Lea & Cottam
Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



JOB VACANCY

The Parish Council are seeking to appoint an additional assistant lengthsman / lengthswoman to join our fast growing team. The successful person will be required to work for up to 15 hours per week on a flexible service contract starting as soon as possible and ending initially on the 31st March 2027, at which time the contract may be renewed by mutual agreement.

This person will undertake basic open space enhancement works such as path edging, removal of overgrowth / undergrowth, fence and post painting and generally supporting the maintenance and tidying of the area. The selected person will be self employed or required to register as such. The rate of pay will be £13.00 per hour. This opportunity to help enhance the local area would suit, amongst others, either an existing self employed person wishing to have a basic regular contract or, an active retired person whom would need to register as self employed.

Anyone who is interested in the above opportunity to join our existing contractor team should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council for further information:

01772 733829
Clerk @ leacottam-pc.gov.uk



AROUND AND ABOUT



A new fence has been installed on Jubilee recreation ground in order to enhance the visual amenity of the area. As many of you who use the recreation ground know it can often become very wet on the southern side by the gate. The Council are speaking to a drainage expert company to see what, if anything can be done to improve the drainage in that area.

The drainage plans for the Dodney Drive green are expected to be started shortly, if in fact they have not already commenced by the time this newsletter is delivered to you. It is hoped that once completed and the grass has re-established it will provide a much better play area facility for local residents.

Work has been undertaken by our lengthsman team to open up the ponds on Merrytrees Lane opposite the Ancient Oak. There remains however a major problem with the overgrown bull rushes that have totally taken over one of the ponds. The Parish Council have obtained quotations to have most of them removed along with some bush and tree stumps. Provided Preston City Council agree to us funding the project this work will re-create the attractive visual aspects that were seen many years ago. It will also provide an opportunity to enhance the wooden decking areas where required.

Further improvements to the Community Centre in Cottam are to be undertaken soon and include refurbishment to the toilet facilities which will be funded by development monies which have been received by the Parish Council.

Further enhancements have been made to the facilities on Jubilee recreation ground with new matting having been installed around some of the play equipment, once again paid for through development funding received by the Parish Council.

THE ORIGINS OF LEA

The name Lea is taken from the old English word ‘laeh’ meaning ‘a clearing in the wood’ and the first recorded use of the name was in the Domesday Book of 1086. Lea (pronounced Lee-ah) is four miles west of the centre of Preston and lies north of the river Ribble.

In ancient times the district of Lea was divided into two hamlets called French Lea (presumed to be through Norman settlers) and English Lea the two being divided by the middle course of the Savick Brook. These designations have since disappeared and the area unified. It was around 1207 when Henry 11 swapped English Lea for land around the Mersey that the two Leas were united under the lordship of Henry de Lea.

Sybil of Lea, daughter of Sir William de Lea and a descendant of Henry married Richard de Hoghton and to this day the area’s connection with the de Hoghton family is maintained through their landownership. Unfortunately nothing now remains of the manor house Lea Hall which was situated on the south side of Savick Brook and used by the family prior to the building of Hoghton Tower by Thomas de Hoghton in the 1560’s



Thomas Harrison Myres (1842-1926) was an English railway architect who designed stations and ancillary buildings, he and his wife had various residences including one at Cottam. Thomas was greatly interested in the restoration of road side crosses and succeeded in restoring sixteen throughout Lancashire. After his death, a fitting monument was erected to him and his wife Catherine at nearby Lea which reads:
‘To the glory of God and in memory of the pioneer of restoration of road side crosses Thomas Harrison Myres of Lea Lodge and of Catherine Mary his wife. The base of this cross originally stood 20 yards west of this spot and was removed here and dedicated on July 28 1928’ The monument now stands close to the junction of Lea Road and Cottam Way.

The A583 passes through Lea. The section from Clifton to Blackpool was, until 1902, a private toll road owned by the Clifton and de Hoghton estates. The toll was paid at Lea Gate where a crossing of Savick Brook was required. The name Lea Gate remains as the name of the pub occupying this very same spot.



YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Alex Butler - South Ward Tel 01772 727980

John Coward - Cottam Ward Tel 01772 727574

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Mark Jewell - South Ward Tel 07758151618

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Dave Lambert - South Ward Tel 01772 499798

Brandon McFarlane - Cottam Ward Tel 07751400290

Mark O'Donnell - South Ward Tel 01772 532912

Judith Parker - Cottam Ward Tel 01772 769812

Martin Rayfield - Lea Town Ward Tel 01772 723226

Chris Smith - South Ward Tel 07821432568

Jeanette Whitham - South Ward Tel 07929316385

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL IS ON
11TH MAY 2026

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT COTTAM COMMUNITY CENTRE AND START AT 7.30PM

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY EARLY IN THE MEETING FOR RESIDENTS TO MAKE REPRESENTATION ON ANY AGENDA ITEM OR RAISE ISSUES OF CONCERN, HOWEVER, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL CANNOT MAKE ANY DECISIONS UNLESS THE ITEM HAS ALREADY BEEN INCLUDED ON THE FORMAL AGENDA

CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

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