



DOUGLAS *music* PARBOLD Lancs Reg. Charity No:506675



Annual Report

42nd Season, 2015-2016

### **Trustees' Annual Report – 42<sup>nd</sup>.**

Douglas Music, a registered charity, is about to complete its 42nd season of promoting and presenting professional music concerts.

It has been a year of successes in terms of audience attendance and the programming of a range of high quality concerts for adults and children, including the Young Musicians Invitation Concert for young NW performers. The concerts have attracted sell-out audience for 80% of the events and a satisfaction rate of 96% across all aspects of the organisation. The Steinway continues to feature in concerts of outstanding quality by some very fine artists whose appreciation of Parbold and the society cannot have ever been encapsulated better than in a message to her agent by international pianist, Janina Fialkowska: *"Parbold was absolutely wonderful; truly! I honestly think it was the best small town recital organisation that I have ever experienced: the piano was superb, the hall was attractive and well-lit with good acoustics, it was sold-out with a very attentive audience and the volunteers were amazing..."* **Janina Fialkowska**, following her recital at Parbold on 3rd October, 2015.

Douglas Music has announced its next programme and has planned 2017-2018 season. Future cuts in funding for the arts have led to a strategy of partnerships with other music organisations and Douglas Music is proposing joint ventures with FOLKUS – the folk arts network of the North West, that covers Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire, which will lead to innovations in future programming.

On behalf of the Trustees of Douglas Music Society, I commend this report to the Parish Council.

Michael Bonsall  
Chairman on behalf of The Committee of Trustees  
May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON  
Friday 6th May 2016,

Since the last Report our Group has continued to meet at the Village Hall at 9.30 am on a Tuesday morning for two hours.

Members have continued to maintain the gardens at the Village Hall, including the planters outside the main door. The Group also maintains the Jubilee Garden, and the planters outside the shops.

We have had one new member recently join us – Malcolm Downer, but the Parish Council have now taken over hedge cutting and the shrub beds at Bramble Way. The Group has therefore been able to spend more time at the Jubilee garden this year, and judging by comments from residents this has been worthwhile.

The Group continues to litterpick around the village, and report problems to the Parish Council

Members of the Group have carried out approximately 100 hours of voluntary work on Parish Council sites during the last year,

Margaret Abel

Secretary

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for your invitation to APA on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Sadly I am unable to come

Christ Church Parbold- main activities:

New Car park laid for the benefit of many in the area

Parbold Festival- had a stall & helped promote

Parbold Music Festival- helped the first event to be launched & held a public Worship Service for the village on the Sunday morning

Launched Community Circles –a way of supporting individuals in the community who are transitioning through difficult times (Grief, care of others, illnesses etc) . Puts them in the centre of the solutions with close help and support from a circle of friends and professionals.

Held open services all year including Christmas, Easter, Harvest & many Guest Services

Held two open Courses to help non church goers discover something of God in their lives- Next Steps Course & Alpha Course.

Work in close partnership with Parbold Douglas Academy to promote the welfare of the children

Raised and given £18,000 to both local and overseas charities

I hope this helps

God bless,

Rev Simon Glynn

## PARBOLD WILDLIFE GROUP

### *Report for the Parish Council's Annual Meeting May 2016*

*The Group has continued to meet bi-monthly to discuss the Biological Heritage Site at Chapel Lane, where we support Parbold Parish Council who are responsible for maintaining the status of the site. Members also plan for future events such as walks, fairs and speakers for the meetings.*

We have had talks from members of Lancashire Wildlife Trust on a variety of subjects which have been interesting and informative and helped the Group to liaise with the Wildlife Trust on various matters. The Group has also visited Kings Moss at Rainford, Leighton Moss, and Gorse Hill Nature Reserve in Aughton

In July the Trust re-surveyed the BHS meadow as part of the Biodiverse Society project, and the findings were similar to the original survey of 2005. (see attached list). A bat survey and small mammal survey were also carried out. We continue to send our casual sightings from the local area, as well as gardens, to the Lancashire Environment Records Network (LERN) who maintain a large database of information on the county's biodiversity, containing more than one million entries. We spent the summer months reporting sightings of the invasive plant Floating Pennywort on the canal to The Canal and Rivers Trust, for which they were very grateful as it helped them target their treatment to the right areas.

