

# VILLAGE VOICE

The Forton Parish Council Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022



*Members of the Parish Council  
join with the Village Voice team,  
editors & distributors to wish all  
readers & contributors the Compliments of the Season*

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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*

### **Garstang Community Recycling and Re-use Centre**

*Opening times: Thursday to Monday, 9am-5pm*

*Re-use shop currently closed*

### DECEMBER

Fri 3rd, 6.30pm: Christmas Tree Lights Switch  
On

Sat 4th, 10am-4pm & Sun 5th, 11am-4pm:  
Angel Festival at St James' Church

Thurs 16th, 7.30pm: WI Christmas meeting

### JANUARY

Thurs 6th: Mobile Library, School Lane

Thurs 20th, 7.30pm: WI talk with Pat Ascroft  
'Travels in Ireland'

*Information about Church Services  
and events on page 21*

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

*The Parish website address is: [fortonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://fortonparishcouncil.org.uk)  
The email address for the Village Voice is: [dgrmsharp@btinternet.com](mailto:dgrmsharp@btinternet.com)*

Content not attributed has been contributed by the editors

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Printed by Colin Cross of Garstang

### 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 (February/March) BY 14 JANUARY, PLEASE

## Parish News Chairman's Comments

First of all, some appreciation of certain people in the village:

\*The Christmas tree has been given to the village by the family at the Mammoth Onion.

\*Slyne Consulting at Thurnham have helped with the purchase of new Remembrance figures at the War Memorial.

\*Tony Holmes, who did a last minute clean of the War Memorial to scrub away the lichen which suddenly appeared to hide all the names. Tony moved the Memorial from the A6 many years ago!

\*The Flower Group who quickly sorted tyre containers at the bus stop after the original flower tubs were stolen.

Please don't discard the enclosed leaflet about Field Day without seeing if you can help. The return of the June event after two years will make it even more special, so please see what you can contribute - the Field Day team would especially welcome new residents.

We have tried to get safety measures for helping to cross the A6, especially at school times. Unbelievably, Highways (after a traffic count) say we cannot have a crossing patrol! Children at school have been encouraged by Cat Smith MP to start a petition. (See page 5)  
fortonparishcouncil.org.uk is our revamped website, so please ignore any previous references.

The Council meets every first Monday of the month in the Village Hall at 7pm. Contacts for councillors are on the website and in the Village Voice, page 23. The agenda for each meeting allows for public comment, so come and have your say - don't just gripe on Facebook!

Janet Huddart

### Major Planning Decision in Forton

A major new development in Forton received outline planning permission on November 8th 2021: Planning reference: 18/00469/OULMAJ. This is for up to 195 houses, 1Ha of employment land, community centre and shop and associated infrastructure on land to the north and south of School Lane (following demolition of existing agricultural buildings). This is the largest planning application we have seen and if fully developed will double the size of Forton village and so will have a great impact on us - particularly for those who now live in houses that border the development. The land has been advertised as a whole or in two lots.

This application was made over three years ago, so why has it taken so long to be decided? Well, Wyre planners put it 'on the shelf' until the new Local Plan was adopted, and again until the Forton Masterplan was adopted. Only then was it processed, going to the Wyre Planning Committee in December 2020, where it was granted outline planning permission subject to conditions including a separate legal

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2) agreement known as a S106. The S106 was signed on November 8th 2021 and spells out the developer financial obligations to pay for improvements to local infrastructure. They can be summarised as follows:

First, please note that this development land is about 63% of the land designated for development in the Forton Extension in the Local Plan, so the remaining 37% of it will fall to other landowners when their plans proceed. This split applies to two S106 payments:

- New community hall £850k. This will not be paid up front - instead 50% will be paid when 49 new houses are occupied and the remainder when 98 houses are occupied.
- Sustainable transport £312k. This for an average speed camera system on the A6 from Cabus to J33 which should prevent speeding above 50mph. However the total cost is 500k.

There are some payments that will wholly fall to the developer of the land covered by this planning application:

- Education. £1.573k to Lancashire County Council for more primary and secondary school places in local schools. Again the timing of payments is linked to the rate of occupation of new houses.
- Healthcare. £53,745 will go to Garstang Medical Centre.

