

What's On

St. Leonard-the-Less Parish Church

Fri. 7th August: Luncheon Club: Samlesbury War Memorial Hall: 12.30pm.
Sat. 12th Sept: Diocesan Centenary Walk, Mellor to Samlesbury via Balderstone.
Fri. 2nd Oct: Luncheon Club: Samlesbury War Memorial Hall: 12.30pm..
Sun. 11th Oct: Harvest Festival Service: 11.00am.

St. Mary and St. John Southworth's Chapel

Sat. 22nd August: Table Top Sale.

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

Weds. 19th Aug: 'Secret Samlesbury' Guided Tour: 7.30-8.30pm.

Sun. 30th " Summer Fair: 10am-4.00pm.}

Mon. 31st " " " " " }

Fri. 4th Sept: Great Victorian Ghost Hunt: 7.00pm.-1.00am.

Tues. 11th Sept: 'The Intruders:' An immersive game experience: 6.30 -10 30pm.

Wed. 11th Nov: 'If walls could speak:' Illustrated lecture by P. Hodgetts:

Samlesbury War Memorial Hall Contact: Clare 07739585860.

12th Sept: Quiz: 7.30pm: BYO drinks & nibbles, hotpot optional: Please book.

10th Oct: " As Above.

Samlesbury Young Farmers. Contact James Neary, 07949 772466.

3rd Aug. Visit to Morris Quality Bakers, Chorley

17th " Outdoor Night at Bank House

23rd " Competing at Turton Charity Event: Tug of War.

24th " Visit to GA Pet Foods, Leyland

The Nab's Head: Tel. 01254 497576.

Quizes each Wednesday evening: 7.30pm.

Sat. 15th August: Family Bingo: 7.30pm.

Sat. 29th August: Nab's Head Mock Wedding: 1.00pm. onwards.

Please ring for food details etc...

Sun. 13th Sept. Stomp & Scoff: 10.30am. Please book.

Fridays: Communita Coffee & Craft: 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

Date of Next Meeting
Thursday 24th September in the War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

This Newsletter is sponsored by
United Utilities

Printed by Park Print, Higher Park Farm, Park Lane, Mellor Brook, Blackburn, BB2 7PY Tel: 07931 567728
Published on behalf of Samlesbury and Cuerdale Parish Council by Glen Clayton,
Ingledene, Preston New Road, Mellor Brook, Blackburn. Tel: 01254 813330
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Samlesbury & Cuerdale Parish Council

SAMLESBURY AND CUERDALE PARISH COUNCIL

August 2026

Notes from the Chairman:

● After what can only be described as an unprecedented hot Spring and Summer, we are now settling into a more normal pattern of weather. With all the upland and meadow fires in areas south of our glorious parish, it becomes more and more important that we fight to keep our Green Belt untouched and as productive as possible.

So it was with this in mind that I met up with Lancashire County Councillor James Tomlinson, who is the Champion of Rural Affairs, Agriculture, Community and Parishes.

We discussed the exciting initiative that LCC has suggested, namely, an ambition to work with Lancashire farmers, producers and processors to reduce food miles and try to ensure that the food procured for all Lancashire County Council Offices eg. schools, hospitals, prisons etc. is produced in Lancashire.

I will enjoy this challenge and hopefully this will be a great initiative which will help farmers keep farming.

James is also keen to work with parishes to help them become a conduit of information, and aiding the flow of challenges to the heart of County Hall.

● The last stretch of tired water main (Nab's Head Lane), is now being replaced and will hopefully be completed in three weeks.

● Work on the new Anaerobic Digestion plant at the dirty water treatment site is progressing nicely, with all but one of the old settlement tanks removed and crushed. Building commencement has been slightly delayed, owing to lack of staff at LCC. Planning Department. It is only now that the plans that we were consulted on at our 'drop in' sessions are being considered at the Planning Department.

● The wall on Spring Lane has been delayed once again. This is mainly due to a change in contractors rebuilding the wall, and also to further investigation into the

rest of the structure. We are keeping the pressure on. When all projects are completed, the roadside verges can then be restored.