Ben Hargreaves, of the Wildlife Trust's 'Plan Bee' project has carried out bee surveys on Chapel Meadow with the help of members, in 2014, 2015 and a further survey will be done in May 2016. One of our members, Julia Simons, is a Wildlife Trust Project Officer for Merseyside, and her wide knowledge of wildlife helps us with identification of local species.

Once again the Group had a stall at the 2015 Parbold Festival and Julia led walks *for visitors around the meadow as well as a Mini Beast Hunt* for children. The stall *provided information/leaflets on all aspects of wildlife as well as generating interest in the Group and the Biological Heritage site. We were also represented at Newburgh Fair and Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Volunteer Conference, held at UCLAN*

The Photographic Competition for 2015 produced some excellent entries, some of which were of a very high standard, and for the time being this will continue as an annual event. Phil Jones continues to hold some photographic workshops for members. The Group was able to purchase a digital projector with the aid of a grant from Villages in Partnership, which has proved useful for the workshops and also for visiting speakers.

The Quiz Night for 2016 was very popular, and the tickets were sold out. This is our main fundraiser of the year so it was good to have such a large number of people attending in the WI Hall.

Derek Gifford, an expert ornithologist has continued to undertake various bird surveys on the BHS site and sent his records to the British Trust for Ornithology.

Our annual meeting with members of Parbold Parish Council took place on 27<sup>th</sup> July, when the general maintenance of the BHS was discussed. The Council agreed to fund a further day of scrub clearance by Midstream from Skelmersdale. This work is essential to control the brambles and scrub which would otherwise eventually take over the whole site. Midstream employ and train people who have special needs, and they enjoy their day working on the site. This work was carried out in late January 2016.

Members of the Group continued to undertake various conservation tasks on the meadow over the year, such as pulling thistle and ragwort in July and alder coppicing in October. They also continually litter pick the site and alert the Clerk to any incidents of vandalism and nuisance camping.

The Meadow itself needs to be mown every year in order to cut back saplings and coarse grasses. The mowings need to be removed so that they do not add any nutrients to the meadow, which would destroy the environment in which the rare plants such as orchids, yellow rattle and many others survive.

For the last few years a farmer from Mawdesley, funded through a 5 year scheme with Natural England, has mowed Chapel Meadow and removed the cuttings to their own meadows where they are trying to create a typical lowland wildflower meadow environment. We maintain regular contact with Natural England and funding has been agreed for Mrs Wade to cut the meadow again this summer.

In April this year the Group helped publicise the efforts of the Royal Bank of Scotland's efforts to encourage a small colony of Swifts which return there each year, to nest. Due to refurbishment of the building the birds were unable to get into their existing nests. This was noticed by local resident Jon Hickling who contacted the RSPB and the problem has been rectified with new nest boxes added. The RBS recently held a coffee morning to raise awareness of this with members of the public.

The Group would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued interest and support for our work in managing Chapel Lane Meadow, which is an area highly valued by many local residents. We look forward to maintaining our close working relationship over the next few years.

Chairman Nigel Simons  
Secretary Margaret Abel 01257 462909 [abelchris@talktalk.net](mailto:abelchris@talktalk.net).  
Treasurer Gabrielle Hardman

### Report from Parbold Douglas C of E Academy

We have had another very busy and successful year at Parbold Douglas C of E Academy (PDA), having to manage changes, imposed by the DfE, to the curriculum, to expectations and to assessment. Fortunately we have a very committed and dedicated complement of staff who are always prepared to go above and beyond for the benefit of the children.

This year we have supported several charities:

The Legacy Rainbow House our charity of the year, which supports children with acquired brain injury, multiple disabilities and complex health needs.

Samaitan's Purse Shoebox Appeal

Christ Church Parbold's Harvest Appeal for children in Fortaleza, Brazil

Children in Need

Sport Relief

BHF

We continue to work with parents to ensure responsible and safe parking around school when children are being dropped off or picked up. We have worked closely with Lancashire Constabulary and LCC, sending out a parking quiz in January of this year. We have strategically positioned banners and A-frames, include frequent reminders on fortnightly newsletters and speak individually to owners of cars parked irresponsibly. We are open from 7.45am until 6.00pm each day, with staggered start and finish times. We are aware that the parking is still not ideal but feel it is not in our powers to do any more and we remain open to suggestions.