There is also a separate agreement known as a S278 with Lancashire Highways. No costings are available at present. This work includes improvements to the School Lane/A6 junction. This includes two refuge islands on the A6 to the north and south of the junction, so that the A6 can be crossed in two stages, but there is no sign of any type of signal crossing: Highways do not seem to use them because they slow traffic flow. The two bus stops will be relocated.

You can of course find application 18/00469/OULMAJ on the Wyre Planning application system, where you will find 84 documents. There were 25 letters of objection from residents: now that planning permission has been obtained Wyre planners have removed them from this file.

The next stage in all this will be when the land is sold and the buyer puts in a detailed planning application which will cover many factors (sometimes called reserved matters). These will include:

- Site plan showing housing and internal roads, house types and housing mix.
- Landscaping and green space.
- Drainage which is always an important issue (I recommend reading the submissions on the file from the Wyre engineer, United Utilities and Lancashire Flood Authority).
- School Lane/A6 junction scheme (see plan dated September 29th and the Highways submission of August 25th 2020).
- Phasing of development.
- Landscape and habitat protection including wildlife and tree protection.
- Construction Environmental Plan.

Well this is a lot to take onboard but I hope that many of you will take an interest in this village expansion, making your views known to Wyre planners as well as to the Parish Council.

Meanwhile have a great Christmas!

Peter Young - peteryoung1221@outlook.com

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### Forton Primary School

Life is getting back to something close to how it used to be at Forton School. Our parents are back in the building for assemblies, Parents' Evenings and volunteering in classrooms. We have missed them!

To celebrate Parliament Week this year, Pendle Class took Miss Braithwaite, Mr Haley and Mrs Boase to London for two days. Together they walked over 55000 steps each, visited Westminster, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, watched the Horse Guards Parade, the Cenotaph, Downing Street, ate pizza, pasta and a McDonald's, lots of ice cream and watched 'Matilda'. The children were not even "a little bit naughty". They were a credit to their parents and our school.



Also, during Parliament Week, Cat Smith visited school. She talked to the children about the link between protesting and democracy. This conversation led to Pendle Class, Mrs Boase and Forton School along with the support of Cat Smith, launching a campaign to reinstate the 'Lollipop' person on the A6. It is so important that our children are kept safe going to school and that our children also realise that, even if they are too young to vote, they can still make a change within their community.

Please come and sign our petition to reinstate the 'Lollipop' person and help keep the children of Forton safe.

**THE PETITION IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO SIGN IN THE  
OFFICE AT SCHOOL**

*Lorna Boase, Head Teacher*

### Cat Smith M.P.

Every year I look forward to getting involved with UK Parliament Week, a celebration of people power. Last year almost one million people took part in every nation and region of the UK, learning about the importance of living in and being part of our country's democracy.

In November I was delighted to visit the children at Forton Primary School to talk about creating petitions and campaigning for change. It turned out that lots of the children were really concerned

about their safety when it came to crossing the roads near to the school. So they are launching their own campaign to get a 'Lollipop' person reinstated to help youngsters get to school safely. Look out for the posters and details about the campaign in the local newspaper. I'll be supporting the youngsters all I can to get the highways department to listen to their worries and take action. Please do all you can to help promote their campaign -and make sure you sign their petition! It matters that they are successful. It will make them feel safer and looked after by the grown-ups in their community, but it will also demonstrate to them that they have a voice and they can be heard. It doesn't matter if you are 8 or 80, in a democracy everyone matters.

I hope everyone's Christmas this year is less disruptive, and you get chance to spend time with the people that matter to you. I wish for you all a season of joy and my warmest wishes for a happy and healthy 2022, Cat.



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## Forton Christmas Tree Lights Switch On

Friday December 3rd, 6.30pm

With Carols, Father Christmas and refreshments in the  
Village Hall



### Forton Baby and Toddler Group

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, we are looking forward to our end of year Christmas Party in December. We have also welcomed a few new babies to our group over the past few weeks from the village, big congratulations to all the new parents!

We have a great group of parents 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 just come along on a Friday morning, 9.45-11.15am in the Village Hall.

