

of the main building, they had a very narrow escape from death. Just as they were completing their purpose, they heard a noise as of a wall cracking, and precipitately left the premises, and almost instantly one of the gables fell upon the spot they had quitted. A cloud of dust and smoke arose, and for a short time everything in the immediate vicinity was obscured from view, and it was at first thought that at least two of the firemen had perished. The men were called together, and it was happily found that none were missing.

At five o'clock the flames were well got under, but the engine was kept at work upon the ruins until about ten. No conjecture can be formed as to the origin of the fire; the engineer and the carding-master went through the premises at five o'clock on Saturday evening, at which time all was apparently safe. The building, which was the property of Mr. John Cooper, of The Oaks, Penwortham was built of rubble stone and was about 60 feet long by 40 feet broad. We understand that both Messrs. Dall and Sons, and Mr. Cooper are insured; the former in the Manchester Unity Office [of Oddfellows], to the full amount of the property destroyed. No estimate of the damage has yet been made.

The Lancashire Record Office also has a letter from John Dall's son Robert in Australia (30th August 1857), and the last paragraph reads as follows:-

"...came upon the marked paragraph in the Chronicle describing the fire at Samesbury Mill. I never met with anything of such a nature that more powerfully affected me, and exerted more my sympathy with you in this second calamity. To think that both mills have been burnt down within the short space of 15 months, it seems more than one can realise at first. This too occurring on a Sunday night seems in much mystery. We are glad to see that you are insured but still even then the loss must be considerable and at father's time of life press much more heavily than it would otherwise do."

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United Utilities

Date of Next Meeting
Thursday 25th March at 7.30pm. 2021.

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Samlesbury & Cuerdale Parish Council

SAMLESBURY AND CUERDALE PARISH COUNCIL

March 2021

Notes from the Chairman

Another year, another decade. Some people feel cheated about how the last one finished, and how this one began, but thankfully we are here and it is up to us all to help 'kick start' and stimulate the recovery.

- Further construction has now started in the Enterprise Zone and we would like to welcome the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) North West, of the University of Sheffield. I hope it will lead to local jobs and training for our families and friends.
- Planning permission was granted for Stage II of the works for parking at the AB InBev brewery on Cuerdale Lane, which will create an area within the complex to park eighteen lorries and relieve some of the problems relating to wagons queuing up to access the site.
- United Utilities has now completed the Nab's Head end of the works, with just the bunds, tree planting and tidying up to be done. They are also making great strides to finish the Cuerdale Lane side of the works. The over-all project is set to complete in September 2021 and work is currently on track. Two of the settlement pods are to be brought into commission in September.
- The re-surfacing of Cuerdale Lane is on-going, and 'thank you' to Cllr. Barrie Yates for his continued efforts to help us with maintaining the parish. Double yellow lines on Spring Lane are still to be applied, but hopefully should be done as the resurfacing work is completed on Cuerdale Lane.
- The water leak and drainage problems around the Nab's Head was raised at the January Parish Council meeting and these have now been brought to the attention of United Utilities and LCC Highways. Hopefully we will see progress soon.
- Drains and tree maintenance has been concluded on the A677/59 in both directions between Mercure/Five Barred Gate Hotel and the motorway.

(The small ash tree which was obstructing the sign by the outside lane has also been removed.) Hopefully drivers will now notice the sign and proceed to the safest junction.

- The erosion and fencing alongside the footway on Mowcroft Brow (between St. Mary's Chapel and the Five Barred Gate), has been referred to SRBC and Cllr. Yates has now taken on the case.
- The new business park at the former Mezzo's was discussed and a traffic island was requested by local residents and potential users of the premises. The Parish Council therefore voted in favour of trying to make it safer.
- The Windmill Hotel has put forward a different plan, with some slight adjustments to fences and car parking on site. It has not yet been put before the planning committee, but we are fully versed with our opposition to this plan.
- The lockdown has opened up the need for people to find more things to do whilst at home – a reason to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. We have welcomed lots of people into the parish and hope we can encourage them to keep enjoying the beauty that our area has to offer, once this pandemic is over. But it has brought another topic back onto our agenda – irresponsible dog owners – the ones who put livestock and peoples' lives at risk, rather than taking their responsibilities seriously and 'picking up.'
- On another serious note – please be vigilant – a person has been seen in and around the parish and beyond, noting where the CCTV cameras are located. If anyone sees anything suspicious, please alert the police quoting Log number PE 01310019 JBLHJ and members of the Council.
- We were very pleased to welcome Louise Davies, (who is the community involvement officer for South Ribble), to our last Zoom meeting. Louise encourages people to enjoy their green spaces and we have agreed to enter SRBC's virtual 'Eastern Area in Bloom' competition. Details will be circulated later.
- The Council has had to keep meeting via Zoom, but it is our intention to hold a full meeting as soon as we are able.
- Please stay safe and contact any of the Council members by telephone or email if you have any concerns. Full details are on the Samlesbury and Cuerdale website.

Mothering Sunday take-aways

If you are looking for something special for Mothering Sunday, please consider one of our local pubs. Both the New Hall and the Nab's Head are doing suitable take-away menus.

Looking Back: Fire-fighting in 1857.

There were several small mills in Samlesbury, situated either in Samlesbury Bottoms or Roach Bottoms. The following article is taken from the Preston Chronicle for 9th May 1857 regarding a small cotton twist mill owned by John Wesley Dall and Sons. (Twist was a yarn which was strong enough to be used as warp for weaving.)

TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF A COTTON MILL AT SAMLESBURY

'On Sunday morning last at one o'clock the cotton mill at Samlesbury Bottoms, about six miles from this town, on the Blackburn Road, [Preston New Road], and occupied by Messrs. Dall and Sons was discovered to be on fire. It was nearly half-past two o'clock when information of the circumstance was received at the fire brigade station here. Mr. Marriott, the superintendent immediately mustered his men, and turned out at once with the Victoria engine; but some difficulty was experienced in procuring horses, and fully twenty minutes had elapsed ere two were obtained at Mr. Harding's livery stables, in Glover Street, and with these the engine proceeded towards Samlesbury.

At Brockholes Bridge it was overtaken with two more horses, and these also being attached it rattled along in fine style, till, in turning the corner of a lane leading from the highway to the Nab's Head Inn, the engine wheels on one side got into the ditch, and several of the men were thrown over the hedge into a field. Fortunately, none of them were hurt and the delay was only momentary. The engine and men arrived at the scene of the fire about three o'clock, about half an hour after starting; but it may well be supposed that, in the interval that had elapsed since the discovery of the fire, the building then was almost entirely consumed. The main body of the mill was destroyed, the roof and floorings haven fallen in, of course carrying with them into the basement storey the whole of the machinery; and a shed between the boiler house and the mill, in which the spinning was carried on, was also destroyed.

The firemen directed their attention to the saving of the scutching room, a two-storey building 30 feet by 18, in which there was a quantity of new machinery, the erection of which in the mill was intended to be commenced on Monday morning. They succeeded in this, and also in preserving the engine-house and water-wheel. While some of the men were endeavouring, during their labours at the fire, to attach two branches of piping to a pipe connected to the mill-race, inside the walls