial in Forton was one of the earliest of the eight townships in the then Garstang District Council area to be unveiled, on 27th January 1921, to honour the soldiers from Forton, Holleth (to the north of Cockerham Road) and Cleveley (to the east of Hollins Lane) who had died in the First World War. It was in the form of a stone base with a cross on top, so connecting their deaths to Christian sacrifice. The newspaper report referred to the three townships as 'Forton'. Of these eight townships, four had a simple 'Latin' cross, and the rest, including Forton, a 'Celtic wheel' cross, a form originally developed by those living in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cumbria and Cornwall, and revived more widely in England in the Victorian era. The crown carved on the pillar at Forton reflected the fact that the men had also died for their country. Another two stone memorials did not have a cross. At Out Rawcliffe, the pillar was topped by an urn and at Nateby it was just an obelisk. The remaining dozen or so townships in the Garstang district which had a war memorial opted for plaques or memorial windows in parish churches, or for community buildings such as public halls.

The decision to erect a war memorial was usually made by a committee consisting of the more prominent members of each community, who decided on the location, form and design, the identity of the men and women to be commemorated, and then had to raise the money to pay for it. *(Continued on page 15)*



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(Continued from page 13)

Planning in Forton must have started by at least 1920. The committee decided on a stone memorial with a cross on top. Although no records of Forton's committee have come to light, we are fortunate in having an unusually detailed description of the unveiling ceremony from the newspaper, perhaps because the story behind it was unusual. It seems that there had been criticism and differences of opinion over the form of the memorial, especially the use of the cross.



**Left:
Cabus Cross**



**Right:
Base of
cross shaft
near Forton
Hall**

Not everyone, even those who were nominally Christians, believed that those who had died had done so for their religious beliefs. Other objectors may have been non-believers or pacifists. The elaborately designed cross may also have been controversial, especially to a few of the non-conformists represented by two of the four churches in the village. Even in the early twentieth century there may have been some who still objected to the decorated style so disliked by their predecessors since the time of the Reformation in the sixteenth century. Perhaps also the thought of reviving the idea of the medieval 'wayside cross' as a model for a present day stone war memorial was for some harking back to the past rather than looking to the future. Such stone edifices had been used, for example, as signposts, boundary markers or preaching places, but which had become unpopular after England became a Protestant country.

The memorial was placed at the junction of the Preston to Lancaster main road and School Lane, a central place in the three townships, where a medieval 'wayside cross' might once have stood. Stephen Simpson, the president of the ceremony, reminded his audience of some of the local examples in and around Forton which had been partly destroyed or removed. In addition to those mentioned in the report, there was also the shaft and base now situated near Cockerham Village Hall which may once have stood at the junction of Cockerham Road and Main Street, Cockerham while remains of others exist throughout Lancashire.

From his speech reported in the newspaper, Stephen Simpson, presumably chairman of the War Memorial committee, was evidently in favour of a stone built memorial with a decorated cross. He lived at Low Abbey, Bay Horse, just outside the Forton boundary. He was currently head of the family firm of Stephen Simpson of Preston, gold thread manufacturers, and had moved to Low Abbey on his marriage in 1914. He did not see active service, but his brother had been killed in France during the War.

(Continued on page 17)

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made. Visitors who may be interested in the work should call
at the Spinning House.

Folk Songs and Dance classes are now held each week.

All information can be obtained from the Master of the Guild,
Stephen Simpson,

Low Abbey, near Lancaster.

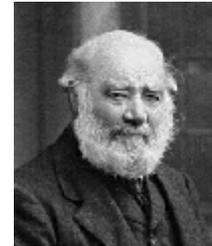
Railway Station's visitor room (By the L. N. W. R.)

**A 'flier' for the Guild. Original in the
writer's possession.**

(Continued from page 15)

Among his interests, he was honorary secretary of the Preston branch of the English Church Union which supported the use of some Catholic practices within the Church of England. He involved himself with the local community, teaching the young people to spin and weave at his home, having founded a branch of the Guild of St. Margaret of Scotland, promoting these crafts on lines proposed by John Ruskin and William Morris. Sadly, he died in 1923 at the early age of 36.