*Jenna Metcalfe*

### Forton Field Day Queen and Retinue 2022-2023

It's been a while ... but our thoughts are now moving to next year and Field Day. The retiring Queen/Retinue will walk in the first half of next year. She will then hand over to the new Queen/Retinue who will start their duties in June. We are, therefore, looking for a Queen from Year 6 or Year 7. We also need children for the Retinue who are in Years 1-6. If your child/children are interested, please email Lindsey: the\_halls\_homefarm@btinternet.com or call 07896 351877 for more details.

Anyone in the Retinue will be asked to pay a contribution of £20 towards the cost of their outfit. The Queen chooses her own dress and a contribution will be given towards this from the Committee.



### Shoebox Appeal

We have collected nearly 30 boxes for Samaritans Purse and thank you everyone who has contributed.

*Andrea Bookless*

### Forton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

We are now almost back to normal: all sections are now, subject to precautions, meeting weekly in the hut.

In October we held an 'all section' camp when we took over the newly created Yurt Village at the Waddicar Scout Camp site. Fifty young people aged 6-14 from the Beaver, Cub and Scout sections took part and together with young and adult leaders camped in the yurts and took part in activities, ranging from archery to orienteering. A fantastic time was had by all: the young people loved the independence of the yurts and the leaders appreciated a fully equipped kitchen and undercover dining. An added benefit was that all equipment was provided avoiding packing, setting up and drying of wet tents after we arrive home.

Currently we have vacancies in the Beaver and Cub sections as a result of slowing recruitment over the past 18 months. The continued success of our Scout Group is dependent on the commitment of adult volunteers. To maintain adequate adult ratios we currently need more adults to assist at weekly meetings. If you would like to help and join in the fun, please contact me. (See back cover for details)

*John Nelson, Group Scout Leader*

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## 1st Shireshead Brownies



Gyros and a camp fire with toasted marshmallows and smores at Guys Farm were a great start to the autumn term and the Brownies have continued to be busy since then. The 'My Rights' badge has been completed with lots of discussion on the rights of Brownies and children in general, and whether these rights are observed in a similar way in other countries and who helps to support these rights - posters, pin badges and wall display in the hut resulted from these discussions.



It was very exciting to award the first Bronze Awards (these badges are new to the Guiding programme) to our older Brownies, Lottie, Hazel, Eva B and Poppy Ch - well done girls! In addition, we welcomed Ayla, Clara and Poppy Ca who made their Brownie promise. It is also great to see other new Brownies joining us - a warm welcome to Eilidh and Dora.

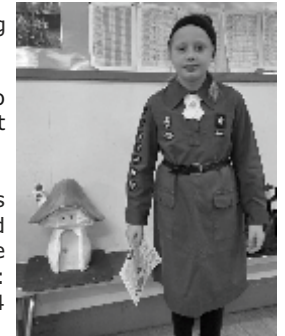
As part of the 'Know Myself' unit theme we are finding out about the Brownie movement in the past. We were very pleased to welcome former Brownies

Susan Dodgson and Ellie Wain to join us for a meeting - they gave fascinating insights into what Brownies had been like in the 1950s and 1980s. Susan was part of the 1st Shireshead Brownies who met at 'The Hill' with Brown Owl Mrs Purvis and Tawny Owl Mrs Stamper. Ellie brought along her Brownie uniform, kindly modelled by Jess, and we were able to compare the modern badges with those that Ellie worked on years ago, and look at the skills and activities in her Brownie Handbook. Many of those skills are still important and some practise in tying knots was popular!



Do buy tickets for our Christmas Hamper fundraiser! We want to boost our funds towards a fun trip in 2022. Please contact Charlotte to buy a ticket for £1 ( contact details below).

If 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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Saturday 12-3 & 5-9  
Sunday 12-8

## Forton Bowling Club

Would you believe it ... we are now at the end of our 2021 season. What a year.



Our Friday evening scrambles proved very popular and as a final end to this year's friendly scrambles, we had an afternoon competition with the finalists playing for The Shireshead Trophy. Congratulations to our winners, Janet Bellhouse and Steve Parkinson. The runners up being Wyn Edwards and Graeme Swindlehurst. It was a superb afternoon with quite a few spectators too. The weather was once again kind to us. We would especially like to thank our sponsor for the afternoon, Mark Follen at Cabus Spar. Also we thank all of the local businesses who very kindly donated raffle prizes for the afternoon.

