

Chairman's Report - Parish Meeting 1st April 2011

Council members: May 2010 – April 2011

Cllr Rob Bailey (Chairman)	Cllr Charles Bithell (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Brian Arnold	Cllr Mrs May Blake
Cllr Mrs Denise Butts	Cllr Mrs Vikki Harrhy
Cllr Mrs Rachel Middleton (since Sept 2010)	Cllr Elliot Rance
Cllr Mrs Susan Raju	Cllr Mrs Ros Wess

During the year the Council has considered 56 planning applications.

The Parish Council awarded a total of £650 in the following charitable grants:

Parbold Festival Committee £200
Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue £50
Parbold Scouts Hut on the Hill £100
West Lancashire Crossroad, Caring for Carers, £50
Carols around the Christmas tree £150
Royal British Legion £100
Mencap £50

The council is a member of the following organisations:

Campaign to Protect Rural England
Lancashire Playing Fields Association
Lancashire Association of Local Councils

The council considered a number of consultation documents from Lancashire County Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and the National Association of Local Councils over the year.

At last May's AGM I was honoured to be elected Chairman for the second time, having served as Chairman in 2004/5.

In July Rachel Middleton was co-opted onto the council. She agreed also to be the council's Environmental Champion, keeping a watching brief on a range of environmental issues and their relevance to the parish council.

The summer saw the completion of the footpath around Chapel Meadow, enhancing the area and making it accessible for all. With the help of a Forever Meadows Project and the Wildlife Trust further improvements are planned for the area and shortly gates will be erected at the Chapel Lane end of the meadow, to prevent vehicles entering and damaging the fields.

Parbold Football Club relocated out of the village at short notice in August, leaving the fields empty for the first time in many years. The new field had not been hired and was beginning to suffer damage by rabbits and moles. It was of playable standard but required more frequent grass cutting and weed/feeding. Shevington Sharks junior rugby league team asked to use the field in return for tidying the car park and paying for extra maintenance of the field, including marking out the pitch. They painted the shipping containers and fitted them with shelving and benches. They also erected rugby posts on this open access field, giving anyone the chance to have a go at goal kicking.

In September we welcomed Chief Inspector Dean Holden to the council meeting and an open discussion followed, giving valuable insight into policing in the area. The parish council heard how funding cuts may impact on policing in the village and agreed to support the retention of the Rural Beat Manager and PCSO David Benson in any way possible.

Parbold won the Large Village Class of the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition. With huge thanks to everyone who helped this happen, organised groups such as the Tree Wardens, Parbold Wildlife Groups and individuals who kept their own bit of Parbold looking good enough to impress the judges.

The Parish Council supported the PCA's decision to separate off the two areas of the village hall so that they could be hired independently of each other. This final phase of renovation has led to a beautiful hall; a first class venue for a range of activities.

Closer ties with Lancashire County Council have opened conversation about traffic and highways, roadside verge maintenance and library services. LCC agreed to change the timing at Alder Lane traffic lights to address the hazard however drivers do continue to "jump" these lights and risk serious injury doing so.

Looking forward the council is concentrating effort on Alder Lane Playing Fields and the football field will be drained and hopefully ready for use in the next playing season.

Our Lady & All Saints Roman Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher, Claire Griffin delivered a verbal report to the Annual Parish Assembly

Our Lady's is at an important time in history with major developments and building work coming to completion. A new classroom built to high specification with velux natural light windows and new infant toilets. The Early Years Foundation stage will be doubled in size, using up area previously occupied by the old toilets and cloakroom area. Diggers are now working on the outside redevelopment to provide a secure play area up to Year 2,. This has used some of the land between the church and side of school, which was pretty redundant, so adding to school's facilities. This area is known to those who use the footpath to Alder Lane from Brandreth Drive. The shed has been removed and a new concrete base is now down to form a new group play room. This might be used for early morning breakfast club and intervention room during the day. It will have its own storage and facilities. The new classroom has been moved into by Year 2 which was a big, exciting change for children. Phase Three of the Early Years development is due to complete at end of April. Then work will begin on remodelling the staff room. New ICT computers have been put around the edge of the room and library shelving installed so that children can do more research tasks and independent tasks. This gives more options for younger pre-school children too.