We collaborate with local schools from Our Lady and All Saints in the immediate vicinity to the Burscough Cluster of schools, which includes Burscough Priory, where our upper juniors went to experience their science labs. We are also the lead school for the Parbold Douglas Teaching School Alliance. This alliance includes fourteen other schools, some close by, Lathom, and others as far afield as Oswaldtwistle.

You may sometimes see our children in the Brandreth Drive vicinity, on their bikes, undergoing Bikeability training, which is a follow on from Cycling Proficiency.

We always join in the Parbold Festival activities and particularly enjoyed working with local artists in preparation for the Street Festival last year and look forward to whatever is planned for this year.

In Dec we sang with Our Lady and All Saints School around the tree at the Community Centre and also jointly helped decorate the tree outside the WI. Parents supported our Nativity Play and Carol Concert. We celebrated the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in school with a tea party, bunting and red, white and blue outfits and a class from school will be helping to entertain Parbold's senior citizens in the WI to celebrate the queen's official birthday 14<sup>th</sup> June. This will be followed by a performance in the village library 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Three times a year Christ Church Parbold holds their 10.00am Sunday service in school, with two classes closely involved. Also three times a year school hosts a Messy Church in school; a time for families to get together for fun activities, a bite to eat and a worship time.

We have taken our children on two residentials this year, Y5, a weekend at Winmarleigh Hall Garstang and Y6 five days at Ford Castle Northumberland.

All in all, a very busy yet another successful year!

## PARBOLD & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

## Report to Parbold Parish Council 2015-2016

Membership of the group is currently 44 out of which we get 18 –20 members walking on a regular basis on the 1st Sunday of each month. Destinations of the walks have included Derbyshire, North & East Lancs and the local area. Our programme for 2016/2017 is now available on the Parbold website.

The Parbold web site and the newsletter print and promote our monthly walks from which we get regular enquiries. Local Life, the free magazine continues to promote the group on an occasional basis.

We are still holding our monthly meetings at the Red Lion Newburgh. The Brewery chose to charge all groups for the use of the room, from September 2015. We decided that we could absorb this cost, as the venue was more convenient than other options we looked at.

Last September 14 members of the group spent the weekend in Scarborough, enjoying the sea air and doing some local walks as well. Our Christmas meal was held at Gathurst Golf club and most of the members and partners attended. A weekend in Llandudno is planned for September 2016.

We are always happy to welcome new and prospective members (who can come for a day membership fee, currently £1.00, to see if they like it).

Liz Foulds    Secretary    1st May 2016

## DOUGLAS VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Report to Parbold Parish Council 2015 - 2016

The Membership of the society is currently 57. Attendance at the meetings of members and visitors has fluctuated this season, but popular speakers continue to generate a good attendance.

We continue to advertise through use of the newsletter and the website. The membership fee has remained at £12.00 for the season, Visitors, £2.50 per meeting.

Our 7 meetings have as usual covered a variety of topics including The History of Lancaster Castle, Rise and Decline of Lancashire's small Ports, Thomas Moran-Painter, Dick Kerr's Ladies, who in 1917 became one of the first ladies football teams. They continued playing until 1965 but sadly, were never allowed into the Football Association. Our final meeting was the story of the Lancashire Cotton Famine told in prose, verse and song by Sid Calderbank and Mark Dowding and was well received.

We had an excellent outing in September 15 to the Albert Dock and on to Speke Hall and on the 11<sup>th</sup> May we will be going to Skipton and East Riddlesden Hall near Keighley.

Our last meeting, the Annual General Meeting is planned for Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>. The new season will start on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Liz Foulds  
Secretary

1<sup>st</sup> May 2016

Notes for Chairman's Report - Parish Meeting 6th May 2016

Council members: May 2015

The uncontested election in May 2015 resulted in the following Members of the council:

Cllr Rob Bailey (Chairman)	Cllr May Blake
Cllr Denise Butts	Cllr Susan Holland
Cllr Susan Murrin-Bailey	Cllr Tony Schaffel
Cllr John S Stewart	Cllr Ros Wess

During the AGM Cllr Brian Arnold and Cllr Charles Bithell were co-opted onto the Council to fill the vacancies, and Cllr Bithell was elected Vice-Chairman. In June, Cllr Bailey vacated the Chair and Cllr Brian Arnold was elected Chairman.

