

St. Mary's Chapel

Weds. 21st Feb: 10.30.am: Dementia Awareness Training:
(St. Patrick's, Walton-le-Dale:) Everyone welcome.

Good Friday 12.00.noon: Stations of the Cross (St Mary's Chapel)

Easter Day Mass: 9.15.am. (St Mary's Chapel)

Samlesbury Higher Hall: 01254 812010: See website for details:
www.samlesburyhall.co.uk

On open days throughout Feb: *A Tale of Elizabethan Love and Tragedy:*
(Exhibition of fictional love letters).

Sunday 25th Feb: 12.00.noon – 3.00.pm: Wedding Open Day.

Thursday 7th March: Illustrated talk on the *History of Samlesbury Hall:*
The Harrison Family: 7.30.pm: Coffee/tea and biscuits served from 7.00.pm.

Sun. 10th March: Mothering Sunday at Samlesbury Hall:
Afternoon Teas in the great hall and parlour: 12.00.noon – 4.00.pm :
book on-line or at Reception.

Thurs. 21st March: Spring Wedding Open Evening: 5.00.pm – 7.00.pm.

Sun. 6th May: Dog Show: 10.00.am – 4.00.pm. Entries taken from 10.00.am.

Sat/Sun. 15th/16th June: Food & Drink Festival.

Samlesbury War Memorial Hall (Contact: Clare 07739585860).

3rd March: 7.30.pm: Quiz: Teams up to six.

Date of the next meeting
Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7:30pm
in the War Memorial Hall

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Samlesbury & Cuerdale Parish Council

SAMLESBURY AND CUERDALE PARISH COUNCIL February 2024

Notes from the Chairman

- “A very pleasing result,” was my first thought, as I opened the e-mail regarding the development of Pickering's Farm, Bee Lane, Penwortham.

The inspector (Mr. Hanna) had listened to perfectly delivered arguments at an inquiry that was both tense and divided. We believe the result backs up all the planning rules, and that it was well summarised in a 130-page document.

South Ribble have decided against an appeal to the High Court. This would be both costly and, if everything follows the planning framework, futile.

The fact that Pickering's Farm has been given the green light, does not mean that Samlesbury is now free from planned development, and that the Parish Council can ease back on their work relating to *Cuerdale Garden Village*, because this is a battle that we see as 'in action.'

- The work at United Utilities is well underway, with a clean-up around the entrances on Spring Lane. A new fence and hedge will be erected in early Spring 2024.
- The possibility of a tour may be offered in early, or mid-summer, so that we can see what an amazing site it is, and the added benefits it brings to our area.
- Over the last six months, members of the Council have been looking into the problems that people have experienced in navigating our website to find details. I would like to thank Cllr. Stephen Fawcett for all his hard work in bringing a new, rather slick website for us all to enjoy. It should be up and running very soon.
- The *love clean streets* app (that we have previously pushed), is a way of escalating issues such as potholes. It has proved so popular that it is now creating backlogs in workload. This can only be a positive situation and, with the extra injection of funds from Westminster, I hope that by the end of this financial year we will have improved the whole parish.

- After several years of requests, some of the trees on Mowcroft Brow are now being thinned out and the over-growth on the footway has been cut back.
- Continuing the Windmill saga:
Pressure with South Ribble Borough Council has now led to an agreement with James Hall to demolish the building and clear the area. Hopefully this will lead to the site being utilized in other ways – hopefully for the benefit of the community.
- Proposed extraction of sand and gravel at Lower Hall Farm:
Lancashire County Council Highways have decided that there can be no feeder lane onto the A59 at the top of Mowcroft Brow. Without this facility it would be difficult for wagons to join the highway, so hopefully this is another piece in the jigsaw to stop the quarry.
- Blackburn with Darwen have sold the 14 acre piece of land on Branch Road to Liverpool-based *Prospect Homes*, for 121 dwellings. We will try to get involved in the site, so if there are any amenities that people feel would be of benefit to the parish, please contact the clerk on 07545260119, or at sandcparishclerk@outlook.com
- At a planning meeting on 1st February, the green hydrogen facility application was passed by South Ribble Borough Council. This will make the AB InBev brewery one of the first carbon - neutral breweries in Europe.
- Superfast broadband:
Openreach are now about 20 pledges short for super-fast broadband in the parish, following the government's promise to bring all rural areas onto the network. Potter Lane and the Huntley area of Preston New Road are included in the eligible areas for a free government broadband voucher. We would urge residents to register their interest at <https://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity> or call Paul Harland on 07720067345.

This is free of charge and using your voucher will help Openreach to build a full fibre network, bringing lightning-fast speeds up to 1G, with unparalleled reliability to minimise any faults.

Please note: Openreach is only responsible for building the network – you will still have the choice of your broadband provider.

Looking Back: The Lower Hall of Samlesbury continued: the Walmesley family. When Judge Thomas Walmesley purchased Elizabeth de Samlesbury's moiety of Samlesbury (c1607), it must not have included the manor house, because his son

(a second Thomas) bought that about February 1622 from the impoverished Thomas Southworth, (whose mother had been tried for witchcraft). This purchase from the Southworth family is evidence that Nicholas Dewyas must have successfully held onto the Lower Hall after his cousin Robert de Holland's overlord (the Earl of Lancaster), rebelled against Edward II, and all his estates were forfeit, (including the Lower Hall half of Samlesbury).

The second Thomas (1574-1642) studied at Oxford and then married (1st) Eleanor, daughter of Sir John and Elizabeth Danvers, (and 2nd) Mary de Hoghton, daughter of Sir Richard de Hoghton of Hoghton Tower.

Thomas (2) was head of the family for thirty years. He was elected a Governor of Blackburn Grammar School (1597) and served for 44 years. The estate was well ordered and carefully managed, accounts meticulously checked and in time, good marriage alliances were made for the children.

Whether Thomas Walmesley (2) objected to the Lower Hall's 'witchcraft' association, or whether the house had become too dilapidated, is unknown, but the 'new' Lower Hall appears to have been erected c1625, close to the left bank of the Ribble. This new house was built of red sandstone, with a dormer window and porch set within a slight projection of ashlar v-jointed blocks, eleven feet wide. The south-facing front was approximately 96ft. long, and there were eight mullioned and transomed windows on each of the two storeys. The approach was enhanced by planting an avenue of lime trees approximately a ¼ mile long, (which is still in existence).

Thomas and Mary lived at Lower Hall and although he appears to have conformed to the Established Church, in 1632 he was given notice to pay £13-6s-8d 'rent' per year on lands and goods in respect of his wife's recusancy.

Thomas(2) was widowed in c1632/3 and died at Dunkenhalgh in 1642. He directed in his Will that he was to be buried 'in the nighttime in such like manner as my son Thomas was buried.'

The practice of night-time burial by R.C. clergy was allowed by law, and is a clear indication that the family were Roman Catholics at heart.

What's On

Samlesbury Parish Church (Contact Grace 01772 877076).

Fri. 16th Feb: Luncheon Club: 12.30.pm.

Sat. 23rd Mar: United Benefice Ceilidh in Samlesbury War Memorial Hall.

31st March: Easter Day: Holy Communion at 11.00am.

Fri. 12th Apr: Luncheon Club: 12.30.pm.