The school enjoyed best ever results coming twelfth in the whole local authority in English and Maths. Numbers on role are growing steadily. The school suffers from being tucked away and would benefit from a sign visible from Lancaster Lane so that people driving by know we exist. We still continued exciting high quality education, some children worked in the hall during refurbishment but did not affect work. Recently the whole school has watched via webcam as ducklings hatched. The service provider asked the school to readjust the webcam settings because it crashed due to excessive use. The children are encouraged to make use of the great rail links and there have been trips by train to Appley Bridge with a walk back along the canal. Also children participated in the Golden Days food celebration with Red Apple Nurseries. Also a trip to Chester Zoo. The school continues to welcome visiting performers, musical and science shows. Currently discussing how to involve parents in e-safety issues and a consultation in this field is assisting with this. All are invited to an End of Topic celebration at 9.30 am on Monday 4th April 2011 created to introduce families to each other, so that new families do not feel left out. Parents or grandparents, who-ever is the more available invited to come along.

Parbold Women's Institute Report 2011

The Women's Institute has been in Parbold since 1929 when we met in a barn on Tan House Lane. In 1936 the members had raised enough money to build the hall which is still in use today. The WI currently has about 60 members and apart from regular monthly meetings we have a book club, a knitting group and we go out on trips to the theatre, cinema and ten pin bowling.

We serve the wider community by running a Lunch Club on alternate Tuesdays for the elderly and monthly Disco's for under 13 years. We also perform an annual pantomime for the whole village and the occasional concert. We support the Women's Refuge and help at Parbold Festival.

Our Hall is available for hire and is used by regular groups i.e. Douglas Drama who take advantage of our excellent stage and lighting and is used for private functions too.

Anne Pryer, Presidents Parbold WI

Age Concern Thursday Club

This lunch club has been running in Parbold for about twelve years now. It started in the Village Hall but now runs at the WI Hall on alternate Thursdays from 12 am til 2pm. At the start there were nearly 40 members but now sadly we are down to about twelve regulars. Despite efforts to get more interest this does not seem to be happening – a sign of the times perhaps as there are more things to do now for “elderly” people.

Lunch is comprised of soup, roll and butter, followed by sandwiches, cakes and tea for £2. Occasionally, there are activities after lunch ie card making, dominoes or a speaker from a service sector ie Help Direct, Fire Service etc.

Anne Pryer, Volunteer Helper for Age Concern

Parbold Village Festival

The Festival Committee took over the old Village Show about twelve years ago. For many years we used Alder lane Playing Fields as our venue which was very successful. After this became unavailable to us, we ran the event through the centre of the village using both the Village Hall and the WI Hall for two years but this was less successful. However, in 2010 we were offered the school and grounds at Parbold Douglas School and held a very successful event there and we will be there again in 2011.

The aims of the committee have always remained the same, ie to provide a day of entertainment, competition and fun for all age groups in the village. As 2010 was the World Cup our theme was Football with a competition between the two schools which was fiercely fought. This year’s theme is “Rock and Roll” with music and dance from the era. The Friday night dance will also be revived and last year’s Tug of War winners from the Pubs, Eagle & Child will take on the challengers.

Anne Pryer,
Festival Chairman

History and Background

- Medicine & Chernobyl is a registered charity, founded in Parbold in 1994
- The purpose is to help children affected by the 1986 disaster
- There is a continuing effect on the region of Belarus and the economy is just not strong enough to support the problems there without outside help.
- Research shows that just a few weeks away from the contaminated area the children become much stronger and much less likely to fall ill during the long winters.
- In June this year, Parbold will welcome eight children and an interpreter for a stay of four weeks

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Meet the Children

- Help to entertain, educate or engage the children for half a day or more. If you can dance, sing or teach anything; have a story to tell or presentation to give – anything that will capture the attention of the children aged 8 – 16 and with some time available (between 9am – 5pm, Mon - Fri). A full time interpreter is always on hand and there to assist.
- Become a day helper. All you need is one free day, an open mind and the determination to have fun! The best memories are from trips to Blackpool beach, narrow boat trips, Formby sands, Skipton Castle and Speke Hall. The group needs two helpers each day, to accompany the interpreter.

2. Join the Committee

- We are always looking for a little extra support around the committee table. If a little creativity is your thing, or you're happy to help with the odd phone call, to make a booking for example. Let us know

3. Help with Fundraising

- The group needs people to help with raffles, stalls at the village fayre, selling tickets, bake a cake; anything that might help the particular event to succeed.