Our Ladies team have continued to keep up their practice by playing some friendly games against other local teams. In the Over Wyre League the B team have finished top of their league and the A team finished second in their league. The B team have also won the League Cup. It was a very tense final against Nateby. Huge congratulations, a wonderful result from both teams and thanks must go to the captains for keeping the teams focused and supported.

During the year we have been exceptionally lucky to have had a team who have worked on the grounds around the bowling green, as well as those who have kept the green mown every week. You all know who you are and Forton Bowling Club appreciates all the time and effort which has been given to keep the bowling green so attractive throughout the summer. We have some work planned for the upkeep of the bowling green over the next few months, this will improve the overall performance of the green in years to come.

We look forward to welcoming bowlers old and new, as well as anyone who has been tempted by what has gone on this year, to join us from March 2022. Further information, or questions about the bowling, is available via: [fortonbowlers21@gmail.com](mailto:fortonbowlers21@gmail.com)

*Linda Mallinson*

## Shireshead and Forton Cricket Club

Following a two year hiatus, Shireshead Cricket Club held their annual presentation dinner at Wyre Bank in Garstang in October and a wonderful evening was enjoyed by players, their friends and families including the Ladies section and our Junior section. Our thanks go to Wyre Bank for their hospitality, service and the superb meal.

Club President Denis Yates opened proceedings and he was thrilled to be awarded the status of honorary life member later in the evening. Junior coaches Paul and Matt Yates and Jonty Collinson gave excellent insightful summaries of the junior season and their respective Under 11, 13 and 16 teams. 1st team player of the year was Joe Cunliffe, Tom Jacques won the batting averages and Joe Oliver the bowling averages. Joe Oliver also was awarded the Clifton Trophy for a standout match winning performance. Adam Murphy 'swept the board' for the 2nd team winning the batting averages and scoring a century so picking up the Player of the Year award. Mike Mead was the top performing bowler in the 2nd team and this honour went to 16 year old Aiden Weir in the 3rds. Ernie Collinson emerged as Young Player of the Year as he broke into the 1st team after excelling for the 2nds. James Sutcliffe was awarded Junior Player of the Season. Following a hugely successful season, Shireshead Ladies voted Sue Swire their Player of the Season and coach Mike Park chose Katie Oliver as his coach's Player of the Year.

*Mike Park, Chairman*



*Hollins Lane Methodist Chapel in 2009* (photo by Ben Shaw)

### How this chapel came to be built in Hollins Lane 200 years ago A most extraordinary story!

In about 1790 a water-powered cotton mill was set up in Scorton, together with a smaller one at Clevely, and a few years later both were purchased by Webster Fishwick of Burnley who in 1809 installed his sons, 20-year-old George and his elder brother Richard, as joint managers. How George Fishwick became the founder of a Methodist chapel in Hollins Lane is truly amazing.

Both brothers were described as "rigid Churchmen" who regarded the emergence of Methodism with contempt. John Wesley had died in 1791 and the movement he founded was growing rapidly in the early 1800s, particularly among the working class. Eventually George Fishwick was left in charge in Scorton when Richard became ill and had to return to the family home in Burnley. Around that time George heard that some of his employees wanted to hold Methodist services in their cottages, and he firmly refused to give permission. Then in about 1812 Richard realised that he was terminally ill, and he found most peace of mind from talking with a Methodist minister in Burnley, Rev James Needham. Before he died Richard wrote to George in Scorton asking him to reconsider his decision, and permit Methodist services in the cottages.



*George Fishwick* from a painting in Scorton Methodist Chapel

It came as a huge surprise to the people of Scorton when they heard that Mr Fishwick was going to allow the meetings to take place, for some villagers had taken delight in disrupting the meetings when they thought some were continuing despite Mr Fishwick's disapproval. There were reports of water being poured down the chimney to produce enough steam from a hot fire to scald those in the room. On another occasion a hen was pushed into the chimney, bringing down an avalanche of soot which started a fire. Suddenly they had to stop their enjoyment of this kind of persecution because Mr Fishwick himself was seen going into a meeting in one of the cottages.