The precept for 2015-16 was £35,000, representing a slight increase in order to meet the needs of maintenance at Alder Lane Playing fields and the Village Hall building. A "sinking fund" was set up to address issues that may arise, such as roof or window maintenance periodically.

During the year the Council has considered 73 planning applications and awarded a total of £350 in the following charitable grants:

Parbold Village Festival Committee	£250
Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal	£100

A further £50 was donated to Parbold WI to assist with the costs of lighting the Christmas Tree. In November, Parish Councillors marked Remembrance Sunday by presenting Royal British Legion poppy wreathes at local Church services.

During 2015-16 the council was a member of the following organisations:  
Fields In Trust, OPSTA (Ormskirk, Preston & Southport rail Travellers Association)  
and Community Futures.

Following the success of public meetings bringing United Utilities and the Environment Agency to the table, we continue to support residents suffering from the odour problems caused by Hoscar Sewage Works.

Lobbying the Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw to come and attend a Parish Council meeting was sadly fruitless. After promising discussions with his secretary, it was instead offered to meet with him at his office. However, this was not the intention of the Parish Council who had requested that he attend a public meeting so that residents and Councillors could have their voices heard. A small meeting of Parish Council Chairman, Clerk and himself would not have taken the issues forward. Cuts to police funding and their impact on rural communities such as ours continue to worry us.

The year saw an increase in activity at Alder Lane Playing Fields with the football pitches brought into full use. This inevitably brings more people to the village, many staying to use other facilities and business establishments, local pubs and restaurants etc. Chapel Meadow biological heritage site also attracts visitors from near and far, from dog walkers to study groups. Parbold Tree Wardens keeping the place looking nice.

Car parking throughout the village continues to be a major problem. Some drivers simply don't notice that they have left their vehicle in an hazardous place so we have designed notices to put on badly parked cars to ask that they consider how they park in future. All day parking at the shops on The Common restricts trade because passers-by cannot park to go into the shops. This is again being tackled with enforcement action being considered. Issues of school parking around Parbold Douglas continue to be problematic, but LCC wardens and safety groups are considering how to tackle this.

There is a programme of investment into the Village Hall to support the considerable improvement work already done by the Parbold Community Association. In 2014/5 we spent £5,111 towards a funding application to buy essential new cinema



equipment, and £4,695 on solar panels on the roof. In the last year, £10,000 for new fire doors and a similar amount for new windows and front door. This will hopefully be completed before the summer. These amounts are in addition to the usual maintenance spending. We have turned our attention to the problem of heating the main hall, because the boiler installed when built is inadequate for the current use of the hall. However, the equivalent of our full year's precept money has now been spent on the hall in the last three years, so external funding will be needed to support new heating system. Grants have been applied for and we are awaiting decisions from the awarding bodies. The solar panels bring a small income to the Parish Council to offset some of the building maintenance costs.

Lobbying Railtrack about the state of their buildings (Cabin and Station House) has sadly been met with the usual response that maintenance of these is costing too much and there is little can be done but our complaints have been noted.

The Boxing Day floods which brought devastation to the homes of those closest to our waterways, and an anger has built that despite many warnings, culverts were left to fill with rubbish, rivers not dredged and drains blocked. Everyone, knows someone affected and personally, I was down there and saw the impact on the homeowners.

The Parish Council liaised with Environment Agency, LCC, WLBC, United Utilities and the railway as so many different agencies have responsibilities in different but related areas. It is hoped that the newly-formed Parbold Flood Action Group will be a one-stop-shop for those in flood areas, to help direct to the appropriate agencies and support homeowners with this flooding threat.

We again have to thank - Steve Morgan and David Reid - Parbold Unlimited - for the successful running of last year's Village Show, the innovative Street Festival and Christmas Lights and tree.

Parish Councillors will continue to lobby and represent Parbold residents at Borough and County Councils, where we foresee many contentious issues are likely to be raised as money becomes tighter. LCC are responsible for bus services and libraries and these are under threat of removal. The 3a service has been reduced but at least is still running for the next 12 months. As a Parish Council the liabilities of taking on the running of bus or library services are too great, however we will lobby for retaining

service as it is, seek out a cost-effective service and support any community-led initiatives.

A final word of warning, Speed Indicator Devices will be brought into the village in the next few months and so please, please remember we are a predominantly 20mph village, slow down and enjoy driving through our scenic village and keep everyone safe whilst you're doing so.