4. Donate clothes

- Outgrown children's clothes can always be useful; aged 8 – 14, boy or girl
- Other items in demand include good bags and suitcases

Contact:

Alison Foster (Chair): 01695
Simon Greenhalgh (Treasurer):



550301
01257 464915

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 1st APRIL 2011

Since the last Report our Group of seven active members has 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 small garden on Lancaster Lane. We have also looked after the planters outside the shops and the round raised bed at 'Yours is the Earth' cafe.

The Group meets weekly on a Tuesday morning for two hours. Once again we received a sack of bulbs from a grateful resident and these were planted in the garden opposite Our Lady's and All Saints Church on Lancaster Lane.

We have continued to monitor the woodland at Bramble Way and do some woodland management over the winter which included coppicing some of the hazel shrubs.

We have also maintained the shrub beds at Bramble Way. The Group cuts the hawthorn hedges at the Village Hall and on the canal bridge to prevent them becoming too large to manage and to keep them clear of the pavement.

We continue to litterpick around the village and at Bramble Way and report problems to the Parish Council

Members of the Group have carried out approximately 600 hours of voluntary work on Parish Council sites during the last year, and also funded the purchase of some new tools.

Margaret Abel
Secretary

Parbold Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting – 1st April 2011

4th Parbold & Dalton Brownies

We currently have 29 Brownies, increasing to 30 later this year; four warranted Guiders, three Leaders-in-Training and two Young Leaders. This last year has been very busy with ongoing Centenary Events – a County Brownie Beach Party on Ainsdale Beach, an overnight Trip to London staying at BP House – the highlight being allowed to step over the threshold of Number 10, Downing Street, a Division Outing to join the Fusion International Camp for a day at Harewood House in Leeds, a County Event at Southport Football Stadium celebrating Vision – the next 100 Years and a District Centenary Carnival to celebrate the closing of the Centenary Year. As a Unit we have worked on the Seasons, Agility, World Guiding and Fire Safety badges with a very interesting evening at Skelmersdale Fire Station. We also completed the Adventure 100 Badge and went on Pack

Holiday last May to The Adventure House at Waddow. We have continued to raise money for the new Hut-on-the-Hill and moved in there after Christmas – we are still “camping” a bit as the work continues but we are very pleased with our new home. The Brownies have been litter picking around Parbold, swimming, walking and have enjoyed lots of new craft activities and games. We joined in the Remembrance Day Church Parade and will be joining the Mothering Sunday Parade at the weekend. The Guiding Units have been asked by Christ Church to decorate a window for Easter – the Brownies have been busy making a collage of the World Badge to form the centre piece of the window.

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



Chairman's Annual Report - 37th Season, 2010-2011

Douglas Music is about to complete its 37th season of promoting professional music events for the communities of Parbold and its surrounding villages. It is also the third season since Parbold Village Hall main hall was transformed into one of the best venues in the North West. The appeal of its visual and acoustic qualities and the intimate atmosphere created by the seating-layout for artists and audiences alike enables Douglas Music to attract international artists and audiences both locally and from a very wide-catchment across the county. The venue's ambience is a strong contributor to successful events and Douglas Music supports the Parbold Community Association, especially in ensuring the maintenance of the standard of decoration and presentation of the venue. Many community volunteers work for the PCA and Douglas Music.

These factors ensure Douglas Music's success and continuing viability and contribute positively to Parbold's reputation as a vibrant community. Douglas Music's success is exceptional against a background of the slow, nationwide demise of music promoters. A consequence of this decline is the dearth of suitable concert pianos for hire. The nearest top quality instruments are located in distant parts of the UK. This will increasingly place a strain on finances and programming. Douglas Music wishes to thank the Parish Council for their formal assent to the sale of the piano in the Village Hall in exchange for an instrument of concert standard. The recent potential purchase was structurally flawed and so did not proceed. Therefore, Douglas Music is continuing its search for a suitable concert piano and will carry the Parish Council's permission into the future while it evaluates alternative, prospective instruments. This may be a long-term project. Douglas Music will inform the Parish Council of its progress in due course.