Having decided to attend the meetings, initially merely to discover what kind of teaching was being given to his workpeople, George Fishwick found that he was increasingly persuaded by the deep conviction of the participants. Eventually he felt he had no choice than to become a Methodist, even though he would inevitably be seen as weak-minded by many, and put at risk his comfortable position among the local gentry. Very soon he had a responsible position as "class leader" among Methodists in Scorton, and later he was more widely involved in leadership in the Garstang district. In 1819 he married Ann Eliza Crane, daughter of a prominent Methodist in Preston who had medical and surgical skills, and together they did much to help the poor and needy in and around Scorton.



*Mrs Anne Eliza Fishwick*  
1795 - 1849

*This account of events in 1822 is from a book by John Taylor (1885):*

**"About two miles from Scorton was a poverty-stricken hamlet called Hollins Lane. It was the home of a tribe of rag-gatherers and hawkers, who, gipsy-fashion, travelled the Fylde, picking up sundry odds and ends and refuse. Their children were neglected and ignorant creatures, for whom nobody cared. Mr. Fishwick one summer went every Sunday afternoon to Hollins Lane, and gathered the children into the lane for instruction, He would stand in the middle of the lane, with the boys on one side and the girls on the other, telling them of Jesus and His love. When the cold weather came, and he could no longer meet them, he built a small preaching-room, and founded a small Society. The cause at Hollins Lane is still under the care of the minister of the Garstang Circuit. This school was built in 1822; and, as Mr. Fishwick could find no one to undertake the work, he went regularly every Sunday morning, with his dinner in his pocket, and toiled all day to lay the foundations of the little Society."** [Society was the name given to a group of people belonging to a chapel.]

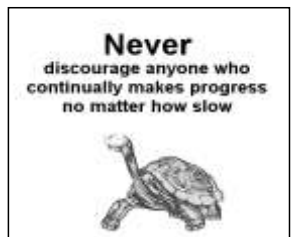
The main part of the chapel we see now is essentially that built by George Fishwick. The schoolroom at the back (where the Post Office is accommodated) was much enlarged in the 1950s, and the front porch remodelled in the 1960s.

George Fishwick later obtained a plot of land from the Duke of Hamilton and paid for the building of the very attractive Methodist chapel in Scorton. By the time of his death at the age of 65 on 19th October 1854 he was one of the leaders of Methodism in Lancashire and enormously respected in Scorton and far beyond.

### The present day – it's not only a Post Office!

In addition to services on Sundays (see notice board for details) and some weekday activities, the chapel now also reaches out far beyond Forton. For example, there is a special connection with a charity in Bangalore, India. The 200th anniversary will be the 35th year in which there has been a link with *Nireekshana* (which translates as *Hope*) a home for mentally disabled children. Provision for such children is often poor in India, and members have been pleased to make significant contributions to the work. As a mark of gratitude they named one of their buildings "Hollins Hall". It was amusing to learn that a minister connected with *Nireekshana* is a Rev John Wesley! It seems very appropriate that concern for deprived children here in 1822 should link in this way to support for children in another country today.

*Terry Mansfield*



From the website of SMS Nireekshana



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INSPIRING WOMEN

Thank you everyone for your support at the Craft Fair on 6th November, which was an enjoyable event and made some valuable funds for this year's chosen charity, St John's Hospice. We shall be able to let you know how much we will be able to donate when the expenses are all paid.



We are all delighted to see how well the return to meetings is going, especially welcoming two new members who joined at the October meeting. We have just had our Annual Meeting when we had the added bonus of a 'hands on' demonstration of how to make our own Christmas cards from Trish Bugeja.

We are looking forward to our Christmas meeting on Thursday 16th December and a full programme organised for 2022 (our Centenary Year). The New Year starts on 20th January with the welcome return of popular speaker Pat Ascroft who will be recounting her travels in Ireland in a traditional horse-drawn vardo. We can't wait to hear all about it.

Do come along and join us, meetings are held at the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors and guests are welcome. For further details please contact Pat Murgatroyd on 791580 or Christine Smith on 793549.

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## Walks around the village with my owner

Ummm! Which ones today? Not the running ones, maybe it will be the work ones. No - then the gardening ones perhaps. Finally, she's gone for the sensible shoes. We are off out then.

