



## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021



### COUNCIL VACANCY

Lea and Cottam Parish Council comprises three wards. These are South (Lea) ward, Cottam ward and Lea Town ward. Each ward has an allocated number of seats as follows:

**South (Lea) 8, Cottam 5, and Lea Town 1.**



There is a vacancy on **Lea and Cottam Parish Council Cottam Ward** at the present time. The Parish Council is now able to co-opt new members to fill this vacancy. If you would like to be involved in local affairs then this is your opportunity to put yourself forward without the need to go through a formal election process. All that is required is a letter to the Council outlining your personal details. This should ideally include your work experience, the length of time you have lived in or had connections with the area, any existing local memberships and a brief outline of any skills that you might be able to bring to the Council. Letters of request will be considered by the Council at the next available meeting.

Contact the Clerk, who will be able to give you more information on how a local council actually works:

W V MCENNERNEY-WHITTLE  
7 BILSBOROUGH MEADOW  
PRESTON PR2 1YY  
TEL 01772 733829

## CANBERRA MEMORIAL - THE STORY

At 11.45am on Tuesday 25th March 1952, Canberra Mk.2 WD991 became airborne for the first time, as it took off from English Electric's airfield for the short first test flight to the company's nearby Warton airfield. WD991 had been inspected and certified fit for flight that morning and with fine weather conditions, the flight appeared routine, with all pre-take off procedures being carried out normally. The test pilot made no radio contact after take off, though this was normal procedure, and only four to five minutes later witnesses observed the aircraft flying level at approx. 1000 feet over the North of Preston. The aircraft was described as flying "low and fast" when suddenly it entered a steep dive, with no apparent attempt to pull out, striking the ground at an angle of approx. 80 degrees at an estimated speed of 400-450 knots. WD991 instantly completely disintegrated, scattering wreckage for some 600 yards beyond the main impact crater and sending a column of black smoke into the sky. Fortunately the impact was in open farmland and the only nearby building - a bungalow on Valentine Lane - was peppered with debris, shattering all the windows facing the impact and tearing several holes in the roof. Luckily no one was home at the time.

All the wreckage recovered was taken back to Samlesbury and laid out in a Hanger for detailed inspection. From this it was ascertained that no failure of the flight controls had occurred and that the aircraft had been trimmed for level high-speed flight at about 450-500 knots. Engine malfunction was also ruled out as unlikely with no evidence of any pre-crash fire and further theories citing anoxia or accidental inflation of the dinghy in the cockpit were also ruled out. However the possibility of an elevator being jammed down gained importance with the finding of a crushed 2BA box spanner amongst the debris. Examination of this tool showed that it had been trapped between three points



causing bending and cracking of the spanner and although it could not be proved, it was felt that it was certainly possible that this small tool could have prevented movement of the control column and thus affected elevator adjustment.

Canberra Lane is Cottam was named due to its close location to the crash site. There are currently several statues located on an adjacent path which serve as a memorial to this tragic event. You might not know this, as there is no explanation as to what they represent. They are also in need of some repair work.

The Parish Council have found a more prominent location and have the agreement of Barrett Homes to create a memorial area on one of their developments, adjacent to Cottam Way close to the crash site. This new memorial would include landscaping and an information board explaining the story that goes with the statues. The statues are owned by Preston City Council who have been requested to allow us to move them to this new location. Their decision is awaited.

## WORK ON PATH RESURFACING ALMOST COMPLETE

Our lengthsman team have now almost completed what is probably their largest project for the Parish Council. A 100 metre path which runs from the roundabout at the junction of Tom Benson Way and Cottam Way was in a very poor



state of repair with grass having almost obliterated many parts and with wear and tear causing muddy areas to form in wet weather. Late last year the path was opened up to its original width however we had to wait for better weather

before undertaking the resurfacing work. The team needed to hire equipment to deal with 60 tonnes of limestone aggregate to completely resurface the whole length, a job which is now completed apart from the final rolling. We have also opened up some other path areas near Greenside and later this year we expect to be able to resurface them also.



## DEFIBRILATOR TO BE RELOCATED



The Parish Council have agreed to fund the installation of a Defibrillator housing which is to be located outside Cottam Community Centre. The equipment itself has already been purchase by the Community Centre but is currently located inside the building which means there is restricted access to it. The suggestion to make the equipment available to the wider community was as a result of resident comments which were strongly supported by the CC Committee and now financially by the Parish Council.

## COUNCIL TO PURCHASE NEW SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

The Parish Council recently agreed to replace its Speed Indicator Device which is over 12 years old and no longer works properly, meaning that residents will not have seen it about for some time. Due to current Health and Safety requirements new permissions are required from LCC who have to risk assess the lamp posts which were used with the old device. A request for this assessment to be undertaken has been made and we are hopeful that we will get a response, sooner rather than later, so that we can make the purchase and bring the device in action. The device will be managed by our Lengthsman team who will put it up and take it down on a schedule covering most of the original sites identified as problem areas.



## **YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Christine Abram 32 Cottam Green Cottam Preston PR4 0AB Tel 01772 732893

Norman Abram 32 Cottam Green Cottam Preston PR4 0AB Tel 01772 732893

Ken Brizland 13 Greenside Cottam Preston PR4 0WA Tel 01772 526601

Dave Brown 3 Ranglit Ave Lea Preston PR2 1XT Tel 07791281064

Alex Butler 11 Parkfield Drive Lea Preston PR2 1QY Tel 01772 727980

John Coward 56 The Gables Cottam Preston PR4 0LG Tel 01772 727574

Ron Fleming 2 Campion Drive Lea Preston PR2 1QG Tel 01772 469296

Debra Foster 881 Blackpool Road Lea Preston PR2 1QS Tel 07598126502

Philip Helvin 3 Darkinson Lane Lea Town Preston PR4 0RJ Tel 01772 734578

Dave Lambert 867 Blackpool Road Lea Preston PR2 1QS Tel 01772 499798

Judith Parker 116 Hoyles Lane Cottam Preston PR4 0NB Tel 01772 769812

Chris Smith 9 Wiltshire Mews Cottam Preston PR4 0NP Tel 07821432568

Jeanette Whitham 7 Dodney Drive Lea Preston PR2 1XR Tel 07929316385

MEETING DATES FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:

**6 SEPTEMBER - 11 OCTOBER - 29 NOVEMBER**

MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY 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**

W V MCENNERNEY-WHITTLE

7 BILSBOROUGH MEADOW

PRESTON PR2 1YY

TEL 01772 733829

E-MAIL: [clerk@leacottam-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@leacottam-pc.gov.uk)

WEB SITE: <http://www.leacottam-pc.gov.uk>