The international artists appearing this season included the violinist, Nicola Benedetti with pianist Alexei Grynyuk, the pianist, Martin Roscoe, the guitarist, Craig Ogden with Travis Finch, and the Australian international concert pianist, Piers Lane, who, at a few

days notice, flew from Hamburg to stand in for Angela Lear, who was indisposed. There have been three outstanding ensembles this season all appearing for the first time in Parbold; the British and European Champions Leyland Brass Band, jazz legends Bruce Adam, trumpet, with Alan Barnes, saxophone, and Dan Wheildon, piano, with a trio from the BBC Philharmonic, and Lancashire County Council's own sponsored professional orchestral ensemble, the Lancashire Sinfonietta in a *Christmas Concert* attended by the West Lancashire Mayor John Baldock and his wife. Douglas Music has added two charity events to its present season; the international concert pianist, Noriko Ogawa, the proceeds of whose April concert will be donated to the Japanese Red Cross appeal for the victims of the recent earthquake and nuclear disaster, and in May, a charity concert for Cancer Research UK. by Wingates Band as part of a **Brassed Off Weekend** which will be preceded by the band marching through the village, and, on the following day, a screening of the feature film and a local archive documentary on the life of a Wigan coalminer. Meanwhile, the well established aim of providing concert experience to new artists at the commencement of their careers has been maintained.

Next season has a similar profile of international artists, as ever more such artists and agents add Parbold to their watch-list.

Valerie Kinnish, Chairman, Douglas Music, March 2011.

Report for 2010-11

PYC Youth Services (*Parbold Youth Club*) & **Third Way Community Interest Company**

Dual website: www.pycyouthservices.org and www.3rd-way.com

Introduction

The last report showed the culmination of years of work and the opening of the Pear Tree Community Café and Youth / Training Centre on 1st April 2010.



1st April 2010 Official Opening of the Pear Tree Community Café

This report shows the use of that facility, its opening to the village, surrounding area and the re-location of the youth club into the segregated lounge area – away from the café, but sharing the same building.

Dispelling the Myth ... ?

In 2010 / 2011 a myth has become apparent which propagates the view that that the Pear Tree Community Café is solely for young people.

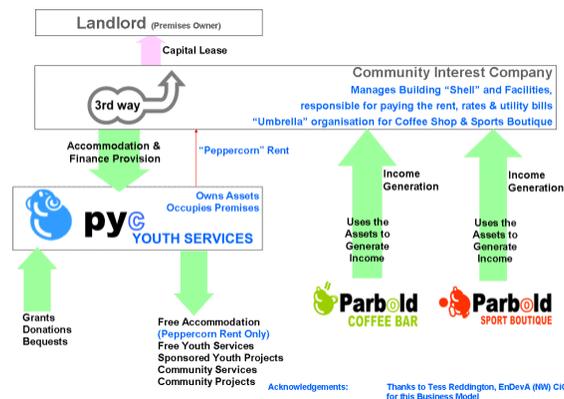
This is not the case – it is for everyone – all are most welcome. In fact – we need you if we are going to survive.

It has taken almost 12 months to communicate the fact that it is the Café that actually funds the youth club and without the whole community making use of the café, there would be no youth club.

Thus, as noted above, the Café is for everyone. By spending money with the café, the community is actually helping to fund youth services projects for the area and other charitable activities that we are involved in.

How it works...

On the face of it, the idea is really simple – create a not for profit company that trades, using any surplus to support charitable objectives. In this case, the Parbold Youth Club.



Business Model

The Third Way Community Interest Company is the legal entity created to run the community café and manage the facilities. It is a not for profit company and is a new form of entity which suits the purposes of a social enterprise.