Why do humans have so many shoes? Don't they realise that you only need sensible shoes and put one foot in front of the other. Besides, I don't have any shoes, just my four paws and that's enough. She says, "It's going to be cold and the leaves will have fallen off the trees". That means there's even more for me to sniff amongst the mounds. She stops and looks up at "that majestic oak". I think she finds the bark interesting with all the fissures on the trunk. "Maybe it's home for lots of hibernating insects", I hear her mutter. I just want to catch that annoying squirrel that's always teasing me on the bird feeder. We walk on and only stop when I stop to alert her that I have trodden on one of those spiky cases. She stops and gently removes the broken case that houses the shiny conker. "We used to play with these conkers in the playground when I was a child", she laughs. We head on and stop once more as she admires the open shape now visible, of the aspen tree. Aren't those the trees that quiver when in leaf, even when a gentle breeze blows through them. She says "I hope these trees will still be here for my children and grandchildren to enjoy. After all they are the 'lungs' of our world".

Finally, we get home and she takes off those muddy, brown sensible shoes. My paws get wiped and I am able to settle down in my warm bed. I hear her mutter a poem to herself. Maybe she has finally realised that you only need one sensible pair of shoes.

*Heather Moorland's dog*

### Choosing Shoes

*By Frida Wolfe*

*New shoes, new shoes,  
Red and pink and blue shoes.  
Tell me, what would you choose,  
If they'd let us buy?*

*Buckle shoes, bow shoes,  
Pretty pointy-toe-shoes,  
Strappy, cappy low shoes;  
Let's have some to try.*

*Bright shoes, white shoes,  
Dandy-dance-by-night shoes,  
Perhaps-a-little-tight shoes,  
Like some? So would I.*

**BUT**

*Flat shoes, fat shoes,  
Stump-along-like-that shoes,  
Wipe-them-on-the-mat shoes,  
That's the sort they'll buy.*

## Keep it Green

*Cop26 has set my mental rusty cogs turning. To paraphrase Dr Samuel Johnson, "nothing concentrates the mind as much as the prospect of the end of most life on earth!"*

*Scatter ye wildflower seeds where you may. I have been doing it in the Old Shireshead Churchyard while hanging up bird feeders. Sow now for spring and early summer - the garden centres have big boxes of the stuff. All sorts of places can be brighter and greener and welcomed by insects and birds - gardens, verges etc.*

*Another thought - not too late to collect tree seeds - not too difficult to germinate - ask me. Something children can do. Plant for the future, then there may be a future. Green things 'suck up' carbon dioxide and make the oxygen we breathe.*

*Another thought, also arboreal - wouldn't it be great to find a piece of spare land and plant for the future to - THE FORTON WOOD.*

*Rev. Dr. Steve Hunt - sometime biologist.  
01524 792563, 8 Wallace Lane.*



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### Forton Play Area

By the time you are reading this, the play area on the playing field will have been closed and ground works started to prepare for the installation of the new play equipment, which will hopefully be installed towards the end of November/beginning of December.

The play area will remain closed until early next year to complete all the necessary jobs that need to be done before we can reopen it. So, whilst you may see new play equipment arriving this year, following this we still need to complete other tasks on the play area to make it usable and safe for children.

We would like to say a big thank you to GM Groundworks for all their hard work so far in getting the area ready for the installation, the hard work is very much appreciated!

*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.

### Angel Festival 2021



St James' Shireshead Church will be holding an Angel Festival on the weekend of the **4th and 5th December** in the church on Whinney Brow Lane, Forton: **Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday, 11am-4pm.**

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

**As last year we are encouraging people to put Angels in their gardens/windows to mark the Christmas season.**

### St James' Church Foodbank

Many people, in our local communities, are finding life hard and the foodbank in the porch is used daily. Everything is welcome but things which seem to be in most demand are: tins of baked beans, spaghetti, soup, curries, chilli, steak or chicken meals, ham, hotdogs, peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes, tomatoes, rice pudding, custard, fruit, small jars of coffee, tea bags, hot chocolate, long life milk, cereals, porridge, jam, individually wrapped biscuits, toilet rolls, toothpaste and feminine hygiene products.

Many thanks for all your support.