It is not possible to be certain of the identity of the other committee members but they probably included the four Forton residents mentioned by name in the newspaper report, all influential people in the village. If any of them had reservations about the memorial they put them aside to attend the ceremony. The first three names appear to have been part of a close social circle. Edward Drinkall then aged 58, of Halliwell Villa, neighbour of John Wildman the schoolmaster, was a retired farmer, district councillor and chairman of the



**William Robinson
senior, 1841 -
1924, founder of
the 'Mammoth
Onion' seeds and
plants business,
Forton**

**Photograph
courtesy of Mrs
S. Redmayne**

Forton school managers, and had a personal connection with William Robinson senior, market gardener and founder of what is now the 'Mammoth Onion', then aged 80. He and his son, also William, aged 43, were both leading members of Forton Congregational Church (now U.R.C.), while William junior was a friend of John Wildman (*information from the family*). Aged 59, Mr Wildman, headmaster of Forton School for over 30 years, was also the Sunday School superintendent and a steward of Hollins Lane Methodist Church. The fourth, Mr R. Makinson, another property owner and small businessman, lived in the Forton area.

No doubt the clergy were also involved in the planning and perhaps approved the idea of placing the memorial in a public place in order to save argument between the churches. Father Dawson, the Catholic priest of Scorton, was at the ceremony. He and the trustees of the Whinney Brow farm had provided the site. The vicar of St James and Rev. J. Meyer of the Congregational Church were also present. In the absence of the Methodist minister, the Hollins Lane church was represented by Mr Wildman.

(continued on page 19)



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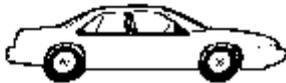
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(Continued from page 17)



A group of wealthy members of the landowning and professional classes also attended the ceremony, some of whom may have had some influence on the form and design of the memorial, although only Mrs. and Miss Tempest of Clifton Hill lived in Forton itself. Mrs. Haskard née Garnett and her husband, Major D.D. Haskard, who were then running the Wyreside estate at Dolphinholme, one of the largest in the area, would no doubt have been in favour of the design. The Garnett family had probably influenced the design of the war memorial at Dolphnholme, which had a similar cross to Forton's, while one of Mrs Haskard's sisters-in-law had designed the St. Margaret's Guild badge for Stephen Simpson. Two Ellel landowners and ex-army officers, Captain John Welch, a solicitor and heir to the Hampson estate and Major Gregory Haines of the Hay Carr estate also attended, along with Captain Forshaw of Garstang, Registrar of Garstang County Court.

The relatives of the dead and the schoolchildren were also invited.

Above: Dolphinholme War Memorial

Right: Forton War Memorial at its current site

The War Memorial remained at the junction of the A6 and School Lane over 70 years. However it was damaged due to a couple of road accidents in the early '90s and after repair it now stands in a safer place, at the junction of School and Wallace Lanes.

Sources:

British Newspaper Archive and other internet websites.

S. Simpson - Records of an Ancient Yeoman Family of the West Riding of Yorkshire, 1922.

Henry Taylor - The Ancient Wayside Crosses and Holy Wells of Lancashire, 1906.

My thanks to Susan Redmayne of W. Robinson (Seeds and Plants) Ltd, Margaret and Terry Mansfield and Ann Thomson for their help.

Janet Nelson



Mobile Library

The van is scheduled to be in School Lane
(near Coronation Avenue)

on

14th October and 25th November
(No visit 4th November)



There are some changes to the service to keep everyone safe, so please call Glenys on 07717 543763 or email: garstang.mobile@lancashire.gov.uk for any further information. Note: New email address

Please note routes and dates can be subject to change.

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Often Next Day Appointments

Cat Smith MP



At the time of writing, I have just heard back from Lancashire County Council in response to my request for School Lane to be resurfaced. The Highways Department says "we have recently inspected School Lane, and the good news is we are looking to carry out inlay resurfacing works on School Lane, from Lancaster Road to the culvert near the Cricket Club. This is scheduled for week commencing 29th November 2021, however, this will be subject to weather conditions at the time. We have already undertaken remedial drainage works in preparation and we will continue to monitor its condition, ensuring the road remains safe and serviceable".