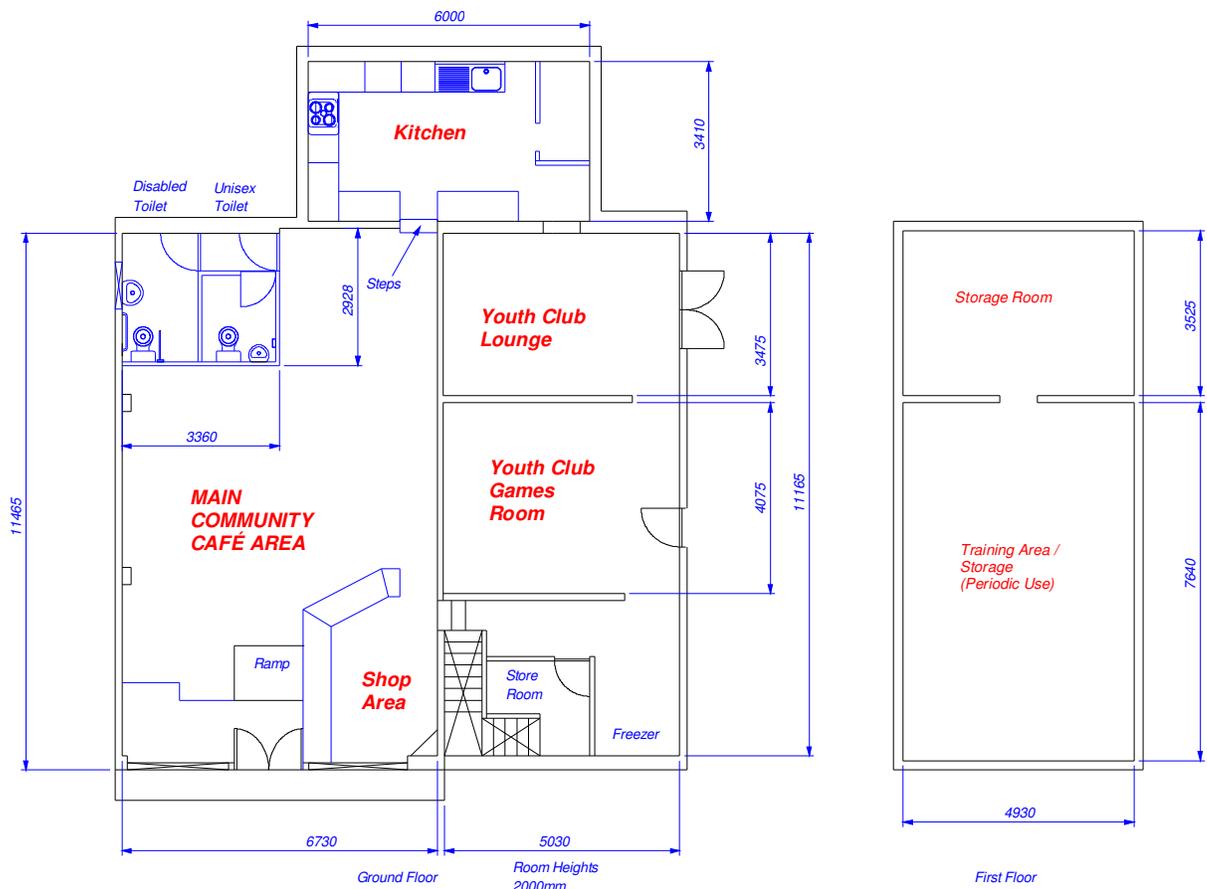
The key differences between the Third Way Community Interest Company (or CiC) and an ordinary company are:

1. The company exists for the benefit of the Community and it must prove annually that it has delivered those benefits.
2. The company must file an annual report to the CiC Regulator as well as Companies House, each year and that report is in the public domain. CiCs are required to have full transparency.
3. It is a company limited my guarantee – ie: it does not have shareholders or any share capital
4. It is not for profit – all surplus is directed towards the charitable work specified in its Memorandum and Articles of Association
5. It has an “Asset Lock” in that all assets owned by the company must be used for the benefit of the community and the CiC Regulator must be satisfied that any surplus assets (subject to any allowable return to investors) are transferred in a way which ensures that they continue to be retained for community interest or charitable purposes rather than distributed to investors.

In addition to the above, we have applied to the HM Revenue and Customs for treatment as a Charity.

As we noted on last year's annual report, the whole intention is for the organisation to be a service to the community and to trade to raise money to pay its bills and for the work of the youth club, so that it doesn't have to continually go “cap in hand” for grants and hand-outs.

What does it look like inside ?



Floor Plan showing Community Café, Youth Club Rooms and Training Room

As can be seen from the above, the youth club now has its own separate area, so that the café activities are completely separate from the youth club activities.

The Youth Club Lounge can also be used for meetings and other village activities.

What do we need ?

As we said in our last report We need CUSTOMERS ! – in order that the venture succeeds and provides a facility for the village, it needs customers. As a non profit making venture, it still has outgoings – wages, utilities, stock, rent etc... so it does need to make money.

The first year of trading has been a miracle.

It has been a very tough year financially, with the staff giving a large proportion of their time free of charge to make this venture work. In order for it to succeed now it is established, we need the footfall to increase drastically and we are looking to hire out the main café area in the evenings to raise money.

We have heard rumours that people have been offended by the Christian emphasis on the work we do in bringing the Community Café and Youth Club into being. We can understand this reaction as people do not like to be preached at and many groups wearing the “Christian Badge” have behaved appallingly badly, leaving a really bad taste.