*Judith Henderson*

### Date for your diary




**Robinson's Special Potato Weekend  
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## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

### United Reformed Church

The Nativity Cribs presented on the first Sunday in Advent will be on display until Christmas Eve. The children from Forton Primary School will once again be coming into Church to decorate the Christmas tree in December.

Sundays, 5th and 12th December, 9.15am, Morning worship led by Revd Dr Irene John.

Sunday, 19th December, 2pm, Carols by Candlelight followed by Seasonal Refreshments.

Friday, 24th December, 3pm, Special Christmas Eve Service.

Sunday, 2nd January, 9.15am, Morning Service.

Sunday, 9th January, 2pm, Afternoon Service, led by Revd Lindsay Williamson.

Sundays, 16th and 23rd January, 9.15am, Morning Service, led by Partnership Minister Revd John Gordon.

Sunday 30th January, 9.15am, Morning Service, led by Synod officer Mike Hart.

### Hollins Lane Methodist Church

Sunday, 5th December, there will be NO SERVICE here as we join our friends at Dolphinholme at 10.45am.

Sundays 12th and 19th December, 10.30am, Morning Service.

Monday, 20th December, 6.30pm, Candlelit Carol Service led by Rev Steve Charman, followed by a festive supper.

Christmas Day, 10am, The service will be taken by Mr Denis Yates.

26th December, There will be NO SERVICE.

### HOLLINS LANE METHODIST CHURCH will be 200 years old in 2022

See pages 12 and 13 for the story of the Church's beginnings.

We shall be having special events and services throughout the year, beginning with the Covenant Service on **Sunday, 9th January, 10.30am**, led by Rev Steve Charman, when we rededicate ourselves to God's service. Methodists from Dolphinholme will join us and we invite anyone who would like to, to come too.

In fact, all are welcome at all our services.

The Friday coffee morning will be starting sometime in the new year, but Barbara Drayton is happy to serve anyone with coffee who comes to the Post Office on a Friday, as she will be there with her Fairtrade stall from 10am-12noon.



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).

### St James' Shireshead

Tuesday, 30th November, 12 noon, Over 50s Christmas Lunch at the Cricket Club.

Friday, 3rd December, 6.30pm, Christmas Tree Lights Switch On with Carols, Father Christmas and refreshments at the Village Hall.

Saturday, 4th December, 10am-4pm and Sunday 5th, 11am-4pm, Angel Festival in St James' with refreshments. As last year we are encouraging people to put Angels in their gardens/windows to mark the Christmas season.

Thursday, 9th December, 7.30-9pm, Gin Tasting in Upper Room in Church.

Sunday, 12th December, 10am, Special Service led by Bishop of Blackburn.

Sunday 19th December, 4pm, Nine Lessons and Carols.

Friday 24th December, 5pm, Crib Service and lighting of Christmas tree.

11.30pm, Midnight Eucharist of Christmas.

Saturday, 25th December, Family Festival Christmas Eucharist, please bring something you have received for Christmas.

Sunday, 26th December, 10am, Family Eucharist.

Sunday, 9th January, 10am, Epiphany Gift Day.

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

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## Jonny Leech - Wyresdale Ward District Councillor

I am sure that for lots of us it will be a busy season with Christmas and New Year, I hope that you have a great time with family and friends.

Over the last few months everything is beginning to get back to normal at Wyre with meetings now being back in person and the Council chamber being back at full capacity, instead of our reduced number of members at meetings in person. One of the biggest issues we have been facing at Wyre over the last twelve months is the increase in numbers of complaints on planning and enforcement issues. This is due to a huge amount of residents undergoing renovations, extensions and smaller projects which in turn have sparked a lot of enforcement complaints by neighbours. I am happy to say that we have taken on an additional Enforcement Officer to help clear the backlog of complaints.

It is good to see the bridge repairs are nearly complete on School Lane and we eagerly await its resurfacing. Don, from the Parish Council, has done a sterling job purchasing, fitting and looking after the speed monitors on Hollins Lane. We owe him a big thanks and the results make for interesting reading.

I wish you God's richest blessings over Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Jonny

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### Mobile Library



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on

6th January 2022

(No visit December 2021)

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**Please note routes and dates can be subject to change.**

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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)*