Complaints about the state of our roads continue to flood into my inbox. The Conservative government's slashing of the local government budgets is having a devastating impact on local infrastructure and services. The resurfacing petition organised by a Forton resident was an excellent idea, particularly as the rural areas in the constituency seem to be experiencing the worst problems. Please continue to highlight any issues you encounter, and fingers crossed the work goes ahead at the end of November.

I am hoping that once again Remembrance Day services can go ahead this year. It is such an important event in the national calendar. The last 18 months has impacted on us all and Covid-19 continues to leave some members of the Armed Forces community in urgent need of our help.

This year, we mark an important milestone, 100 years of the Royal British Legion (RBL), an organisation born out of the First World War to fight injustices following a global crisis. The RBL was founded as a campaigning organisation, fighting for fair treatment of those who had given so much for their country, and has provided much needed welfare and comradeship to millions over the decades.

Let's hope the Poppy Appeal collectors can once again be out and about in local communities raising vital funds to support those in need. No one who has served to protect our freedom should be disadvantaged because of the sacrifices they have made. For over 100 years, the Poppy Appeal has brought the nation together to help those who have served and to remember their unique contribution. When we buy a poppy we ensure that those who have served are being looked after no matter what challenges they, and the country face. Now more than ever, every poppy counts.

Cat

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Shoebox Appeal

Once again, this year we will be running the Village Shoebox Appeal for Operation Christmas Child. Shoebox gifts are given to children regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or faith. The aim is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way through each gift. Samaritan's Purse work in and through local Christians in each country who understand the context in their area. Simple gifts packed with love in Jesus' name, deliver hope and joy to children all around the world, regardless of their faith or religious background.

Preprinted boxes for filling are available from St James' Shireshead Church, Forton Post Office, Forton School, or can be delivered to you if you call Ruth Ross 01524 792306.

Due to more stringent import regulations, toothpaste, sweets and liquids can no longer be included in shoeboxes. Filled shoeboxes should be dropped off at St James' Church, Forton Post Office, Forton School or can be collected from you by calling the number above by Sunday 7th November 2021. THANK YOU.

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NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

St James' Shireshead

1st Sunday each month, All Age Family Service and Communion at 10am.
2nd to 5th Sundays, Family Communion and Sunday School at 10am.

United Reformed Church

Forton URC continues to meet at 9.15am for Services, with an afternoon Service once each month.

The Prayer Group will be meeting at the Church during School term time on the First Friday of each month.

Sunday, 10th October, 3pm, Harvest Thanksgiving Service, led by Revd. Lindsay Williamson, followed by tea and biscuits.

Monday, 11th October, 9.15am, Forton School children will visit Church to view the Harvest display.

Sunday, 17th October, 9.15am, the service will be led by the Missional Discipleship Mentor and Green Apostle, Revd. Daleen Cate.

Sunday, 24th October, 9.15am, Forton URC will welcome Revd. John Gordon who is now working alongside Revd. Irene John in the Partnership.

Sunday, 28th November, 2pm, afternoon Service, led by Mr. Chris Lamb, with Nativity Cribs on display on this First Advent Sunday.

Hollins Lane Methodist Church

Sunday morning services continue at 10.30am.

From October, we hope to resume the Friday coffee morning from 10-11.30am, in the Church hall. The Fairtrade stall continues to be available on Friday mornings.

Plans are being made to celebrate the Church's Bicentenary next year. More will follow in the next issues of Village Voice.



We are signed up to the 'Roofbreakers' project, to welcome people with disabilities, but all are welcome of course. The 'Roofbreakers' chapel contact is Margaret Mansfield (01524 791338).

Roman Catholic Churches: St Thomas and St Elizabeth, Thurnham; St Mary and St Michael, Garstang; St Bernadette, Bowerham.

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Forton Parish Council operate a publication scheme. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month in the Village Hall at 7pm (except August)