It is our hope that simply through what we do, rather than what we say, this community might see that we are different and in the words of the title of a well known book, by the gifted communicator Rev Rob Bell, “Love Wins”

Thank you for taking the time to read this

Tim & Alison Cornah (01257) 464129

PARBOLD WILDLIFE GROUP

Chairman: Rachel Middleton
Treasurer: Gabrielle Hardman
Secretary: Margaret Abel Tel: 01257 462909
Email: abelchris@talktalk.net



Report for the Parish Council's Annual Meeting April 2011

General

The past twelve months have been productive for the Parbold Wildlife Group. The year has brought new members, successful events and more interesting and informative talks and walks. Furthermore, the Chapel Lane Meadow in which the group takes particular interest has seen significant changes with the implementation of a new path which now enables people with pushchairs and disabilities, much greater access to the site.

We are proud of our continued involvement in maintaining this site – one of very few herb rich lowland meadows left in Lancashire.

The Group meets bi-monthly and is continuing to develop and progress as a Group within the local community.

Activities

As well as undertaking a number of conservation activities, particularly on Chapel Lane Meadow, the group has enjoyed some very interesting talks given by local and national wildlife conservation organisations. These included representatives from the British Trust for Ornithology, Natural England and the Wildlife Trust.

Jon Hickling has also undertaken a number of wildlife walks in and around Parbold. The walks have been reproduced by Parbold Wildlife Group members and funding has been received from the Green Partnership Awards, together with small amounts from the Parbold Wildlife Group and local businesses the DIY Centre and Parbold Fruit and Veg, to print and distribute the walks for the wider community. The walks have now been printed and will be available free of charge from the library, the Tourist Information Office and a number of other outlets. They will also be available to download from the internet.

The Group also produced an updated version of the Chapel Lane Meadow leaflet, again with help from Jon Hickling, and funded by West Lancs Borough Council's Community Chest Grant.

Once again we were busy with stalls at Newburgh Fair and the Green Fayre at Beacon Country Park. The stalls were manned by group members whose objectives are to provide information on all aspects of wildlife as well as generating interest in the walks and paths on and around Chapel Lane Biological Heritage Site.

The work needed to comply with the Management Plan at Chapel Lane Meadow continues. This has included coppicing and replanting, pulling thistles and ragwort, pond clearing, and cleaning bird and bat boxes.

Members report sightings of local wildlife and these are recorded and passed on to the LCC Countryside Officer who can then extract any unusual ones and pass them to the County Recorder. Anyone wanting to report interesting sightings in the area should pass the information to our Secretary Mrs. Margaret Abel 01257 462909 abelchris@talktalk.net. This includes plants as well as animals, birds and insects. The interest may derive from the actual species or the date ie. "the earliest cuckoo".

Future

We recognise that it is inevitable that much of our activity is associated with the Biological Heritage Status site at Chapel Lane where we support the PPC who are responsible for maintaining the Status of the site. This work is important both as a direct contribution to the management of a wonderful community asset and as support for the PPC who are able to use our volunteer hours and management activity as the basis for some of the funding they get for this site.

We continue to develop a wider programme of talks, walks and visits and welcome any suggestions for inclusion.

This year Jon Hickling sought and received permission from the Parbold Parish Council to allow a farmer in Mawdesley to come and undertake the annual mow on the Chapel Field Meadow, at no cost to the Parish Council. This forthcoming summer will be the first cut under this agreement. Cuttings which will contain the seeds from the huge variety of wildflowers on the meadow will then be baled up, transferred and re-distributed onto the farmers' own meadows in order to generate a similar habitat. In the long-term, it is hoped that additional sites of such high value like Chapel Field will be developed in and around Parbold, thus allowing the protection and proliferation of the species there.

We are also considering how to influence the management of other sites within the area that are valuable for wildlife. For instance there are two grass verges within the Parish that the County Council have designated as "Special" which means that they should be managed within guidelines particular to such verges.

Anyone who knows of an area or site that might be of interest to the Group or which needs some support or TLC should get in touch with our Secretary – Mrs Margaret Abel 01257 462909. We may not be able to help but we probably know someone who can. Dominic Rigby, Countryside Officer with LCC is an adviser to the Group and Jon Hickling of Natural England (a Parbold resident) is an Adviser and member. Both are experts and are willing to share their enthusiasm and expertise. The Group in particular and the village in general are lucky to be able to call on these people.

Rachel Middleton
Chairman