- It has been agreed that two temporary SPiD cameras, (which indicate a driver's speed) be sited at Nab's Head to encourage drivers to slow down. For a fortnight, one will be sited near the junction of Nab's Head and Spring Lanes and the other on Further Lane. They will then be moved to other parts of the parish. The readings from these 'evidence' cameras will then be processed and passed to the police.
- Re-organization: County Councillor Mullineaux reported that along with the rest of South Ribble, Samlesbury and Cuerdale will pass into a newly created *South Lancashire Unitary Authority* in 2028. Until then it will be business as usual.
- The old *Branch Road* signs are currently looking tired. These will shortly be renewed and work is expected to commence on the demolition of the *Windmill Hotel* on 3rd August. The site will then be cleared and tidied up. .
- In conjunction with the Forestry Commission, work has started on a 70% thinning-out of the trees bordering Round Acre. The work is expected to take four weeks.
- During the May meeting, the Council's attention was drawn to night-time intruders who are entering farm land for poaching purposes. Lancashire Rural Crime Team have been informed that deer and badgers are being killed and then the fences cut to enable the poachers to carry them off. If anyone sees anything that looks suspicious, please dial 101.

In order to report potholes, broken street lights, drainage issues etc., we are encouraged to contact the *Love Clean Streets* mobile phone app, or the *Report It* website tool. At present however, the system is broken, but you can still call LCC on 0300 123 6701, and ask for the appropriate department. For 'Highway' emergencies call 0300 123 6780.

St. Mary and St. John Southworth's Chapel will be running a *Table Top Sale* in aid of St. Catherine's Hospice & Derian House on Saturday 22nd August 10.00: – 1.00pm in the Church Hall. Items for sale will include Glassware, china, kitchen-ware, linen, books, vinyls, videos, furniture, refreshments etc.

St. Leonard's-the-Less Parish Church will be joining Balderstone and Mellor churches on 12th September for a walk to mark the Centenary of Blackburn Diocese: The walk is expected to start at Mellor and then proceed to Samlesbury via Balderstone, with activities for the children at each location. Further details to be announced. See website:

Looking Back: Samlesbury PoW Camp

Soon after war was declared, an army camp was built near *Huntley's* for the Manchester Pioneers, who were guarding the north side of the airfield. At first a high wire fence surrounded the site, and there were always two soldiers on sentry duty.

After the Pioneers were mobilized it became a transit camp, and was enlarged to accommodate prisoners-of-war. The first occupants were about eighty Italians who arrived c1942/3 and who were allowed to send one censored letter home per month. They also grew flowers and vegetables for sale (a lettuce was 2d.).

The Italians ate well and five or six brand new bikes were also assigned for their use. It wasn't surprising that only two or three ever absconded. Their plum-coloured uniforms had distinguishing yellow roundels on the back of their jackets and the prisoners became a familiar sight marching along the roads and lanes.

They were allowed out for the local dances on Saturday nights and usually six or eight of them attended church on Sunday mornings, sitting in the pews along the south wall.

About 1944/5, the Italians were moved on and replaced by the first group of Germans, who kept the camp in very good order and had a blue/grey uniform with yellow "patches" on the back. On one occasion they formed a male-voice choir and gave a concert in the Memorial Hall. They were also kind to the local children and sometimes gave them things that they had made, eg., beautifully carved wooden birds.

Later some very young Germans (many only 16/17 years of age), were housed here, and the Lutherans amongst them also attended church, accompanied by a soldier.

It was thought that between 150 and 200 prisoners of lower ranks were accommodated at the site, with approximately 30 men in each hut. There was a Sergeant and Corporal in charge, but they were there in an administrative, rather than a guard capacity.

As leaders emerged, rotas were drawn up and duties allocated. The day began at 6.30 a.m. with breakfast about half an hour later. This was followed by parade and roll call – which gradually evolved into, "Anyone missing?" Some worked on farms and others set up cottage industries, whilst they were waiting for their demobilisation.

They felt that they were well cared for, and no-one absconded because they had nowhere to go. They were just glad that things had worked out so well for them.